

What is Eden?

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Sara Laughs...And Contemplates [Eden]

Gen. 18:10-12

י וַיֹּאמֶר, שׁוּב אָשׁוּב אֵלַיךָ כָּעֵת חַיָּה, וְהִנֵּה-בֵן, לְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ; וְשָׂרָה שֹׁמְעַת פֶּתַח הָאֵהָל, וְהוּא אֲחֵרָיו.

יא וַאֲבָרְקָהּ וְשָׂרָה זָקְנִים, בָּאִים בַּיָּמִים; תִּדְּל לְהִיּוֹת לְשָׂרָה, אַרְח כַּנְּשִׂים.
יב וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה, בְּקִרְבָּהּ לֵאמֹר: אֲחֵרִי בָלְתִי הִיְתָה-לִּי עֶדְנָה, וְאֵדְנִי זָקֵן.

10 And He said: 'I will certainly return unto thee when the season cometh round; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son.' And Sarah heard in the tent door, which was behind him.--

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, and well stricken in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.--

12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying: 'After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?'

The Origins of Eden

Gen. 2:8-10

ח וַיִּטַע יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, גֶּן-בְּעֵדֶן--מִקְדָּם; וַיִּשֶׂם שָׁם, אֶת-הָאֲדָם אֲשֶׁר יִצְרָה.
ט וַיִּצְמַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, מִן-הָאֲדָמָה, כָּל-עֵץ נֹחֵם לְמִרְאָה, וְטוֹב לְמַאֲכָל--וְעֵץ הַחַיִּים, בְּתוֹךְ הַגֶּן, וְעֵץ, הַדַּעַת טוֹב וְרָע.

י וַנְהַר יֵצֵא מֵעֵדֶן, לְהַשְׁקוֹת אֶת-הַגֵּן; וּמִשָּׁם, יִפְרֹד, וְהָיָה, לְאַרְבָּעָה רְאשִׁים.

8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; 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 the knowledge of good and evil.

10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became four heads.

Gen. 3:22-24

כב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאֶחָד מִמֶּנּוּ, לָדַעַת, טוֹב וְרָע; וְעַתָּה פֶּן-יִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ, וְלָקַח גַּם מֵעֵץ הַחַיִּים, וְאָכַל, וַחַי לְעֹלָם.

כג וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, מִגֵּן-עֵדֶן--לְעֹבֵד, אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר לָקַח, מִשָּׁם. כד וַיִּגְרֹשׁ, אֶת-הָאָדָם; וַיִּשְׁפֹּן מִקְדָּם לְגֵן-עֵדֶן אֶת-הַכְּרֻבִים, וְאֵת לֵהַט הַחֶרֶב הַמַּתְהַפֶּכֶת, לְשָׁמֵר, אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים.

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 Eden, 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 Eden the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way to the tree of life.

Gen. 4:16

טז וַיֵּצֵא קַיִן, מִלְּפָנֵי יְהוָה; וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-נוֹד, קִדְמַת-עֵדֶן.

16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Glory and Greatness

Ezekiel 31:18

יח אל-מי דמית פכה בכבוד ובגדל, בעצי-יעון; והורדת את-עצי-יעון אל-ארץ תחתית, בתוך ערלים תשכב את-חללי-חרב--הוא פרעה וכל-המונה, נאם אדני יהוה.

18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shall thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth; thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with them that are slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.'

Joel 2:3, 23-27

ג לפניו אכלה אש, ואחריו תלהט להבה; כגן-יעון הארץ לפניו, ואחריו מדבר שממה, וגם-פליטה, לא-היתה לו.

כג ובני ציון, גילו ושמחו ביהוה אלהיכם, כי-נתן לכם את-המורה, לצדקה; ויורד לכם, גשם מורה ומלקוש--בראשון.

כד ומלאו הגרנות, בר; והשיקו היקבים, תירוש ויצהר.

כה ושלמתי לכם, את-השנים, אשר אכל הארבה, הילק והחסיל והגזם: חילי, הגדול, אשר שלחתי, בכם.

כו ואכלתם אכול, ושבוע, והללתם את-שם יהוה אלהיכם, אשר-עשה עמכם להפליא; ולא-יבשו עמי, לעולם.

כז וידעתם, פי בקרב ישראל אני, ואני יהוה אלהיכם, ואין עוד; ולא-יבשו עמי, לעולם.

