

Life In God's Garden

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God's Garden ⇔ God's Garden

Genesis

“created”

Revelation

“made-new”

- God the Gardener created a son to garden.
- God determined Good and Evil to teach his son by example.
- Prohibition against the Tree of Knowledge, like the other dietary laws, was temporary.
- Tree of Knowledge was made for Adam and Eve when they matured.

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:13-14)

Garden Grace

- What do good parents give their Children?
- Did Adam have to earn his place in God's Garden?
- Did Adam have to pay for gold, precious stones, food, water, animals, or a bride-price dowry for Eve?
- Adam's sin was rebellion against his own experience of what God was doing in his life.

New Testament Garden Teaching

A tree is recognized by its fruit. (Matt. 12:33)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22 cf. Rom. 7:4; 11: 17-21; John 15:1-17 etc.)

- Drawn from the created order in Gen. 2

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

New Testament Garden Teaching

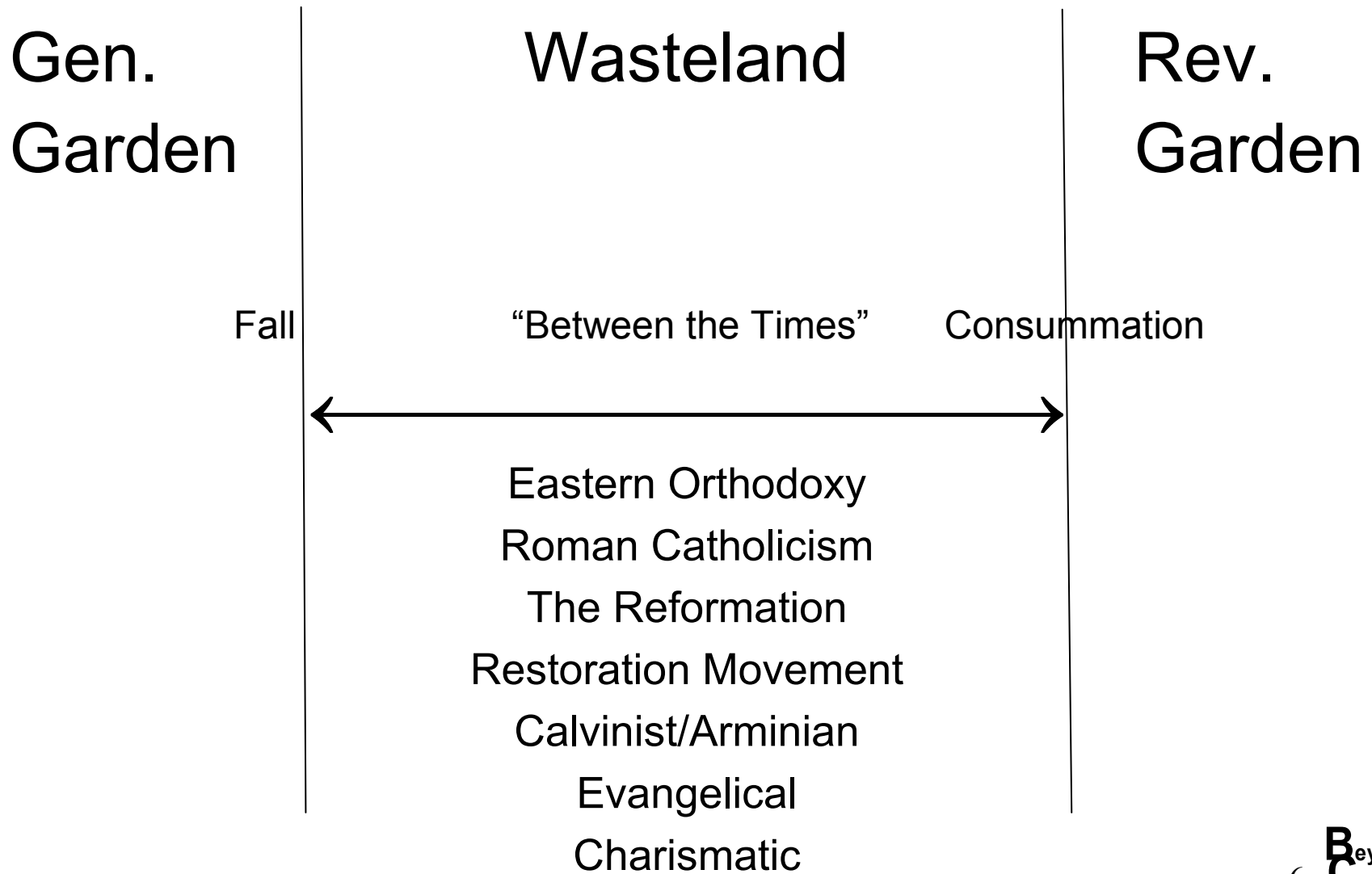
- Based on the created order in Gen. 2

Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. (Matt. 19:8)

“For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5:31-32)

- Creation, Fall, Redemption.
- Paradise Lost, Paradise Restored.
- The original Garden is the first revelation of the Gospel.

