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LESSON 2

- 1. Please explain the following: The Garden of Eden is a picture of relationship, harmony, and responsibility (p. 32).** The Garden of Eden gives us an idea of the plans that God have for His creation. First, we see a picture of relationship between God and humanity, Humanity and animals, and humanity with each other. This was a peaceful unified creation, no killing, disrespect, all we saw was love and peace even the animals was unified, and life flowed as it should. The harmony in the garden was awesome as well. We see all these different animal species flowing in peace and working together everything operated as it should. Last but not least in the garden we have responsibility, God gave humanity charge over the earth and all that's in it. As humans we are in charge of taking care of the animals, caring for the land, and each other. We along with everything else had the responsibility of filling the earth reproducing after our own kind, flowing and growing.
- 2. The desert represents, quite literally, the Garden turned into "death." How does God make the desert "blossom like the rose" (p. 33)?** God made the desert blossom like the rose by choosing a people for Himself that will carry out His plans and through this nation the world will also be blessed. Through Abraham God created a nation, a nation that will bring forth many for runner deliverers for the nation and ultimately the world. Jesus the savior of the world came from this nation. The nation Israel went through many hardships and as a rose bush is thorny yet beautiful so was the nation of

Israel. However, among the thick thorny bush there is beauty and purpose. In our desert world today full of thorns there is beauty which is seen through the love of God.

3. **“Typology” is the ancient way of reading the Old Testament. Explain how Paul uses typology in Romans 5:19 (see page 34).** Paul uses typology in this verse when he uses Jesus as a type of Adam the first man, the garden of Gethsemane as a type of the garden of Eden. Both situations have its hardships and temptation, however unlike the first Adam, Jesus chose obedience instead of disobedience. In the garden of Eden humanity fell into destruction, however in the garden of Gethsemane humanity was reborn and restored.
4. **Based upon Chapter 2, why is it so important that Christians read the Old Testament, not just for “literary criticism” or “historical criticism,” but as part of God’s narrative?** It is important that as Christians we read the Old Testament as part of God’s narrative so that we can get the full picture of all that God has done for humanity from the beginning. Its about understanding who God is and also understanding the plan He has for us in the world. If we read only half the Bible or with only one focus we will mis the point of it all and only get bits and pieces of Gods intention for humanity. This type of reading is why so many are confused and are in error with their worship to God. The Bible tells us to worship God in Spirit and in Truth, we cannot do that if we only have here and there understanding of the whole story.
5. **What is the Incarnation, as defined by the New Testament and explained in the ancient creeds (p. 35)?** The Incarnation, as defined by the New Testament and explained in the ancient creeds is God uniting with our humanity in Jesus Christ. It is also God doing for us, what we couldn’t do for ourselves. Through Jesus Christ the garden

was able to be restored, God does this by becoming one of us, taking on the curse of sin itself and death. God through Incarnate Jesus died for us and destroyed death and is raised to new life.

6. Please explain the meaning of Eph. 1:9, 10 (p. 38).

We are now His redeemed people through the sacrifice Christ Jesus and as a result of that God reveals His mysteries through Christ to us. It pleases God to let His children know the plans He has for us through Jesus. In due time God will gather all who are in Christ in heaven and on the earth as one, this reminds me of the rapture when the dead in Christ shall rise first and those on the earth will be caught up with him in the air.

7. What does all this have to do with worship (p. 39)?

Worship is submission to Gods will and purpose for the world, and to His divinity. In our worship we recognize who God is, acknowledge His plans, and wait in anticipation for the second coming of Christ and for the restoration of the new garden.