

Genesis 3:24

## THE FLAMING SWORD

***So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the Tree of Life. (Genesis 3:24)***

These words baffle human imagination and overpower our understanding. In the infancy of our race, a traitor slipped in and marred the progress and privileges of the forefathers. All God created and made was for our happiness, but something happened to bring sorrow and woe. They were driven from the Garden. Everything they enjoyed which God had ordained for us was lost by backsliding. The Jews, driven out by sin, hung their harps on the willows and wept, ever hoping and expecting that some day they would return. But some day in the dim distance, life will be happier on this earth when Christ comes to reign.

It could have been about 2000 years ago when angels provided our Christmas song of 'peace on earth and good will to men.' But again, sin drove us out. The peace that passeth all understanding is found in Christ alone. Sin drives us away from Him.

Eden lost? How? The story is told of Adam at the close of a hot day returning from a hard day's labor with his hoe over shoulder to his jungle cottage. Young Cain and Abel suddenly stop and say: 'Oh look, father, at that beautiful garden. I wish we could live there.' 'We did live in that garden', said Adam regretfully, 'until your mother ate us out of house and home.'

Many homes have been built, but there is an absence of the home in an Eden atmosphere. Pride, doubt, and unbelief have crept in and robbed us of His Presence. Greed, lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life have made for selfishness; and the very things we have sought for have become our foes.

***“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (James 4:1 )***

Eden is further away today than ever from men's grasp. Men want a Utopia, but it cannot be had with the devil outdistancing our pursuits and living in the hearts of the unsaved.

It is a mad rush for pleasure and sensual satisfaction, and greed for money and for more excitement -- everything taking the place of, and turning the heart from, the Christ of Calvary, the Prince of Peace.



Adam and Eve driven out of Eden.

The Tree of Life, guarded by a flaming sword, is described as excluding men, but it also shows them the way home. If we have lost anything of value, we are self-banished. We did not have to go, but we defied the everlasting laws that are set forth in the Word. Men are not happy because of the fact that they are away from God. It takes mankind a long time to find out that he cannot offer any substitute for the Tree of Life.

We cannot change the Word to suit our tastes and likes. His righteousness comes by faith in Jesus' Blood atonement alone. We cannot defy God's terms of salvation

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and everlasting life and be better for it. *“The soul that sinneth shall die.”* (Ezekiel 18:1) Yet we argue and try to explain away the Word that tries to bring us light and salvation and we try to make a loophole to sin. Little do we realize that the very loophole we make is producing death, and we are dying spiritually and being driven out of the Garden of God where the flaming sword forbids sinners from trespassing.

The flaming sword guards every way to the Tree of Life. There is no bypassing it, no back door to slip in. Make no mistake about it: joy, peace, love and everlasting life come only to the redeemed who walk in the light as He is in the Light. (Roman 8:1)

**Not until the heart is humbled and willing to bow to the claims of the Bible it has long defied, neglected, and dismissed can men reach Heaven. The Spirit and Bride say come. The door is open to those who come to Jesus; and the Flaming Sword cannot strike.**

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