

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS' SCHOOL  
Old Union Missionary Baptist Church  
714 Old Union Church Road  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104  
270-781-4890

Thirty-third Annual Session - March 23, 24, 25, 2005

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PARADISE LOST, PARADISE GAINED

By

Elder H. C. Vanderpool

**Introduction:** "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall **gain** the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a **man give in exchange** for his soul?" - Mark 8:36-37



**Paradise:** (Gr. *paradeisos*, park, garden, orchard), a word of Persian origin, found only three times in Scripture (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7), referring in each case to heaven. There was a similiar word in the Hebrew Old Testament, **parades**, translated forest or orchard. It is used of the **Adamic Eden**, (Genesis 2:15; Genesis 3:23).

Since it was used to describe gardens of beauty and splendor, we are not surprised to see the term used in the New Testament to refer to a place of beauty and spiritual bliss.



LOCATION OF THE EARTHLY PARADISE  
(Garden of Eden)

♣ It was located in northern Iraq ♣

The country of Iraq was called Mesopotamia in Bible days. The word "Mesopotamia" from the Greek *mesos, middle and potamos, river*" the name applied to the area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In present day application the term is used of a territory practically coexistence with modern Iraq. - Pictorial Bible Dictionary, p. 527.

Israel is the most mentioned nation in the Bible. The second most mentioned name in the Bible is Iraq. In Old Testament days the country of Iraq was called Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia.

8 ¶ And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Ê'dên; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

10 And a river went out of Ê'dên to water the garden; and

from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

11 The name of the first is Pt'son: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Hâv'i-lah, where *there* is gold;

12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

13 And the name of the second river is Gî'hon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ê-thî-ô'pî-a.

14 And the name of the third river is Hîd'de-kêl: that is it which goeth toward the east of Âs-sÿr'I-a. And the fourth river is Eû-phrà'tês.

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Ê'dên to dress it and to keep it. - Genesis 2:8-15

NOTE: See attached map on page 3.

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## PARADISE LOST, PARADISE GAINED

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**INTRODUCTION:** Three words to keep in mind in this study:

(a) **Paradise:** (Gr. paradeisos, garden, orchard).

(b) **Lost:** "The act of losing or the state of being lost. No longer possessed, seen, or known."

(c) **Gained:** "To obtain; acquire; get; the act of gaining. To get possession of again, as something lost."

**Introductory Scripture:** Mark 8:36-37: Two words to notice in these verses: gain and lose.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" - Mark 8:36-37



## LOCATION OF THE EARTHLY PARADISE

(Garden of Eden)

♣ It was located in northern Iraq ♣

(a) Extended information given on this location (SEE attached map).

(b) Scripture : Genesis 2:8-15

(c) NOTE: Names of rivers in scripture and then compare on map.

(d) Additional Biblical information on country surrounding the Garden of Eden and the present country of Iraq.

## SATAN FIRST APPEARED IN THE WORLD IN IRAQ

(a) Genesis 3:1-24

(b) Paradise was lost through Adam, affecting the entire human race: Romans 5:18; I Corinthians 15:21-22

(c) See: Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23

1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq. - Genesis 2:8-14
2. Mesopotamia that is now Iraq was the cradle of civilization. - Genesis 2:8-14
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq. - Genesis 6:13-17
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq. - Genesis 11:1-9
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in southern Iraq. - Genesis 11:31; Acts 7:2-4
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah was from Nahor that is in Iraq. - Genesis 24:10-28
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq. - Genesis 29:9-17
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh which is in Iraq. - Jonah 3:1-5
9. Assyria that is in Iraq conquered the ten tribes of Israel. - II Kings 17:5-23
10. Amos cried in Iraq. - Amos 8:11
11. Babylon that is in Iraq destroyed Jerusalem. Ezekiel 33:17-21
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq. - Daniel 6:10-16
13. The three Hebrew children were put in the fiery furnace in Iraq. - Daniel 3:19-23
14. Jesus was in Iraq. - Daniel 3:25
15. Belshazzar, King of Babylon, saw "the handwriting on the wall" in Iraq. - Daniel 5:1-5
16. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq. Dan. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:17
17. Ezekiel preached in Iraq. Ezekiel 31:1-3
18. The Wise Men came from Iraq. - Matthew 2:1
19. Satan first appeared in the world in Iraq. - Genesis 3:1-5

### CHAPTER 3

*The serpent deceiveth Eve. 6 Man's fall: 9 God arraigneth them. 14 The serpent cursed; his overthrow by the woman's seed. 16 Mankind's punishment; and loss of paradise.*

**N**OW the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of

the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Ad'am and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Ad'am, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children;

and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Ad'am he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

