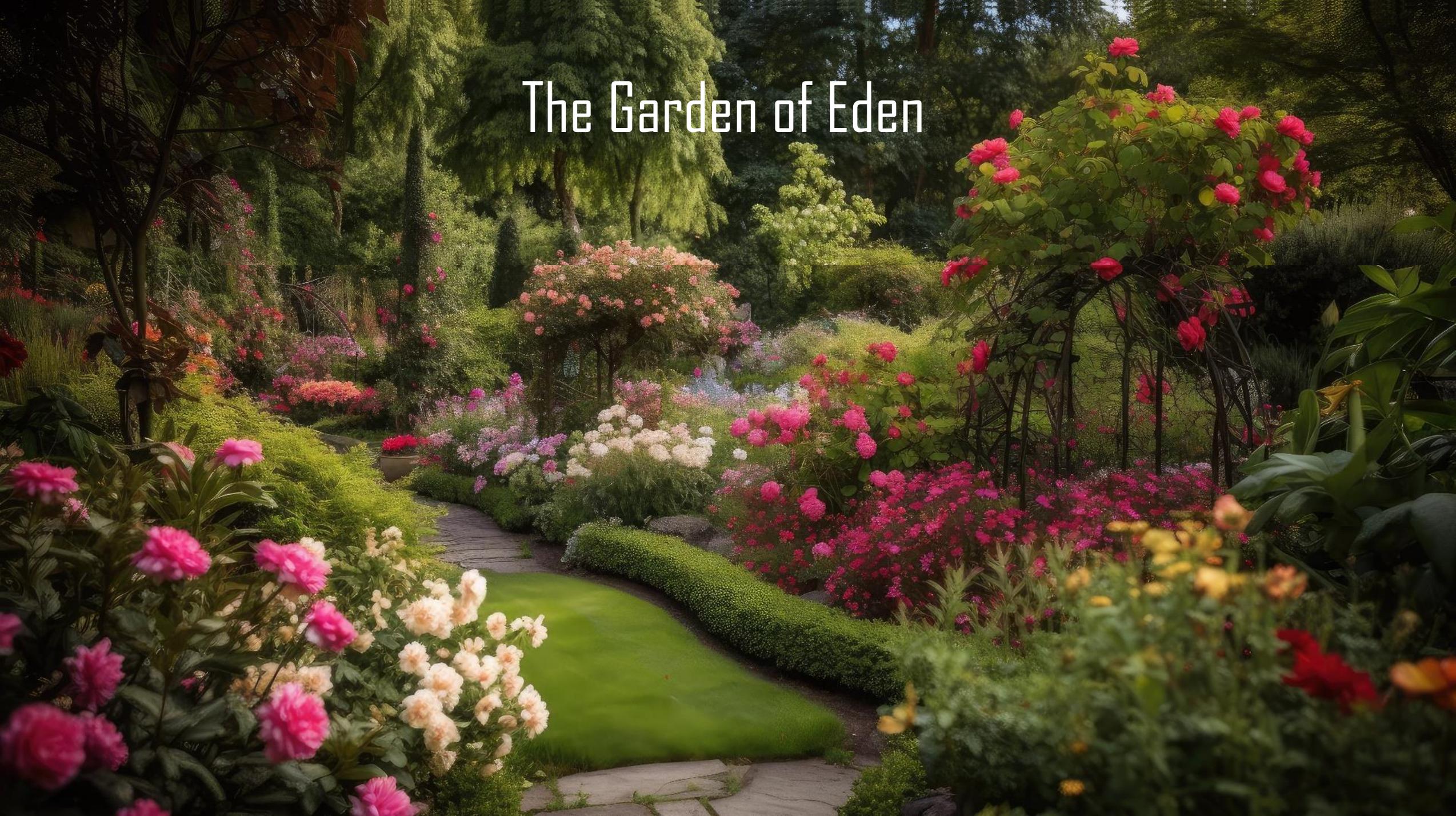


GENESIS

# The Garden of Eden





# The Garden of Eden



## Story Basics: Information and