



10/10/25

*On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about how God calls us to "strive to enter His rest," which sounds like we have to earn entrance into His eternal rest in heaven. But we don't work for that rest. We TRUST for that rest. The truth is, we need to put all our trust in Jesus. He leads us to the Promised Land through our obedience of faith. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link ~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Genesis 2:8-17*

*The Lord God formed man from the dust and breathed life into him. The LORD Yahweh did it. The all-powerful Almighty God did it. And as I will see in this passage, being under the care of His power and His authority is the absolute best place to be. Psalm 31:19 says, "O how abundant is Your goodness which You have stored up FOR those who fear (worship) You and worked FOR those who take refuge in You..." Over and over in scripture I see that God is the one who does the work. My job is not to take His job, but to trust Him and fulfill the purpose He has for me as I depend on Him for His strength.*

*Vs. 8-14 ~ "The LORD GOD breathed life into man, and the LORD GOD planted a Garden in Eden where He put the man who He had formed." In Genesis 1, God spoke the world into existence, with all its vegetation and animals. Here, He planted a garden.*

*I've heard people say God created everything FOR man, which would imply that WE are the center of the world, and WE get all the glory. But the glory all goes to our personal, all-powerful God! And yet, He did plant a garden FOR man to live in. I don't need the whole universe revolving around me. God knows what I need, and He provides what I need. I need a place to live and rest. He placed the man in the garden.*

*"The LORD GOD made to spring up EVERY tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for the food." This is so cool. God provided EVERY tree that not only sustained Adam and Eve with the nourishment they needed, but these trees were pretty. God makes things BEAUTIFUL. I can just look at His creation untouched by man, and I see that He is still the same. Even His broken, futile creation (Romans 8:19-21) is still more beautiful than anything I could create.*

*God planted 2 special trees... the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Both were pleasant to the eyes and good for food along with all the others. But the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not to be eaten as I'll see in a few verses.*

*The tree of life will be in the Garden of God's eternal rest. The tree of the knowledge and evil won't. That ONE tree, planted among EVERY tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, was not to be eaten from. Why put it there??? Because forced obedience is not obedience. It is slavery. God had to allow man the choice to disobey, or man could never be in true relationship with God, which is what God wants. Let me not miss the fact that the Garden was ABUNDANT with fruit from other trees that man COULD eat. It was not that the Garden of Eden had one lone tree in the middle of nowhere and they were gonna starve if they didn't eat from its fruit. God's goodness is ABUNDANT. He provided EVERY other tree.*

*He also placed a river in the garden that divided into 4 rivers. The first river, the Pishon, flowed to gold... good gold with bdellium and onyx stone... abundant treasure. The second river, Gihon, flowed around Cush. The Tigris flowed east. The Euphrates was the 4th. These rivers flowed in four directions. They provided more beauty and more nourishment. This was a garden beyond gardens.*

*Let me not miss that God's power and authority bring what is pleasant and good to my soul. He gives me everything I need, and He does it with delight. It delights Him to provide for me and be in relationship with me, and to be in relationship with Him delights me... when I truly put my trust and confidence in Him.*

*Vs. 15-17 ~ "The LORD GOD took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it." There is so much here!!!*

*First, God TOOK the man. Adam didn't say, "You know what? That garden over there looks pretty cool. I'll work my way over to it." God brought him there... because God is good and generous.*

*God PUT the man in the garden. One of the meanings of the Hebrew word for "put" is "rest." This was the place where Adam would be able to settle down and live, to rest. Our God is a God who blesses us with rest.*

*God gave Adam purpose, a job! The Hebrew word for "work" means "serve." Even though God gave Adam dominion over the land, Adam's job was to SERVE the land. God has dominion over ALL things... and He lovingly serves us. Adam was given a place to model himself after God. Adam was to serve the land and keep the land, to guard and protect it... as God guards and protects His people! I am an image bearer of God.*

*1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." Serving and guarding the Garden of Eden was not*

*burdensome at all before Adam and Eve fell. There were no weeds to contend with, no droughts to battle through. Everything Adam needed to do the work was provided for him.*

*And now, through Jesus, His commands for me are still not burdensome... He provides me with everything I need to accomplish what He gives me to do. The question is not, "Will He provide?" The question is, "Will I let Him be in charge of my life?" As I'm about to see... He won't force me.*

*"The LORD GOD commanded the man, saying, 'Eat FREELY of EVERY tree except one. Among hundreds or thousands of trees to choose from, you just can't choose this one... You cannot eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the DAY that you eat it, you WILL surely die.'" God gave direction. He explained the consequences of disobedience. And He gave a way of escape from the temptation... eat of all the other trees. Don't focus on the one thing you CAN'T have. Focus on ALL the pleasant and good things you CAN have.*

*When do I get myself in trouble? When I lose my focus. O Lord, please help me to focus on You and all Your goodness and Your provision.*

*I see in Genesis 2:1-17 6 statements that start with "The LORD GOD." Yahweh Elohim... our personal God who is all powerful... who has all power and all authority. These are the statements...*

- *Before the LORD GOD caused rain and before there were weeds (before the fall of man) ~ vs. 5*
- *The LORD GOD formed man ~ vs. 7*
- *The LORD GOD planted a garden ~ vs. 8*
- *The LORD GOD made every tree spring up ~ vs. 9*
- *The LORD GOD placed the man in the garden to serve and guard it ~ vs. 15*
- *The LORD GOD commanded the man to eat from all the trees except one ~ vs. 16*

*There is more that the LORD GOD did, as I will see when I read on. But for now, I see that my personal, all-powerful God has all power and all authority. I am an image bearer of God. It is not my job to create my own image. It is my job to serve and guard what He entrusts me to do. He has a purpose for my life, and His purpose is pleasant and good. And He provides me with everything I need to carry out that purpose. The LORD GOD is good and pleasant to my soul. Praise His name.*