3 A fire devoureth before them, and behind them a flame blazeth; the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing escapeth them.

23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He giveth you the former rain in just measure, and He causeth to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain, at the first. 24 And the floors shall be

full of corn, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the canker-worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer-worm, My great army which I sent among you. 26 And ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and shall praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be ashamed. 27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and there is none else; and My people shall never be ashamed.

Amos 1:5

ה וְשִׁבְרֹתַי, בְּרִיחַ דְּמִשְׁקָא, וְהִכְרַתִּי יוֹשֵׁב מִבְּקַעַת-אֲזוֹן, וְתוֹמֵךְ שִׁבְט מִבֵּית עֶדֶן;
וְגָלוּ עִם-אֲרָם קִירָה, אָמַר יְהוָה

5 And I will break the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from Bikath-Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Beth-eden; and the people of Aram shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

Children of Eden

Isaiah 37:12

יב הַהֲצִילוּ אוֹתָם אֱלֹהֵי הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁחִיתוּ אֲבוֹתַי, אֶת-גּוֹזָן, וְאֶת-חֶרֶן; וְרֶצֶף
וּבְנֵי-עֶדֶן, אֲשֶׁר בְּתַלְשָׁר

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them, which my fathers have destroyed, Gozan, and Haran, and Rezep, and the children of Eden that were in Telassar?

II Kings 19:12

יב הַהֲצִילוּ אוֹתָם אֱלֹהֵי הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר שִׁחֲתוּ אֲבוֹתַי, אֶת-גּוֹזָן, וְאֶת-חֶרֶן; וְרֶצֶף
וּבְנֵי-עֶדֶן, אֲשֶׁר בְּתַלְאֲשָׁר

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them, which my fathers have destroyed, Gozan, and Haran, and Rezep, and the children of Eden that were in Telassar?

Becoming (Existing in the Future)

Ecclesiastes 4:2-3

ב וְשִׁבַח אֲנִי אֶת-הַמֵּתִים, שְׁפָכָר מֵתוֹ--מִן-הַחַיִּים, אֲשֶׁר הֵמָּה חַיִּים עֲדָנָה.
ג וְטוֹב, מִשְׁנִיָּהֶם--אֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָדוֹן, לֹא הָיָה: אֲשֶׁר לֹא-רָאָה אֶת-הַמַּעֲשֵׂה הָרָע,
אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַשׁ.

2 Wherefore I praised the dead that are already dead more than the living that are yet alive; 3 but better than they both is he that hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

Daniel 7:25

כה וּמַלְיָן, לְצַד עֲלִיא (עֲלָאָה) יִמְלַל, וּלְקַדְיָשֵׁי עֲלִיוֹנִין, יִבְלֵא; וַיִּסְבֵּר, לְהַשְׁנִיָּה
זְמַנִּין וְדַת, וַיִּתְיַבֵּבּוֹן בִּידָה, עַד-עָדוֹן וְעַדְנִין וּפְלַג עָדוֹן.

25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the seasons and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

A Place of Faith

II Chronicles 31:15

טו וְעַל-יְדוֹ עֲדוֹן וּמִנִּיָּמִין וַיִּשׁוּעַ וְשִׁמְעִיָּהוּ אֲמַרְיָהוּ וְשִׁכְנַיָּהוּ, בְּעָרֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים--
בְּאֲמוֹנָה: לְתַת לְאַחֵיהֶם בְּמַחְלָקוֹת, כְּגֹדוֹל כְּקָטָן.

15 And under him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their office of trust, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small;

Sheva B'rachot

שׁוֹשׁ תְּשִׁישׁ וְתַגַּל הַעֲקָרָה, בְּקִיבוּץ בְּנֵיהַ לְתוֹכָהּ בְּשִׂמְחָה. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה',
מִשְׂמַח צִיּוֹן בְּבִנְיָהּ.

May the barren one exult and be glad as her children are joyfully gathered to her. Blessed are You, LORD, who gladden Zion with her Children.

שמחת תשמחת רעים האהובים, כשמחך יצירך בגן עדן מקדם. ברוך אתה ה', משמחת חתן וכלה

Grant perfect joy to these loving companions, as you did your creations in the Garden of Eden. Blessed are You, LORD, who grants the joy of groom and bride.