Meaning





# The Garden of Eden



## Deeper Textures: Contextual Readings





# The Garden of Eden

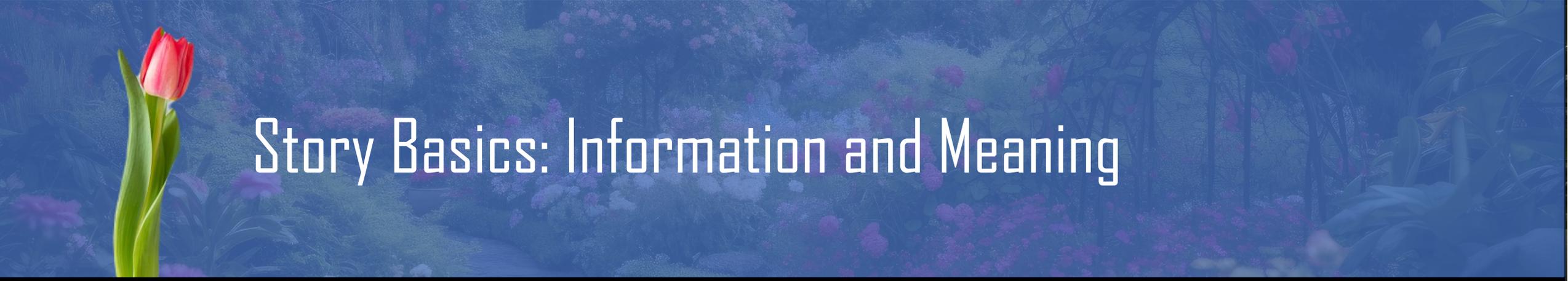


