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## EXPECT EDEN

### Introduction

*On a warm afternoon toward the end of summer I was walking by the Sandy River camera in hand. I saw a young man wading toward me with his dog.*

*"What are you taking pictures of," he asked me?*

*"I'm taking pictures of the reflections in the water."*

*"That's neat," he said.*

*We paused as an Eagle flew high above the cliffs on the other shore. It looked for a moment like faces were carved on the high rock wall far out of reach of the hands of man. Just now the sun came on them and they stood out like sentinels.*

*"All this is God's creation," I reflected. Man has nothing to do with it. The same God who created Eden created this river those rocks. He is a God who creates beauty. No matter what happens, in the end the earth will be restored and be like Eden. I want to be able to see and reveal that beauty. That is why I am taking pictures"*

*"I believe there is a God," he said.*

*From there we discussed his life and his need of this God who is so wonderfully reflected in nature. Before I left I prayed with him.*

### I. GOD OF ALL CREATION

Beyond everything we can perceive with our senses a heart is beating. No matter what is done with time or matter it keeps on beating. It is the heart of God. It is God who imagines, it is God who conceives and it is God who creates. This God in the beginning envisioned a place of beauty, a place of love, a garden like no other garden.

**Eden is coming. Expect Eden**

#### Song

O the beautiful things that God has made

Are wonderful to behold

The beautiful things that God has made

Are wonderful to behold

Behold, behold are wonderful to behold

Behold, behold are wonderful to behold

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My daughter Esther and I first sang this song as we were walking in a wooded area. We were transported from the noise of the city to the serenity of the forest. Suddenly the world was as it has always been throughout time. We were surprised by the

beauty of the moment and this surprise was stored in our memory. On a cold night in January I can lie in my bed and go back to this memory. There we are again Esther and I, walking in the forest singing the song as light streams through the trees.

Eden is hidden in our hearts, in our memories.

Sometimes the thought of Eden overwhelms us and we don't even realize what we are excited about. Someone might say,

"Mother Nature is unpredictable she gave us a good day today."

Did nature invent herself; is the creation the source of life?

Even though man has been excluded from Eden by an angel with a flaming sword the God of Eden is seen in His creation. It is the creation itself that shouts

"There is a Living God, a creator."

### Rom 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. NKJV

The earth itself is longing for Eden. God's plan of beauty for the earth is contingent upon man. Adam must fulfill his calling. The problem is Adam could not complete his task because Adam was exiled because of disobedience. Someone else had to fulfill the mission and redeem the creation. For this reason God sent his only begotten son Yeshua, Jesus, the Messiah. He died upon the tree to bring us back to Eden. The cross becomes a tree of life for those who receive him. Yes you and I can now eat the tree whose fruit was never eaten by Adam and Eve. As a result the whole creation awaits His return to heal the earth.

Expect Eden

## 2. SUBDUE THE EARTH

In light of what we know about other heavenly bodies the Earth is the only place where man can exist naturally. He can breathe without a space suit. God created the earth for man. The beauty of the planet strikes people who look back at the Earth from a space vehicle. It is beautiful and it is designed for life. God has expressed a direct interest in his creation by placing man in his garden to tend it. Man has been commanded to subdue the earth. He is the intended ruler of it in submission to God.

The long history of this planet tells of man's triumphs and failures in fulfilling this call.

Now is a bleak time for many as we look toward the future. Wars and rumors of wars, terror and frustration are on every side. Times of stress are upon many. For years we have lived with the threat of nuclear destruction. Some have concluded that the end will be the destruction of the planet. Sci-Fi writers have envisioned people living underground because the surface of the earth is radioactive.

Recently many of us watched the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. A wicked power was trying to conquer the land and bring the inhabitants into slavery. It looked bleak and impossible but a humble hobbit and a hidden King helped to turn the tide. According to the Bible the end of all things is not nuclear destruction. It is an earth renewed and healed by and through a King who is returning. Even though it looks improbable God will heal the earth and his King will bring the nations peace. For those of us who are offended at man's stewardship of the planet King Jesus the ultimate ecologist will correct that. He will accomplish what Adam failed to do.

*Look for a humble servant and expect Eden*

Speaking of the impossible does anyone know how a small nation called Israel can be such a problem to the other nations of the earth? And how did this nation that was not a nation for almost 2000 years suddenly appear?

One hundred years ago Palestine was a British protectorate. It was primarily a desert land. People who knew the scriptures began to seek God for the promises of the prophets towards Israel. Two Major wars and several minor wars later, Israel is now the most fruitful land in the Middle East. The fruit of that land is large and succulent.