Traditional Futurism



Preterism

Gen.
Garden

Garden
Training

Rev.
Garden

Fall

“Between the Times”

Consummation



Garden Source Theology!

Infancy

→ Maturity

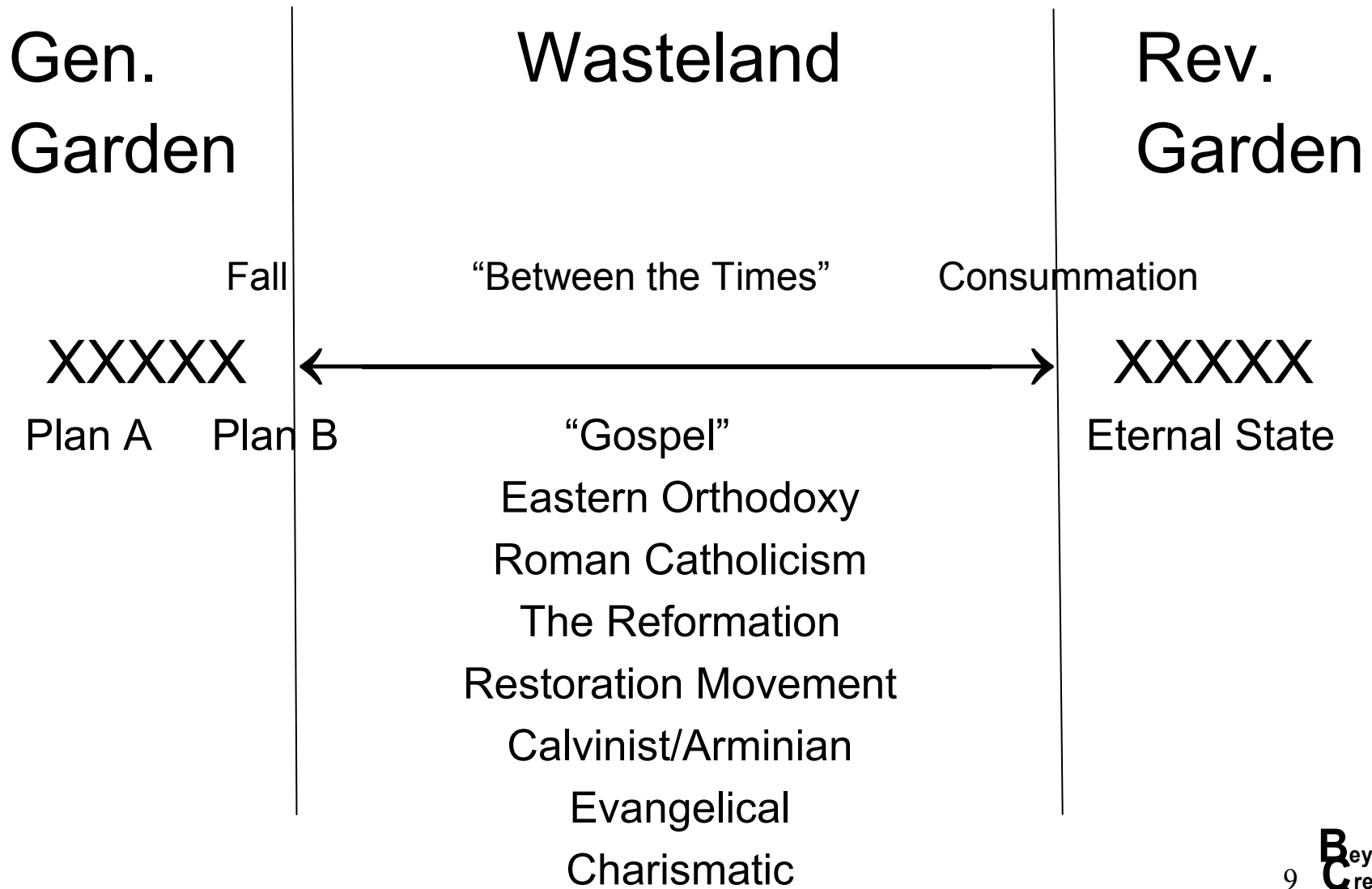
The Temptation

“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen. 3:5)

- The temptation was taking a shortcut to glory
- Satan tempted them with something they already had!