## New Testament Textures





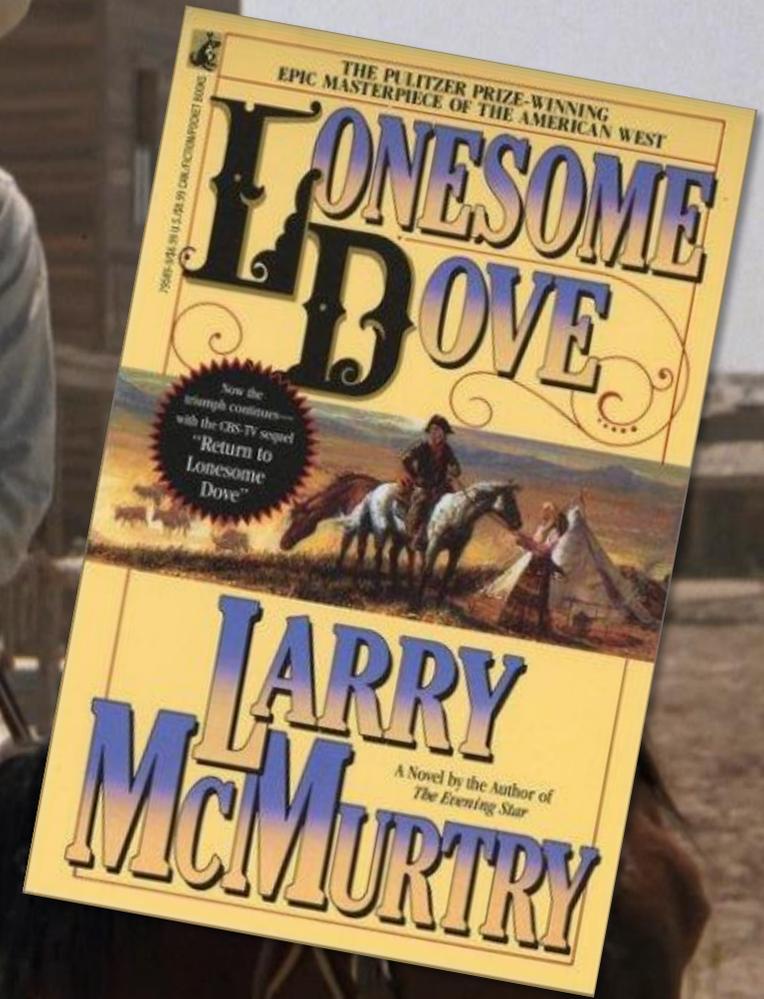
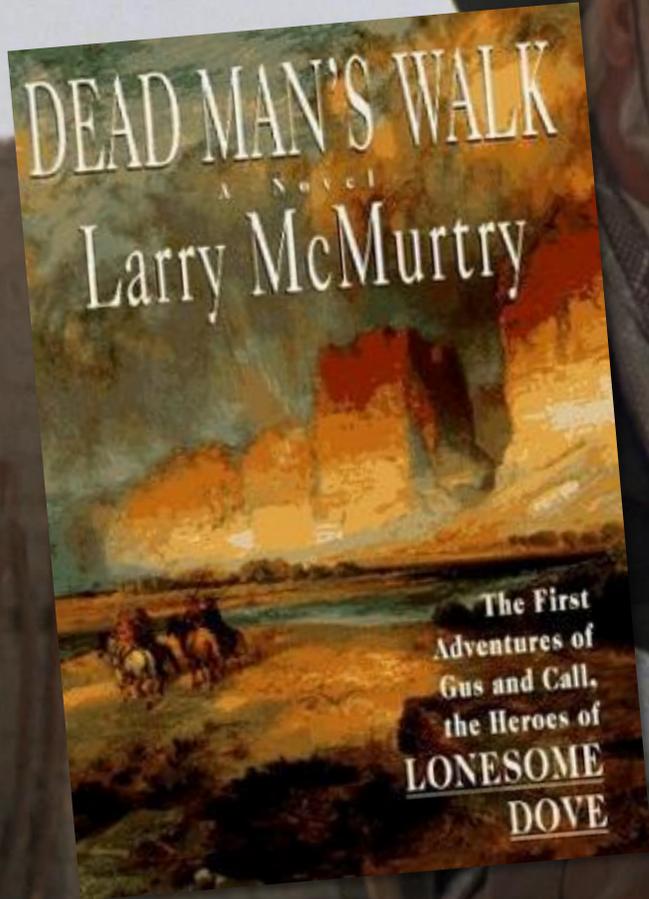
# The Garden of Eden



