

Understanding The Old Testament Week 2 - The Garden, Angels, The Fall of Satan, Creation Falls Into Chaos, The Flood, and the Curse of Canaan.

Eden was not the whole earth. The whole earth was to become Eden. *Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:4–15*
Good and Very Good ≠ Perfect. Eden was Sacred Space.

Eden, Garden and Mountain?

Eden was more than a garden, Eden was heaven on earth, it is where God walked and talked with man face to face.

Trees and Gardens:

- Garden imagery is very prominent when it comes to the dwelling place of Yahweh and pagan gods.
- You will often see places of worship take place in garden and at trees or Yahweh appearing at a tree. Genesis 21:33; Judges 6:11.
- It's no accident the description of the promised land from the spies is of a place that is abundant in fruit [like a Garden]: Numbers 13:23–28 ESV

Eden as a Mountain and Mountain Imagery in the OT: Ezekiel 28:14–16; Psalm 68:15–16

- Because the Heavenly Realm was up there, and unreachable it was thought of often that spirit beings dwelled on mountains, specifically garden mountains.
- This is why Egypt's Pyramids look like a mountain, this is why Native American Ziggurats look like mountains. Their idea was to make some "like their gods home" so that they would visit them. Psalm 68:15–16

Adam and Eve were priests before God.

Priests are those who minister or work in the presence of a deity and/or are representatives of their deity. Image of God = God's representatives. In the NT WE are the priests/representative of God.

Angels

- The word "angels" is the Kleenex of the Heavenly Host.
- In Hebrew [OT] the word angel is malak (מַלְאָךְ). Which simply means messenger. In fact, in the Old Testament the word malak is used to speak of the heavenly host least of all the beings malak is used to say. Primarily it is used of God himself: The Angel of the Lord. It is used often for human messengers, prophets, preachers. Lastly, it is used of members of the heavenly host.
- Some of the Names for the heavenly host in the OT include: Heavenly Host, Sons of God, Holy Ones, Burning Ones, Stars of Heaven, Divine Council, Watchers, and Spirits [Hebrew Elohim, sometimes translated god small g in english].
- Types of angels names in the OT: Cherubim, Seraphim, Princes [NT: Archangel], Angel.
- Quite simply Angels, whatever kind of angel they are, are members of Gods heavenly family in the heavenly or spirit realm.
- Angels are created beings (they are without a beginning like Yahweh who has no beginning and no end). They were created sometime before us, they were present at creation. Job 38:4–7

The Fall of Man and The Devil Genesis 3:1

Just like English, Hebrew has its own puns, phrases, play-on-words, idioms, metaphors, etc.

“Why should men always make coffee for their wife? Because the Bible says “Hebrews”.

“I’m not swearing when I say ‘to hell with the Devil’”

(Noun): “Running is a good form of exercise.”

(Verb): “The engine is running on diesel.”

(Adjective): “Running paint is an eyesore.”

Hebrew: N – CH – SH

Serpent: נחש

Sorcerer/Diviner: שחש

Copper/bronze (used for shinning/shimmering): שחש

Isaiah is specifically against the King of Babylon who is compared to the rebellion of the devil.

Isaiah 14:11-17 ESV

Ezekiel is specifically against the King of Tyre who again is compared the to original angelic rebel.

(Ezekiel 28)

Ezekiel 28:1-2; 11-19 ESV

The Devils Name is not Lucifer or Satan, we don’t know his name.

Hebrew: Helel; English: Day Star; Greek: heosphoros; Latin: Lucifero. [The KJV authors dropped the “o”]

LUCIFER (Latin derivation of הַיְלֵל, *heilel*). The morning star; an epithet of Venus. A title given to the king of Babylon (Isa 14:12). The early church fathers began to apply the term to Satan, - Lexham Bible Dictionary

Satan mean Accuser/Adversary. In the OT it is more accurately translated “the satan”. It is not a personal name. 2nd Temple Judaism started using it when referring to the serpent in the garden the first fallen angel, and the NT writers pick up on this. However, readers would have known while it is used as a Title in the NT, it is not the name of the Serpent.

It could be Azazel (Leviticus 16) but again, this could be just another reference/associated name and not his actual name. Azazel could mean “strong god/spirit”.

Genesis 4: The first Murder and the degradation of creation. The Mark of Cain. The Goodness of God.

Genesis 4 and Genesis 5: The Righteous vs Unrighteous.

Cain’s offspring Lamech kills someone as well (Genesis 4:23). While members of Seth’s line “called upon the name of the Lord” (Genesis 4:26). Theology: Choose which was you will go. *Deuteronomy 30:19*

Enoch - *Genesis 5:21-24*

The 2nd Angelic Fall, the Increase of Sin, and the Flood *Genesis 6:1-5*

Clear NT attestation to this story: 1 Peter 3:6-22. 2 Peter 2. Jude 1:6-7.

Reminder for us: Read narratives closely, don’t assume we know them. How many animals of each kind were on the ark? Was it only 40 days?

The Curse of Canaan. Genesis 9:18–25. Noah’s 3 sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth.

4 Options:

1. Ham dishonored his father by making fun of Noah who laid naked in his tent.

“The strength of this position is its conservatism: it refuses to see anything in the text that is not explicit. Yet, in a sense, voyeurism is a nonexplanation, since it fails to elucidate [explain] either the gravity of Ham's offense or the reason for the curse of Canaan. It also requires the interpreter to assume the existence of a taboo against the accidental sight of a naked parent that is otherwise unattested in biblical or ancient Near Eastern literature. Donald J. Wold remarks, "Scholars who accept the literal view... must defend a custom about which we know nothing.”

The next 3 all have to do with the terms “saw the nakedness of His father” and “saw what his youngest son had done to him”:

2. Ham castrated Noah

This is popular with Rabbi’s but doesn’t have any textual connections to castration euphemism.

3. Sexual Abuse of Noah by Ham.

“Saw the nakedness of” is a euphemism in the bible for sexual intercourse. This one has more textual support than the first two.

A question on this passage and problem with the first three is: “why is Canaan cursed?” All three are possibilities of the text, but none of them explain why Canaan was cursed. This wouldn’t be an issue problem if Ham was cursed, but he’s not, Canaan is.

Leviticus 18:6–18 ESV Ezekiel 22:10 ESV

4. Ham slept with Noah’s wife.

Genesis 9:21 ESV

²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

Lexham Hebrew Bible Chapter 9 : וַיִּשְׁתֵּי מִן־הַיַּיִן וַיִּשְׁכָּר וַיִּתְגַּל בְּתוֹךְ אֶהֱלָהּ :

ה = feminine ending. Should it be “lay uncovered in [his wife’s tent]”? Some say yes, some say no.

Genesis 24:67 ESV

⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Lexham Hebrew Bible Chapter 24

...צָחַק הָאֶהֱלָהּ שָׂרָה...

It is possible that the writer with writing the tent in the feminine form and using language like “see the nakedness of their father” could suggest that Canaan is not the son of Ham and his wife, but Canaan is the son of Ham and Noah’s wife. Why would Ham do this? It could be viewed as an attempt to take over as the head honcho. To conquer a kingdom often they would sleep with the king’s wife/concubine.

Compare to: 2 Samuel 16:15–23

Noahic Covenant: Gen 8:20-22, 9:1-17.

Reiteration of original plan: Gen 9:1-7.