*Expect Eden*

Ez 36 32-35

<sup>32</sup> "Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

<sup>33</sup> 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable *you* to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. <sup>34</sup> "The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the

sight of all who pass by. <sup>35</sup> "So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities *are now* fortified *and* inhabited.' <sup>36</sup> "Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*."

From the beginning God envisioned a garden of incredible beauty. The God who is restoring Israel will heal the entire planet.

### *Expect Eden*

## 3. DON'T KILL THE BUTTERFLY

Don't Kill the Butterfly  
Its wings are still  
Imagining

Years ago I was a butterfly collector. My Father bought me an aluminum fish net frame and my Mother sewed a net on it. Everyday I went into the fields and attempted to catch beauty. When I succeeded I learned to place the butterfly in a jar with carbon tetrachloride. It killed the winged one and I would mount it in a glass frame. As I looked at the results of this I realized I had failed to capture the beauty for the beauty was in the life, in Eden.

When we let God be God, let the Holy Spirit operate, things begin to happen in our lives that we cannot control, wonderful things.

### **Gal 5:1**

**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. NIV**

How many times in history are people promised freedom only to be brought into bondage and destruction. The butterfly, however brief his life, is a picture of freedom. True freedom produces genuine beauty. God himself is beautiful. He is free of evil. God is love he exists in the light. He cannot be caught or controlled.

Sometimes we (men or nations) want to pin down a brother or sister or an entire people so that we can control their thinking. We want to bring them in line with our goals and vision. We sadly, even try to pin down God himself. We want to control His prophets and messengers. As a result the Lord can do no good works in our communities and hearts because of our unbelief our fear of freedom. Of course God cannot be pinned down. The only thing pinned down is my spiritual life when I try to capture the life of Eden. *Eden must be breathed.*

### 3. BREATHE DEEPLY

I have a friend who is subject to panic attacks. I told my friend please stop and breathe deeply. Hold your breath for at least 30 seconds and exhale. Now do that again. I read that somewhere and do it myself from time to time.

Fear wants to rob you of life. The Bible tells us we live in times of stress, perilous times. There is a terrorism report everyday in the news. The goal of this is to destroy Eden. Bring an end to life and release death and destruction. The thing about Eden is, IT CANNOT BE DESTROYED. God has placed an angel at the east and no principality, power or person can get in without the entrance requirement.

The cell phone is ringing in the booth next to mine. I'm about to take a bite of breakfast and suddenly I'm listening to dispute, one end of it anyway. In the booth up the row another phone rings and a grocery list begins. Someone else is calling.

"I didn't have anything to do so I thought I'd give you a ring."

I have begun to value silence. I learned as a musician to value the pauses between notes. I found that when all the pauses are filled there is no where to breathe.

When I breathe deeply I begin to hear the heavenly song. I actually hear harmony. Many voices in agreement, in beauty proclaiming a never-ending song. I sense there is a center to my life. Something is holding me together. As I become calm peace surrounds me. In that peace the answer comes.

*Expect Eden*

### 4. TEND THE GARDEN

Genesis 2:7

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. NKJV

Have you ever spent time gardening? Your hands go deeply into the soil. You see the root systems dependent upon the earth's nutrients. You see how the garden is dependent on you the gardener. You see how dependent you are on the sunshine and the rainfall. With your hands in the soil you feel your connection to the earth and something tells you this is right. This is what I am created to do. Yes we have been created to tend the garden. God's purpose and vision for the earth begins to pulse within us. He has created us to rule this planet. We must learn to do this as an extension of His vision. He intends the whole earth to become like the Garden of Eden. He will accomplish this when he returns. He is looking for people whose heart is turned towards Him. He will walk with them in their hearts and guide them as they extend his purpose to the whole earth.

For many years I would visit rest homes on Sunday afternoons. When the people were gathered together for a meeting I would often ask them what they would like to sing. The number one song on their list was "In the Garden." The song tells how *I walk with him and talk with him* in the garden. *The things we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.* Our hearts long for what was lost at Eden. There is a sweet generation of believers who preceded us on earth. Many of them know the things we are mentioning here.

" I sing to you in the garden  
Meet with you in the morning light  
In the well watered garden of my soul  
A place beyond words

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I love to take pictures of driftwood. These former trees assume the most amazing shapes as they lie on the beach. Some look like lions or snakes or dinosaurs. You can see their root systems and the swirl patterns of the wood. Once they were gloriously alive now they are messengers reminding of us of former times, of death and decay. Yet somehow their beauty tells us there is a creator who uses all things for his good purpose.