## Story Basics: Information and Meaning



## Deeper Textures: Contextual Readings



בראשית

GENESIS.

Genesis was written *for* us

But it was written *to* ancient Israel

Written in  
Ancient Hebrew

Ancient  
Vocabulary

Ancient  
Understanding

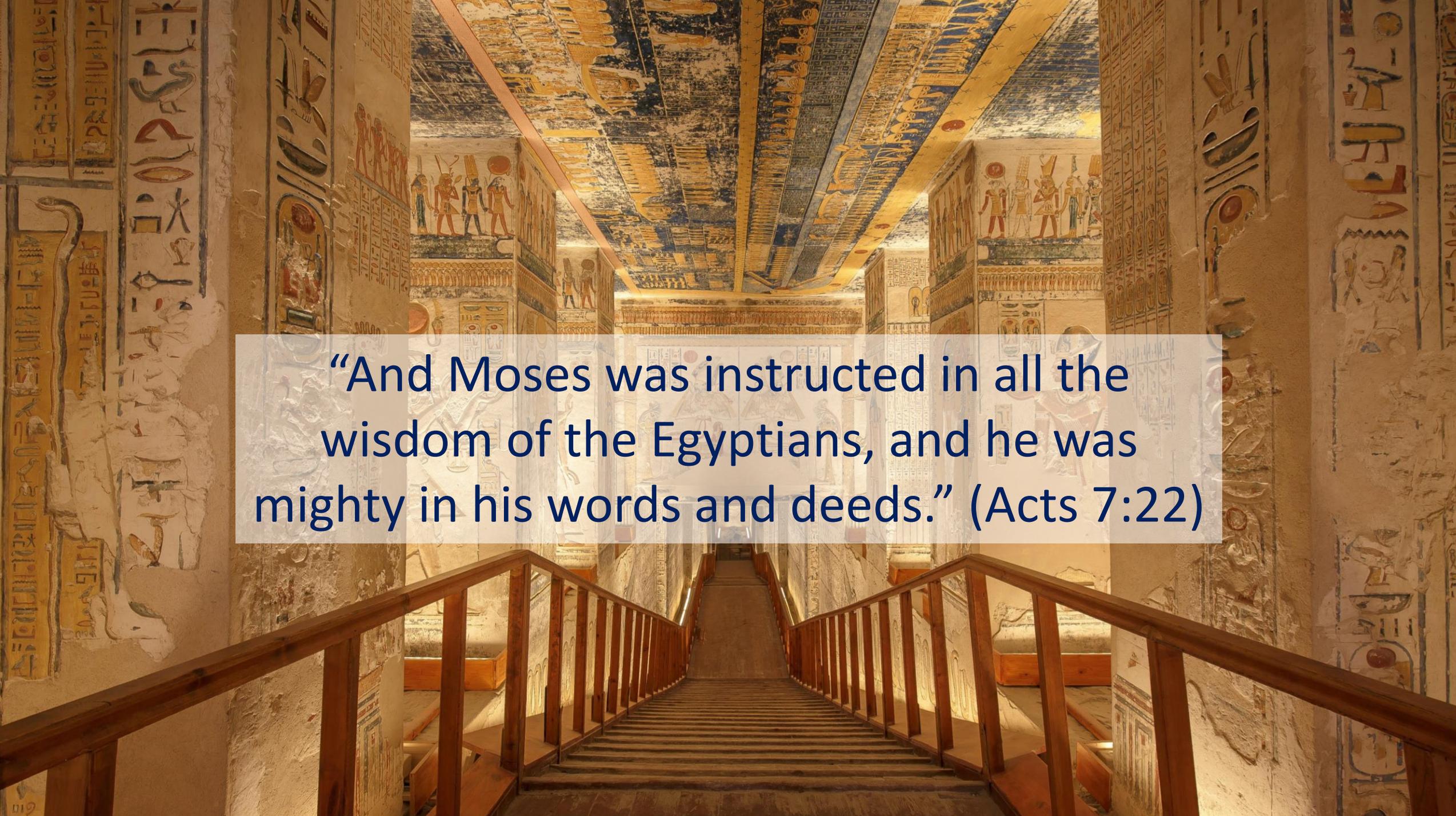
We treasure God's word when  
we read it in context



The Setting:



Mount Sinai  
± 1240BC

A photograph of an ancient Egyptian tomb. The walls are covered in hieroglyphs and painted reliefs. A long, narrow staircase with wooden railings leads up the center of the tomb. The ceiling is decorated with blue and gold patterns. The lighting is warm and focused on the central staircase.

“And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22)



# Hittites

- Elkunirša – El, Creator of Earth
- Serpent = chaos

# Hittites

The operation of the universe requires each deity properly perform his or her function.



# Hittites

Calamity happens when a god abandons a post.

