



from
EDEN
to
ETERNITY

LENT 2025

“In the beginning, God
created the heavens
and the earth...

...God saw all
that he had made,
and indeed,
it was very good.”

- Genesis 1:1; 31 -

FROM EDEN TO ETERNITY

GOD'S PRESENCE RESTORED THROUGH JESUS

When I was a young boy, I remember watching bible stories on VHS. In particular I loved watching the one about creation; however, my strongest memories are not about the plants or the animals. I was fascinated by the scene which depicted Genesis 3:23-24, where Adam and Eve no longer lived in Eden and God placed 'cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.'

I vividly remember telling my mum that one day I was going to find that garden with the cherubim and flaming sword, and find a way back into Eden. I remember even as a child, feeling such a yearning to dwell with God in perfection that I was ready to pack my bags and travel there.

It took me many years to realise that I didn't need to pack my bags and dodge a fiery sword to enter Eden. I slowly came to understand that just as death came through the sin of Adam and Eve, grace, righteousness and the fullness of life come through Jesus (Romans 5:12-21). Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life and is the only way back to the Father.

This Lenten study, 'Eden to Eternity', aims to lead us through the biblical story of redemption. I pray that it would help us to understand the grace of God that we find in the cross of Christ, and the indispensable promise of hope in the new creation.

As we prepare for Easter, may we seek to know and love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength and by his grace be guided by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus faithfully and with courage.

In Christ,

Rev'd Scott Windred
St Barnabas Sunnybank



Warming up:

If you could design the perfect place to live, what would it look like? What would make it feel like 'home'?

Read: Genesis 2:8-17

1. How does the description of Eden in Genesis 2:8-14 reveal God's original design for creation? What stands out to you about the way God provides for His creation?
2. What does it mean that Adam was given responsibility to care for the garden (v.15)? How does this help us understand our role in God's world today?
3. How do the details in vv.9 and 16 reflect God's generosity and provision? What does this teach us about His character?
4. Why do you think God gave Adam the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (v. 17)? What might this tell us about God's desires for humanity?
5. What does this command reveal about the relationship between human freedom, trust, and obedience to God?
6. How do you see the differences between the perfection of Eden and the struggles of life today? In what ways do we still long for what was lost?
7. In Romans 5:12-21, Paul describes Jesus as the 'second Adam'. How does Jesus restore what was broken in Eden?

Rubber hits the road:

In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to trust God's wisdom and authority? How can you take a step this week to surrender those areas to Him?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

[illegible]

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating a world where we were meant to live in perfect harmony with you. We confess that sin has separated us from your presence, but we rejoice in the hope of restoration through Jesus. Help us to seek you daily, trust in your goodness, and live in a way that reflects your love and purpose. May we long for the day when your presence will be fully restored. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Warming up:

Have you ever been tricked or deceived into something?

Read: Genesis 3:1-24

1. V.1 tells us that the serpent was crafty (cunning, clever or skilfully deceitful). Why is this significant? Does Satan still work in the same way today?
2. What does the serpent say about God's instructions? How does he re-frame disobedience into something positive?
3. What reasons does v.6 give for Adam and Eve eating the fruit?
4. What are the repercussions for Adam and Eve in vv.7-13? How does it change their relationship between each other and God?
5. What is the significance of God's words in v.9?
6. In the garden, God had provided all that Adam and Eve needed (physically, emotionally, and spiritually). How does sin change God's created order and desire in vv.14-19?
7. How does God continue to provide for and be generous towards Adam and Eve despite their sin? (v.21)
8. How does God respond to Adam and Eve's sin in vv.22-24?
9. How might things have been different if Adam and Eve had trusted God and accepted that he had already provided for all their needs?
10. Read Revelation 22:1-5, 13-14. Is there any way back to the tree of life? Or are we separated from it forever?

Rubber hits the road:

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:16-17). Take some time to consider how Jesus has made a way for us to be restored in our relationship with God and with each other. Write a prayer of thanks for this incredible gift.

[illegible]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness: in your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Amen.

Psalm 51.1–2, 11–13, 16



Warming up:

Where is a time and space where you have felt close to God? Was it in a church, out in creation, or somewhere else? How did it feel?

Read: Exodus 26:31-35

1. What stands out to you in this passage? Have you ever read it before?
2. Where does this passage fit in the story of the book of Exodus?
3. What is God telling his people to do? How are these instructions given?
4. How did God's people know the Lord's presence before the tabernacle? (cf. Exodus 13:21-22) What does this show us about God?
5. How do you think it would have felt to have a physical reminder of God's presence at the centre of your community?
6. What was housed inside the tabernacle? (See Exodus 25:10-22)
7. Atonement is the action of making amends for a wrong or injury. It is the process before which we are reconciled to God. What place does atonement have in the tabernacle?
8. What does the tabernacle say about people's estrangement from God? Where does this separation come from?
9. Do we need a tabernacle anymore? (See Hebrews 4:14-16)

Rubber hits the road:

The tabernacle is an example of God encouraging the use of new technology to facilitate worship. Through the tabernacle, sinners came to God in repentance, offered up sacrifices to appease God, and drew near to God in atonement. How can we use the technologies available to us to encourage people around us to draw near to God?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings visible.