These trees like winter branches can look like fingers pointing to the sky. You can see what looks like veins as if some ancient hand were resting on the beach. Suddenly I know there is a unity in creation. There is a pattern, the mark of Creator God.

The creation itself witnesses to the existence of God.

When Jesus rose from the dead Mary found him. She thought he was a gardener. She didn't recognize him. The truth is He is the gardener of gardeners. It is no accident that the night before his crucifixion he spent it in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Lord has such beauty planned for this planet. Are you ready?

*Expect Eden*

## 5. RESTORING THE YEARS OF THE SMALL HIVE BEETLE

Alan comes by our house every now and then to sell us honey. He works with bees and is close to them. I don't know anyone else who does this and sells the honey door to door. He does this in the middle of a major metropolis. Alan told me about the small hive beetle. This beetle somehow impersonates a bee. It moves right into the nest. The bees accept it and feed it. The small hive beetle in turn eats the eggs and honeycomb. It is treated like a Queen but destroys the nest.

How many bad habits are like the small hive beetle? We invite these habits into the deepest part of our lives, make a place for them and they steal Eden from our hearts. Eden is alive and breathing. We do not dwell in Eden by means of technology though technology does not necessarily oppose Eden. We dwell in Eden by faith.

Remember the Y2K scare. At one point it sounded like the rain would not fall. The rivers may stop running etc. In 15 years we had forgotten that man had lived over six thousand years without computers.

Nothing can stop Eden not even fear of nuclear war. Man cannot touch Eden. No small hive beetle can make its way there. There is no welcome mat for the rebellious and unbelieving. It is a place for the redeemed. So, Alan said to me,

" Why didn't Adam and Eve ask for forgiveness?

That's a great question I said.

Jesus was the second Adam, Alan said.

That's right

Remember what Jesus said on the cross?

You mean Father forgive them for they know not what they do?

Yes

It's like nothing stops the power of the small hive beetle until forgiveness comes. When forgiveness comes we are taken out of the power of this world system and brought back to our origins. Eden begins in our hearts and the Master begins walking with us and in us.

Now we are faced with an Eden outside of us and an Eden inside of us. Both will break forth into bloom. Expect Eden

## 6. ON ALL MY HOLY MOUNTAIN

On the United Nations building it is written

Is 2:2-4

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
That the mountain of the Lord's house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it.  
3 Many people shall come and say,  
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
He will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
4 He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore. NKJV

Even the rulers of this present world understand that something is coming. On the Internet it says a majority of Americans expect World War Three. The UN building says peace is coming but what peace? Where is this holy mountain we read of?

Is 11:6-9

The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
7 The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.  
9 They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea. NIV

And how will this happen?

Is 11:10

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. NIV

God the King, God the Messiah will rule the earth himself.

Recently I awoke from a dream. I heard a voice say, "Eph 3 9."

Ephesians 3:8-10

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, NKJV

Colossians 1:27-28

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. NKJV

There is someone in us, someone walking in the garden of our hearts. This is not an invasion. He comes only by invitation. He is there to restore Eden. To make us fruitful people, people who eat of the Tree of Life. The curious thing about Adam and Eve's decision is that they could have eaten of the Tree of Life and lived forever. They chose the small hive beetle, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Jesus died on the cross that cross became a Tree of Life for all who would believe on Him.

Jesus did not bring his followers into the Garden of Eden he brought the garden into them. The crown of thorns he wore represented the curse of death he took for us. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil produced death and death produced thorns. There are no thorns in the Garden of Eden. It is a place of blessing.

### *Expect Eden*

There is sorcery ongoing to manipulate our minds to forget Eden. Forget Gods vision of the earth and the universe. In a way, God is the great ecologist. He will restore. He will renew the earth.

### *Is 51:1-3*

"Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness,  
You who seek the LORD:  
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.  
2 Look to Abraham your father,  
And to Sarah who bore you;  
For I called him alone,  
And blessed him and increased him."

3 For the LORD will comfort Zion,  
He will comfort all her waste places;  
He will make her wilderness like Eden,  
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
Joy and gladness will be found in it,  
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. NKJV

He will make her wilderness like Eden. We can already see some of that in the transformation of Palestine. Where we don't always see it is in the heart of our brother or sister. It may be happening but we don't see it because we don't expect to see it. We must learn to

### *Expect Eden.*

## 7. THE STONES WILL CRY OUT

Jesus made a triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. The crowds were crying out, "Hosanna, Glory to God in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

The Pharisees said,

"Tell the crowds to be silent."