- The wrath of Telipinu



# Ugarit

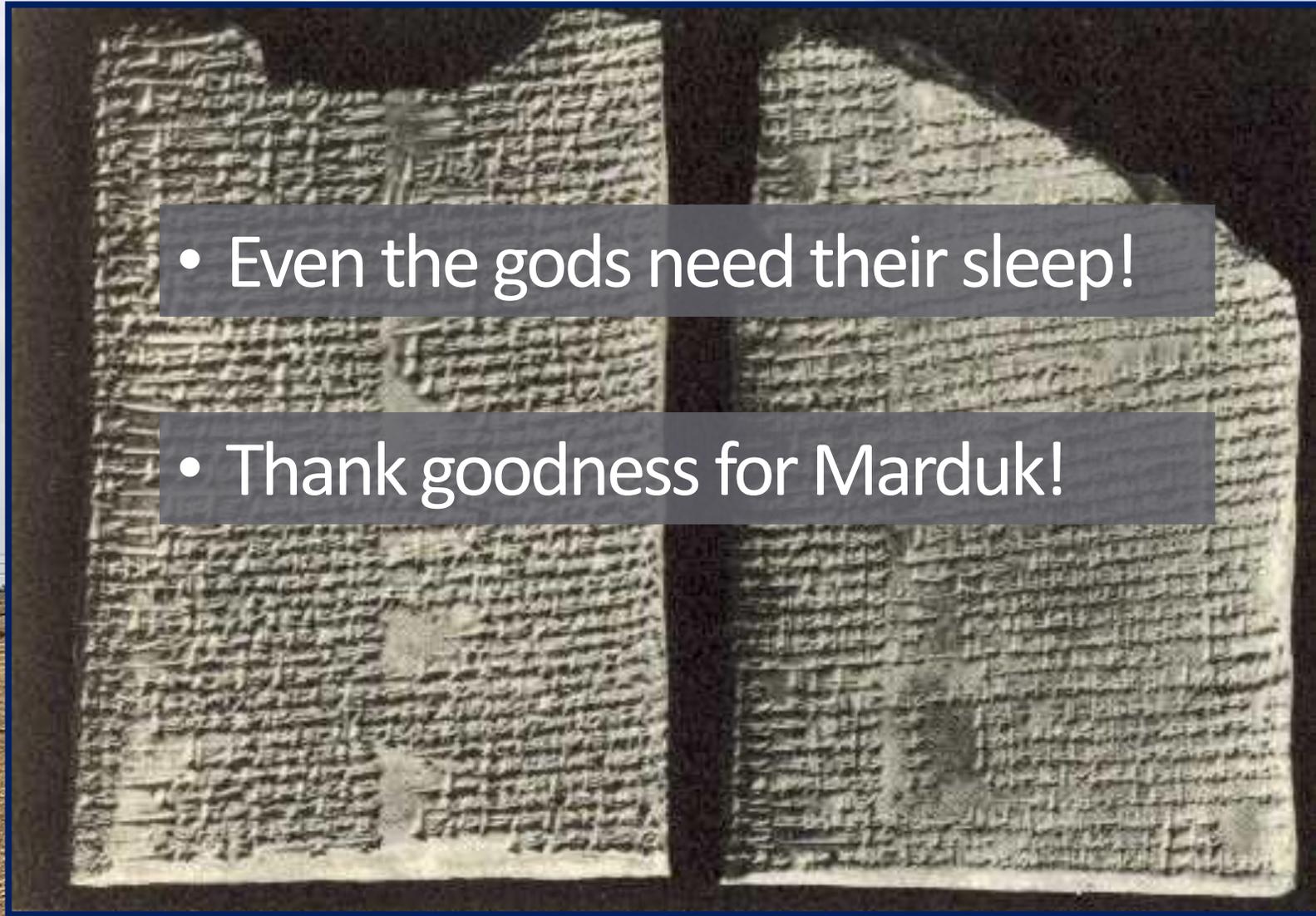
- Gods are supersized humans
- The Ba 'lu myth
- Dawn and Dusk (šahru wa-šalimu)



# The Enuma Elish

Akkadian

- Even the gods need their sleep!
- Thank goodness for Marduk!