Lord God of all creation, thank you for your salvation story, recorded for us in the Bible. Please forgive us for our sins and draw us closer to you.

Holy Spirit, help us to use all the gifts you've given us for your glory.

Amen.



Warming up:

What is something that has separated you from someone you love? How did that feel?

Read: Mark 15:21-39

1. Who is Jesus? Why is he being crucified here?
2. What is behind the insult of v.29? What does this say about who Jesus is?
3. What does it mean that Jesus doesn't come down and 'save himself'?
4. What does Jesus say in v.34? Why does he say this?
5. What happens in v.38? Why is this significant?

Read: Hebrews 10:19-25

1. How do vv.19-20 make sense of what happens in Mark 15?
2. What does that mean for us (vv.21-22)?
3. What does it mean to have our hearts 'sprinkled clean' and our bodies 'washed with pure water' (v.22)?
4. What are we then encouraged to do? (vv.23-25)?
5. If sin is what separates us from God, how does Jesus make the way back possible?

Rubber hits the road:

How does this reality that Jesus has opened the way to God change our lives? How can we make sure the truth of Jesus opening the way to God remains central in our daily lives?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Almighty God, thank you that you have torn the curtain in two, forever reconciling us to you through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Thank you that Jesus washes us and cleanses us, and that he is our new High Priest always interceding for us. Help us to always live in the love, hope and faith that this new life offers us. Amen.



Warming up:

Can you think of a time when you misunderstood something but later saw it clearly? How did that change your perspective?

Read: Acts 2:29-39

1. In vv.29-31, Peter connects Jesus to David's prophecy about the Messiah. What does this tell us about God's faithfulness to His promises?
2. How does Peter describe Jesus' exaltation (vv.32-33)? What does it mean that Jesus has been raised and is now at God's right hand?
3. In v.36, Peter proclaims that Jesus is both 'Lord' and 'Messiah'. What do these titles mean, and why would this have been a challenging message for his listeners? How do we sometimes struggle with fully accepting Jesus' authority in our own lives?
4. How do the people respond to Peter's message in v.37? Why do you think they were 'cut to the heart'?
5. In v.38, Peter calls them to repent and be baptised. What do repentance and baptism represent, and why are they necessary responses to the gospel?
6. V.39 speaks of God's promise being for 'all whom the Lord our God will call', including those far off. What does this tell us about the reach of God's grace and the mission of the church today?
7. How does Jesus' exaltation to the right hand of God connect to God's bigger plan of restoring His presence with humanity?
8. What does it mean for us today to live under the reign of the exalted Christ? How should this shape our daily lives and decisions?

Rubber hits the road:

If Jesus is truly exalted as Lord overall, what is one area of your life where you need to surrender more fully to his rule? How will you take a step of obedience this week?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Lord Jesus, you are exalted as Lord and Messiah, seated at the right hand of the Father. We confess that we often live as if we are in control, rather than submitting to your rule. Help us to repent where needed, to trust in your power, and to walk in obedience to you. Thank you for the gift of your Spirit and the promise that we belong to you. May our lives reflect your glory as we await the day when your kingdom is fully realised. Amen.



Warming up:

What gives you hope for the future?

Read: Revelation 21:1-5

1. What happened in the previous chapter (20:7-15)? Why is this important for this passage about renewal and perfect peace?
2. The promise of 'a new heaven and a new earth' was given back in Isaiah 67:17-25. What are the similarities between these passages?
3. Rather than saying 'I'm throwing it out and starting again' God says 'I'm making all things new'. What does this tell us about God?
4. What does 'being seated on the throne' suggest about God's authority? Why is this important when he is 'making all things new'?
5. The 1st century readers of this letter were persecuted Christians. How would they feel as they read this?

Read: Revelation 22:1-6

1. Living water has been promised by God before (cf. Ezekiel 47:1-12; Isaiah 55:1-13; John 4:1-26). Why is this living water significant in v.1?
2. How does the vision of the tree of life restore the brokenness and curse of Genesis 3?
3. What do you think vv.4-5 mean? How would you explain them?
4. What do we learn about the Holy City in 22:1-5? How does this vision make you feel?
5. Who is central to this whole vision? What does this mean for our relationship with Jesus?

Rubber hits the road:

Take some time to think about the world we are currently living in and all its troubles. Spend time with God in prayer, thank him for his promise of making all things new and ask that his will would be done.

[illegible]

You take our brokenness, and the brokenness of the world, and bring forth the most beautiful of mosaics. Renew us by your Spirit until the day your kingdom comes in its fullness. Amen.

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”’

- Revelation 21:4-5 -



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