Jesus replied,

"If the children were silent the stones themselves would cry out."

Have you ever wondered how a stone could cry out?

Luke 17: 6

6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

NKJV

Have you asked yourself how a tree could hear and obey?

Rom 8:22-23

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. NKJV

How is the creation groaning? Can you hear it?

What I'm getting at is that the residue of Eden is still with us. The potential for Eden surrounds us and there will be a day when the creation is truly one with the creator.

The Bible speaks of witness stones. Stones that somehow record what has occurred.

Josh 24:27

27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." NKJV

The potential for Eden's glory is all around us. God intends to fulfill all that he imagined for us. In the meantime the creation itself is keeping a record of man's activities. Geologists and archeologists are beginning to scratch the surface of what God has hidden in the earth. DNA research is telling us that each of us as the scripture say are fashioned individually, fearfully and wonderfully made. Nothing escapes the attention of God.

Expect Eden

## 7. HOLINESS-

Mt. 10 16

Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove

Wisdom and innocence seem to be opposites. Wisdom is associated with the serpent, the one in the garden. Innocence is usually associated with a child. Both of these qualities are embodied in the God man, the Messiah, Yeshua. God himself is wise. God is innocent of sin. He can be both simultaneously.

Consider this passage.

Isa 11:6-9

6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.  
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.  
9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea. NKJV

Here we see the child playing by the cobra's hole. Innocence and wisdom exist together in the restored earth.

Expect Eden

Deut 23:14

14 For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you. NKJV

After Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they knew they were naked. They sensed they were no longer free. They were unclean. They put on fig leaves to cover themselves. Their consciences were clouded. Their vision blurred. Instead of Eden they had chosen the way of darkness. Instead of life

they had chosen death. Thinking themselves wise they had become fools. Instead of innocence they were guilty.

### Rom 1:22-25

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. NKJV

In our arrogance we begin worshipping created things instead of the creator. As a parent I become grieved when I see my children giving their time and energy to the creation more than the creator. It can be as simple as getting lost in media world. Some of us go so far as to worship beings who claim to be the creator who promise us false Eden's when in reality they take us downward to deception, depression and death. Many of us betray our own hearts and like Cain become lost and angry people searching for pleasure in the earth but denying the author of creation.

There are many books out to tell us how to be natural. They claim we can create an Eden like life by right eating, bathing, exercise etc. They have a right idea. We are to be sensible about how we live. If we follow our desire to subdue the earth beginning with our own bodies we are on the right track. However, we often substitute these disciplines for spending time with the master gardener, God himself. He will teach us how to live, how to subdue, how to possess what we inherit by faith in Christ. He has given us great and precious promises, covenant promises. Through faith in Gods word to us we inherit the earth.

### Matt 5:5

5 Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the earth.

### Gal 5 : 1

It is for freedom Christ has set us free be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

There was a serpent in the garden. He is the father of lies, the one who leads into bondage. Eden dwellers must love the blood bought freedom of the cross enough

to turn away from the lying serpent. Eden demands faithfulness, truth, courage, hope, and love. The call of the Kingdom of God is the call to Eden.

Jesus says,

“The evil of today is sufficient for today.”

Jesus knew worry is a killer. Worry takes us away from the rest of Eden to the possibilities of evil. We are not called to anxiety. We are called to a Holy God who reveals Eden in our heart

### *Expect Eden*

I was driving my son home recently.

“There is an aspect of God I have been thinking about lately. We must remember both the goodness and severity of God. I keep thinking that God is like a child in that he is innocent. There is no evil thought in Him. When he walks into a situation he expects beauty and love. When he looks towards us he expects the best.” The reason the scripture refers to the Messiah, as a man of sorrows is that this expectation of good is impossible in natural man. Man must be brought back into Eden relationship. This could only be done by the atoning work of the Messiah. When we receive Christ inside of us. We receive the promise that God made to Abraham. We receive the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit who guides onto the way of Life. It is God’s way. He will restore your life and mine if we let him. It’s up to us

*As I walked away from my encounter at the river, I felt a little like John the Baptist. John went out into the wilderness to call people to the coming Messiah. He was not in the city. He was preaching in the wilderness.*

*I was not preaching I was just taking pictures. The young man was curious. He had responded. I left him with this thought. Now that you know this God you do not have to understand every word in the Bible. Make a commitment to follow Him and He will show you, as you follow, what you need to know.*

Remember Eden

*Expect Eden*

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