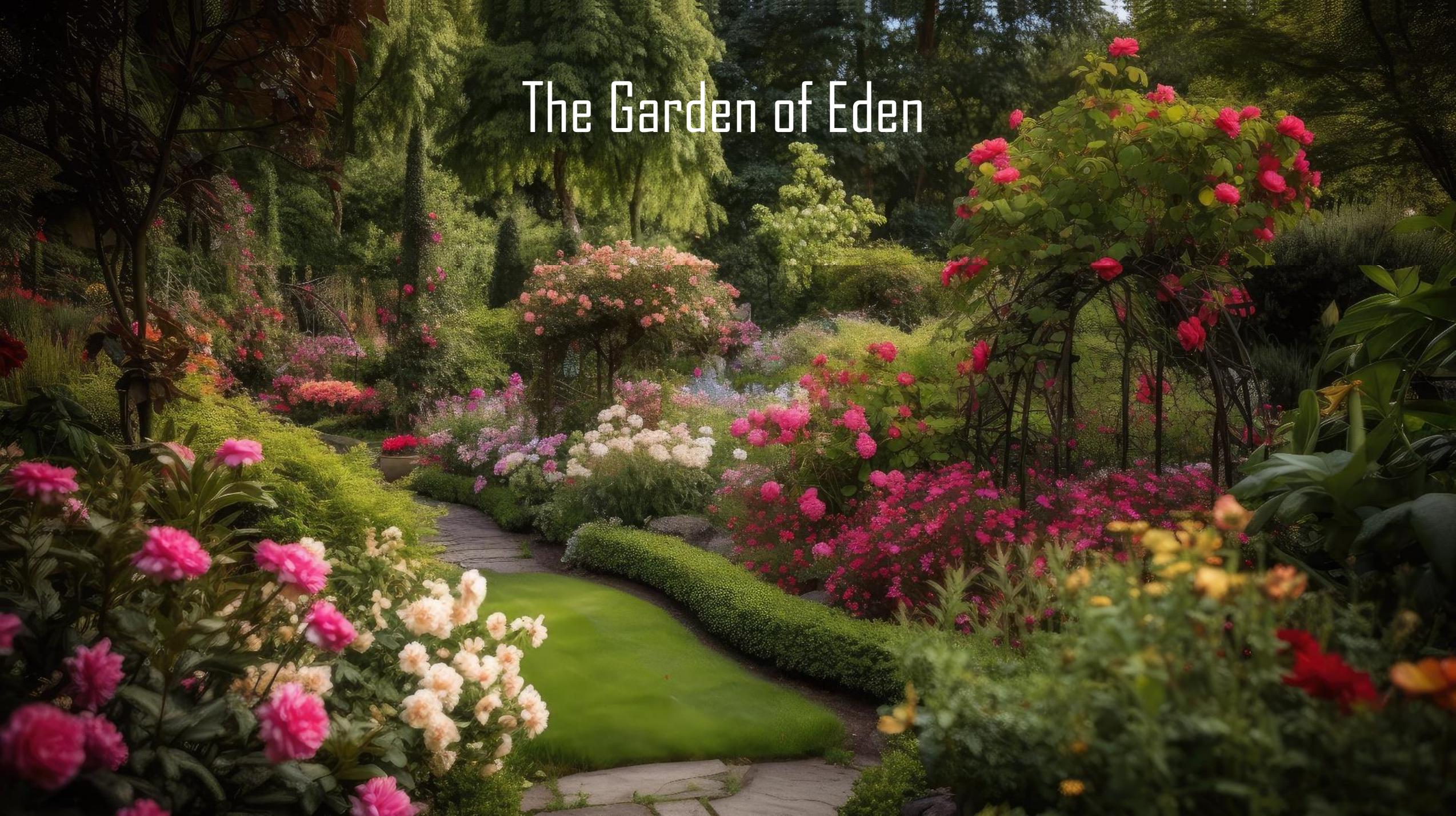


## The Atrahasis

- Humans are created to assume the drudgery of the gods

Atrahasis Tablet 1: When the gods, instead of man  
Did the work, bore the loads  
The god's load was too great,  
the work too hard, the trouble too much.

# The Garden of Eden



Genesis 1:1-2:3

Creation of the World and Humanity in 6 Days

Genesis 2:4-3:24

Creation of the Garden of Eden and Adam/Eve



Are these two stories  
**Sequential** or **Synoptic**?

# Sequential or Synoptic?

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Creation of the World and  
Humanity in 6 Days

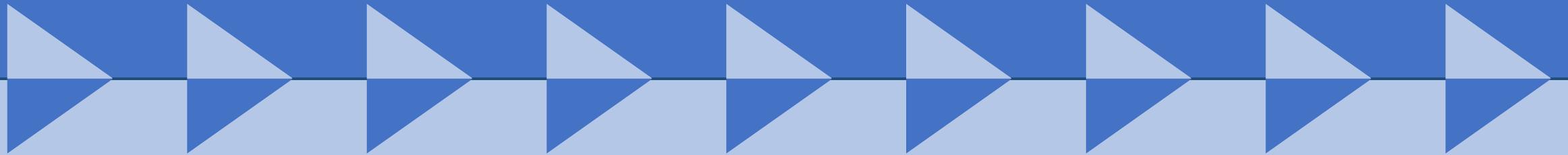
Genesis 2:4-3:24

Creation of the Garden of Eden  
and Adam/Eve

# Sequential or *Synoptic*?

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Creation of the World and Humanity in 6 Days



