

Lesson 12 - Genesis 2

The East and the Cornerstone

Gen 2:8-9 (NKJV) "The LORD God planted a garden **eastward** [[qedem:H6924](#)] in Eden, and **there He put the man whom He had formed**. [9] And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is **pleasant to the sight** and **good for food**. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**"

There are three main ideas in these two verses that we will examine:

- Yahweh plants a garden **East** of Eden and **there He put the man** whom He had formed.
- The trees God made were "*pleasant to the sight*" and "*good for food*".
- Two trees in the midst of the garden which produce opposite fruit – the Tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Exo 23:20-24 (NKJV) ""Behold, I send an Angel before you **to keep you in the way** and **to bring you into the place which I have prepared**. [21] "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; **for My name is in Him**. [22] "But if you indeed **obey His voice and do all that I speak**, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. [23] "**For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites**; and I will cut them off. [24] "You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but **you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.**"

Mat 4:1 (NKJV) "Then **Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**"

Mat 4:9-10 (NKJV) "And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." [10] Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**"

2 Cor 12:9-10 (NKJV) "And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

Isa 40:6-8 (NKJV) "The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field. [7] The grass withers, **the flower fades**, **Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it**; Surely the people *are* grass. [8] The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever.**" [[see also 1 Pet 1:24](#)]

Ezek 43:2 (NKJV) "And behold, the **glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east**. His voice *was* like the sound of many waters; and **the earth shone with His glory.**"

Ezek 43:4-5 (NKJV) "And **the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east**. [5] The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple."

Mat 2:1-2 (KJV) "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the **east to Jerusalem**, [2] Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews?** **for we have seen his star in the east**, and are come to worship him."

Mat 2:9 (NKJV) "When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.**"

Mat 24:26-27 (NKJV) ""Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. [27] "**For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**"

Zec 14:4 (NKJV) "**And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east**. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south."

Isa 14:13-14 (NKJV) "For you have said in your heart: '**I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will also sit on the mount of the congregation** [mow'ed:H4150] **On the farthest sides of the north**; [14] **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High."

Num 2:3 (NKJV) ""**On the east side, toward the rising of the sun**, those of the standard of the forces with **Judah shall camp** according to their armies; and Nahshon the son of Amminadab *shall be* the leader of the children of Judah.""

Zec 10:4 (NKJV) "From him **comes the cornerstone**, From him the tent peg, From him the battle bow, From him every ruler together."

WHAT IS A CORNERSTONE?

“Until the development of steel-frame construction in the 20th Century, most buildings were erected by stacking stone on stone. Each part of the building was marked by ceremonies. **The foundation stone was the first stone placed underground at the beginning of the building’s foundation.** The **cornerstone was the first stone placed above ground level.** It is a massive stone, marking the **northeast corner of the building.** At the top of the building was the capstone.”¹

“The **cornerstone** (or **foundation stone**) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry **foundation**, **important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.** Over time a cornerstone became a **ceremonial masonry** stone, or **replica**, set in a prominent location on the outside of a building, with **an inscription on the stone indicating** the construction dates of the building and **the names of architect, builder** and other significant individuals. The rite of laying a cornerstone is an important cultural component **of eastern architecture** and metaphorically in **sacred architecture** ... In **Freemasonry**, which grew from the practice of **stonemasons**, the initiate (Entered **Apprentice**) **is placed in the north-east corner** of the Lodge as a figurative foundation stone. This is **intended to signify the unity of the North associated with darkness and the East associated with light.**”²

Amos 8:11-12 (NKJV) ""Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, **But of hearing the words of the LORD.** [12] They shall wander from sea to sea, And **from north to east**; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it."