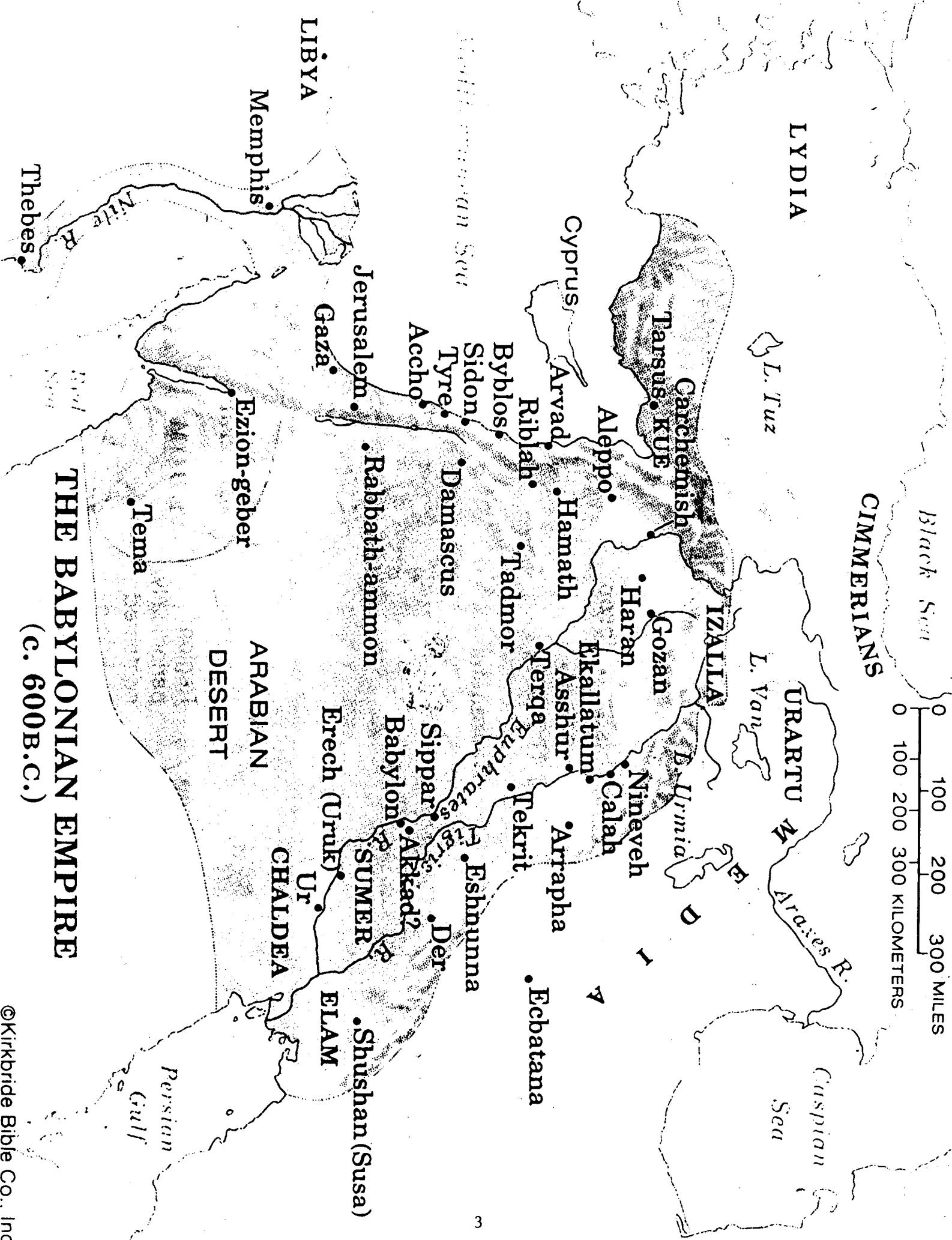
20 And Ad'am called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Ad'am also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 ¶ And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of E'den, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of E'den Cher'u-bims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.



**THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**  
(c. 600 B.C.)



## PARADISE GAINED

### **A beautiful pictorial lesson in the Old Testament of the "Kinsman Redeemer."**

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- (a) Found in the book of Ruth
- (b) Elimelech and wife Naomi had two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. They moved from Bethlehem to Moab. Upon his death his inheritance passed to these two sons. They married two Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. The two sons also died: Ruth 1:3-5
- (c) Ruth returned to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law: Ruth 1:16-22
- (d) Boaz was a rich man and was a kinsman to Elimelech: Ruth 2:1. When another kinsman refused to purchase the property (Elimelech's), Boaz bought the inheritance, becoming the "kinsman redeemer" to further the family name and its descendants.
- (e) With the purchase of the property, Ruth, a foreigner, (SEE: Ephesians 2:19-20) became his wife. She bore him a son, Obed, who was the father of Jesse, the father of David: Matthew 1:5-6; Luke 2:4
- (f) The property that Boaz purchased is known today as the "Shepherds' Fields" lying next to Bethlehem where Jesus was born: Luke 2:1-14

## WHEN PARADISE WAS LOST, GOD PROMISED A WAY BACK

- (a) Paradise was lost: Genesis 3:22-24
- (b) A way back was promised: Genesis 3:14-15; John 14:6; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:11-12.; Revelation 13:8

## THE HEAVENLY PARADISE THAT IS GAINED

- 1. The paradise that was lost was an earthly paradise, subject to be lost, Genesis 2:16-17
  - 2. The heavenly paradise CANNOT be lost. Psalm 37:28; Psalm 89:30-36; Romans 8:35-39
  - 3. The word "paradise" is not in the Old Testament. It appears three times in the New Testament.
  - 4. Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 12:1-4; Revelation 2:7 (NOTE: study closely the statement relative to the "tree of life" in the midst of the "Heavenly Paradise." With Genesis 3:24
- Luke 23:43: "And Jesus said unto him (the thief), Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."**

**II Corinthians 12:1-4: 1. "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such a one caught up to the third heaven. 3. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4. How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter."**

**Revelation 2:7: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."**

**NOTE: Genesis 3:24; NOW: Revelation 2:7**