

Eden Revisited!

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- I. Introduction
 - a) Greeting
- II. Points of the sermon from John's narrative
 - a) Faith in Jesus is the only means of salvation
 - b) Biblical history testifies to what God has commanded and points to what God has ordained
 - c) Jesus' perspective of Genesis 1-3 and 5 as presented in John 14: 6
 - d) Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation Heb 1:14
- III. Scripture Reading
 - a) John 14: 1 - 6
- IV. Jesus' claim
 - a) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
 - b) Part of a conversation w/ Thomas (Apostles)
- V. The Apostles were familiar with the law - and Old Testament history
 - a) Continued context of Jesus' claim
 - i) Night of Jesus Betrayal
 - ii) Kidron ravine, outside Jerusalem
 - (1) Discussing the Way as they find their 'way' through the Kidron ravine, the first irony
 - (2) Gethsemane (oil press) – oil to anoint the King of Israel, place where Jesus prays, second irony
 - b) Thomas remains resolute – we don't know the way...how could we
 - i) Jesus' response
 - (1) Is blunt to our ears, but offers great hope because it is carefully crafted
 - (a) Insights from Greek
 - (i) I AM – hidden in: ἐγώ εἰμι (I, I am)
 - (ii) I AM: The Way, and The Truth, and The Life are one in Jesus (two-kai configuration)
 - c) The Life
 - i) Apostles witnessed several persons raised from death and more restored to good health and strength
 - d) The Truth
 - i) Apostles witnessed many miracles
- VI. Biblical history testifies to what God has commanded and points to what God has ordained
 - a) Our first example: Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22
 - i) "God will provide for Himself a Lamb", 'caught', as it were, by a crown of thorns; third irony
 - b) Our second example (there are more than we have time to develop)
 - i) Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt with Jesus to protect Him from Herod, return when safe Matt 2
- VII. The backdrop: Genesis 3 and 5
 - a) All the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died, ...and he died, and he died.
 - b) Adam and Eve were deceived: "Did God really say...?"
 - c) Necessary to recognize: Jesus overcame [everything that 'undid'] the world
 - d) Cherubim is plural (are plural?)
 - i) Protect the Way to the Tree of Life
 - e) Introduces historic evidence (for us, as well as Thomas)
- VIII. Importance of this sermon to us
 - a) Warning: Do not worship angels. They are ministering spirits for our benefit, in Christ. Thank God for them.
 - b) Jesus is:
 - i) The Way (to the tree of life) that the angels have guarded throughout history
 - ii) The Truth that overturns the lie beginning with "Did God really say...?", and
 - iii) The Life that overcomes fallen man's sentence of death
 - c) *Therefore*, Jesus' testimony is: Genesis 1-3 is history; not myth and not allegory
 - d) Biblical History testifies to what God commanded and points to what God has ordained
 - e) "...be of good cheer," Jesus said, "I have overcome the world."