Isa 40:31 (NKJV) "But **those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength**; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

Isa 41:1-4 (NKJV) ""Keep silence before Me, O coastlands, And **let the people renew their strength!** **Let them come near**, then let them speak; **Let us come near together for judgment.** [2] "Who **raised up one from the east?** **Who in righteousness called him to His feet?** Who gave the nations before him, And made *him* rule over kings? Who gave *them* as the dust to his sword, As driven stubble to his bow? [3] Who pursued them, *and* passed safely By the way *that* he had not gone with his feet? [4] Who has performed and done *it*, Calling the generations from the beginning? **'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.'**""

Isa 41:25 (NKJV) ""I have **raised up one from the north**, And he shall come; **From the rising of the sun he shall call on My name**; And he shall come against princes as *though* mortar, As the potter treads clay. [26] Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know? And former times, that we may say, **'He is righteous'**? Surely *there is* no one who shows, Surely *there is* no one who declares, Surely *there is* no one who hears your words. [27] The first time *I said* to Zion, 'Look, there they are!' And **I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings.**

¹ <http://longmontmasons.com/community/cornerstones/what-is-a-cornerstone/>

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone>

Isa 40:9-11 (NKJV) "O Zion, **You who bring good tidings**, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; **Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"** [10] **Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him**; Behold, His reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him. [11] **He will feed His flock like a shepherd**; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young."

Isa 42:1 (KJV) "Behold **my servant, whom I uphold**; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

Isa 42:6-7 (NKJV) ""**I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness**, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and **give You as a covenant to the people**, As a light to the Gentiles, [7] **To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.**"

Zec 4:7-10 (NKJV) ""Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! **And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"**" [8] Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: [9] "The hands of Zerubbabel Have **laid the foundation of this temple**; His hands shall also finish *it*. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. [10] **For who has despised the day of small things?** For **these seven** rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. **They are the eyes of the LORD**, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.""

Zec 3:8-9 (NKJV) ""Hear, O **Joshua**, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, **I am bringing forth My Servant [Isa 42:1] the BRANCH**. [9] For behold, **the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes**. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.'"

Rev 5:6 (NKJV) "And I looked, and behold, **in the midst** of the throne and of the four living creatures, and **in the midst** of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**"

1 Cor 3:11,16 (NKJV) "For **no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**"

Eph 2:20-21 (NKJV) "having **been built** on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone**, [21] **in whom the whole building**, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**,"

Job 38:2-7 (NKJV) ""Who *is* this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? [3] Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. [4] "**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?** Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. [5] Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? [6] To what were its foundations fastened? **Or who laid its cornerstone**, [7] **When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?**"

Psa 118:22 (NKJV) "**The stone** *which* the builders rejected Has become **the chief cornerstone**."

Mat 21:42 (NKJV) "Jesus said to them, "**Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes?'**"

Acts 4:10-11 (NKJV) ""let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by **the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom **you crucified, whom God raised from the dead**, by Him **this man stands here before you whole**. [11] "**This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.**"

Isa 28:15-18 (NKJV) "Because you have said, "**We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement.** When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves." [16] Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in **Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.** [17] Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place. [18] **Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with Sheol will not stand;** When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it."

Mat 16:18 (NKJV) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, **and on this rock I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Jer 1:13-15 (NKJV) "And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north." [14] Then the LORD said to me: "**Out of the north calamity shall break forth On all the inhabitants of the land.** [15] For behold, I am calling All the families of the kingdoms of the north," says the LORD; "They shall come and each one set his throne At the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, Against all its walls all around, And against all the cities of Judah."

Jer 4:6 (NKJV) "Set up the standard toward Zion. Take refuge! Do not delay! **For I will bring disaster from the north,** And great destruction."

Jer 46:20 (NKJV) ""Egypt is a very pretty heifer, **But destruction comes, it comes from the north.**"

Ezek 8:4-5 (NKJV) "And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. [5] Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, **and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.**"

Ezek 8:14 (NKJV) "So He brought me to the door of the **north gate** of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, **women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.**"

Ezek 9:1-2 (NKJV) "Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, **each with a deadly weapon in his hand.**" [2] And suddenly **six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north,** each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar..... [4] and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." [5] To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. [6] "Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women;"

1 Pet 2:4-8 (NKJV) "Coming to Him as to a **living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, [5] you also, as living stones, **are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** [6] Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion **A chief cornerstone,** elect, precious, **And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.**" [7] Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, "**The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,**" [8] and "**A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.**" **They stumble, being disobedient to the word,** to which they also were appointed."

He who disobeys the Word rejects the cornerstone and rejects life!

Shabbat Shalom!