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen. 1:27)

Traditional Futurism



The Fall of Cain

Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. (Gen. 4:6-7)

- Exactly what Cain should have learned from the story of his parents.
- Murder of Abel is the Fall of Cain.
- God's judgment: Cast out from the "presence."
(Gen. 4:14)

The Fall of the Sons of God

The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.(Gen. 6:2)

- Intermarriage with idolatry corrupted the nation.
- Foreign women were “forbidden fruit.”
- God’s judgment: Destruction by waters of the flood. (Gen. 6:11-8:18)

The Fall of Noah

- New (covenant) world because of the pleasing sacrifice.
- New garden scene.

Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. (Gen. 9:20)

- New temptation: aged wine not fresh fruit.
- No absolute command: Noah had character.
- Drunkenness is the Fall of Noah as he becomes “naked” in his tent.
- Sin enters Noah’s household.
- Who judges?

The Fall of Abraham

- Born in Haran (wilderness), placed in promised land (garden).
- God poured out grace on Abraham (like Adam).

Abraham had become very wealthy in livestock and silver and gold.
(Gen. 13:2)

- Tempted by his wife.

So she said to Abraham “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abraham agreed to what Sarai said. (Gen. 16:2)

- Abraham was tempted by what God had ***already*** promised Him!

The Fall of Abraham

- Immediately after Abraham's fall God initiated the circumcision covenant by sacrifice.
- Later faced 2nd temptation on Moriah regarding his "one and only" son.
- Abraham perseveres and sets the example for all of God's children to come.
- Abraham matured in his faith.

The Perfection of Joseph

- Nothing bad recorded about Joseph.
- Only one in Genesis “in whom is the Spirit of God.” (Gen. 41:37)
- Faces temptation (Potipher’s Wife).
- Masters sin as the “perfect” son of God.
- Ascends to the right hand of the king.
- Was given a woman to be his wife (exactly what was involved in his temptation). (Gen. 41:45)

Israel as Adam

- Born as a nation in the wilderness (Sinai), placed in promised land (garden).
- God poured out grace on Israel (free food and water like Adam, etc).
- Tested “...where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees...” (Ex. 15:27)

And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad – they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will possess it. (Deut. 1:39)

- Israel broke the covenant.
- Cast out of the promised land (garden).

New Exile

- God's presence goes with his faithful people, just as his presence went with Adam and Eve.
- Nebuchadnezzar takes articles of gold from God's temple – Daniel and his three friends. (Dan. 1)
- They face the temptation of beautiful food (Nebuchadnezzar's table.)
- Refuse to eat the forbidden food.
- Ascend to the right hand of the throne of Babylon.

Jesus as Israel/Adam

Out of Egypt I called my son. (Matt. 2:14)

- Jesus went from Egypt (wilderness) to promised land (garden).
- Baptized on the other side of the Jordan (wilderness) and ministered in the promised land (garden).
- Faced his temptation.

Temptation Comparison/Contrast

Adam and Eve

- In the garden
- With food all around
- Tempted with fruit (food)
- Called to live by faith in God's Word

Jesus

- In the wilderness
- While hungry
- Tempted with bread (food)
- Resisted by faith in God's Word

“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matt. 4:4)

Temptation Comparison/Contrast

“You will not surely die” (Gen. 3:5)

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” (Matt. 4:5-6)

- Satan (mis)quotes God’s Word.
- Jesus would die (in more ways than one).
- Jesus responds using his wisdom, knowledge, and discernment.

“It is also written ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matt. 4:7)

Temptation Comparison/Contrast

“... the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye...” (Gen. 3:6)

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kings of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” (Matt. 4:8-9)

- Tempted with something “pleasing to the eyes.”
- Jesus was tempted with something that God had **already** promised him – the nations. (Ps. 2:8 – I will make the nations your inheritance)
- Jesus refused to take the (false) shortcut!
- God Gave Jesus the exact thing which the Devil used to tempt him!

The Maturity of Jesus Christ

- Jesus waited for God's good gift in God's time.
- The story follows the pattern from the original garden.

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.
(Heb. 5:8)

The Gospel Garden

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ...

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry “Abba, Father.” (Rom. 8:9, 12-15).

- The children grow up to recognize the Father they have always had from the beginning!

The Gospel Garden

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:13-17)

- James gives instruction on how to handle temptation and master sin.
- Don't rebel against the experience of God's gifts in your life!

Gospel Gardening

- The Father set the example in Genesis.
- What is really messed up in this world?
- How do you make a better world in the future?
- What is our job in God's world?
- How does God do his work?

The key to the future is going back to
God's Garden at the beginning!