Genesis 2:4-3:24

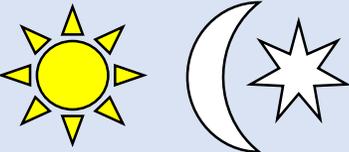
Creation of the Garden of Eden and Adam/Eve

“The earth was without **form** and **void**”

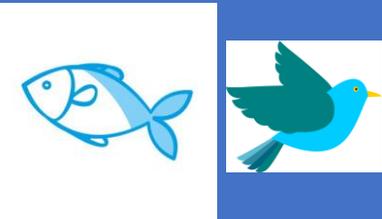
**Forming**

**Filling**

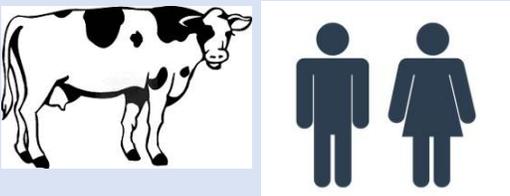
1  Light/darkness

4  Sun; moon/stars

2  Heavens separate from waters

5  Fish – sea; birds - heavens

3  Land

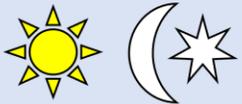
6  Animals, bugs, people

“The earth was without **form** and **void**”

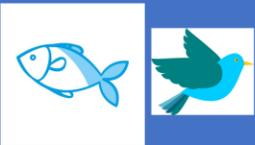
## Forming

## Filling

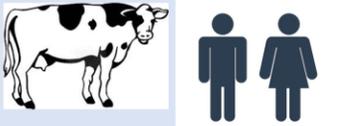
1  Light/darkness

4  Sun; moon/stars

2  Heavens separate  
from waters

5  Fish – sea;  
birds - heavens

3  Land

6  Animals, bugs,  
people

“When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground ...” (Genesis 2:5-7)

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Creation of the World and Humanity in 6 Days

Genesis 2:4-3:24

Creation of the Garden of Eden and Adam/Eve



Are these two stories  
**Sequential** or **Synoptic**?

It's Your Choice!



# The Storyline

## Creation of Adam

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the



# The Storyline

## Creation of Adam

midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



# The Storyline

## Creation: of Adam

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east...A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land



# The Storyline

Location:

of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river



# The Storyline

Location:

the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.  
And the fourth river is the Euphrates.



# The Storyline

Location:







Gihon?

Havilah?

Pishon?

Cush?

# The Storyline

## Purpose and Prohibition:

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you



# The Storyline

Purpose and Prohibition:

shall not eat, for in the day that you eat  
of it you shall surely die."





The Fact:  
If you sin, you die

# The Storyline

## Eve, the Helper:

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:

to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:

birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

This is a God trait!



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:

out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:



# The Storyline

Eve, the Helper:



בְּרֵאשִׁית

GENESIS.

Genesis was written *for* us

But it was written *to* ancient Israel

Written in  
Ancient Hebrew

Ancient  
Vocabulary

Ancient  
Understanding

בְּרֵאשִׁית

G E N E S I S.

Written in Ancient  
Hebrew

"Helper"

(עֵזֶר - *ezer*)

"Ally"

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
he is our help and our shield (Psalm 33:20)

בְּרֵאשִׁית

G E N E S I S.

Written in Ancient  
Hebrew

"Helper"

(עֵזֶר - *ezer*)

"Ally"

He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper. (Hosea 13:9)



# The Garden of Eden



## Story Basics: Information and Meaning





# The Garden of Eden



## Deeper Textures: Contextual Readings



# Contrast With Competing Narratives

**VISION**

**PURPOSE**

**MISSION**

# Contrast With Competing Narratives

We aren't gods

"Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7)

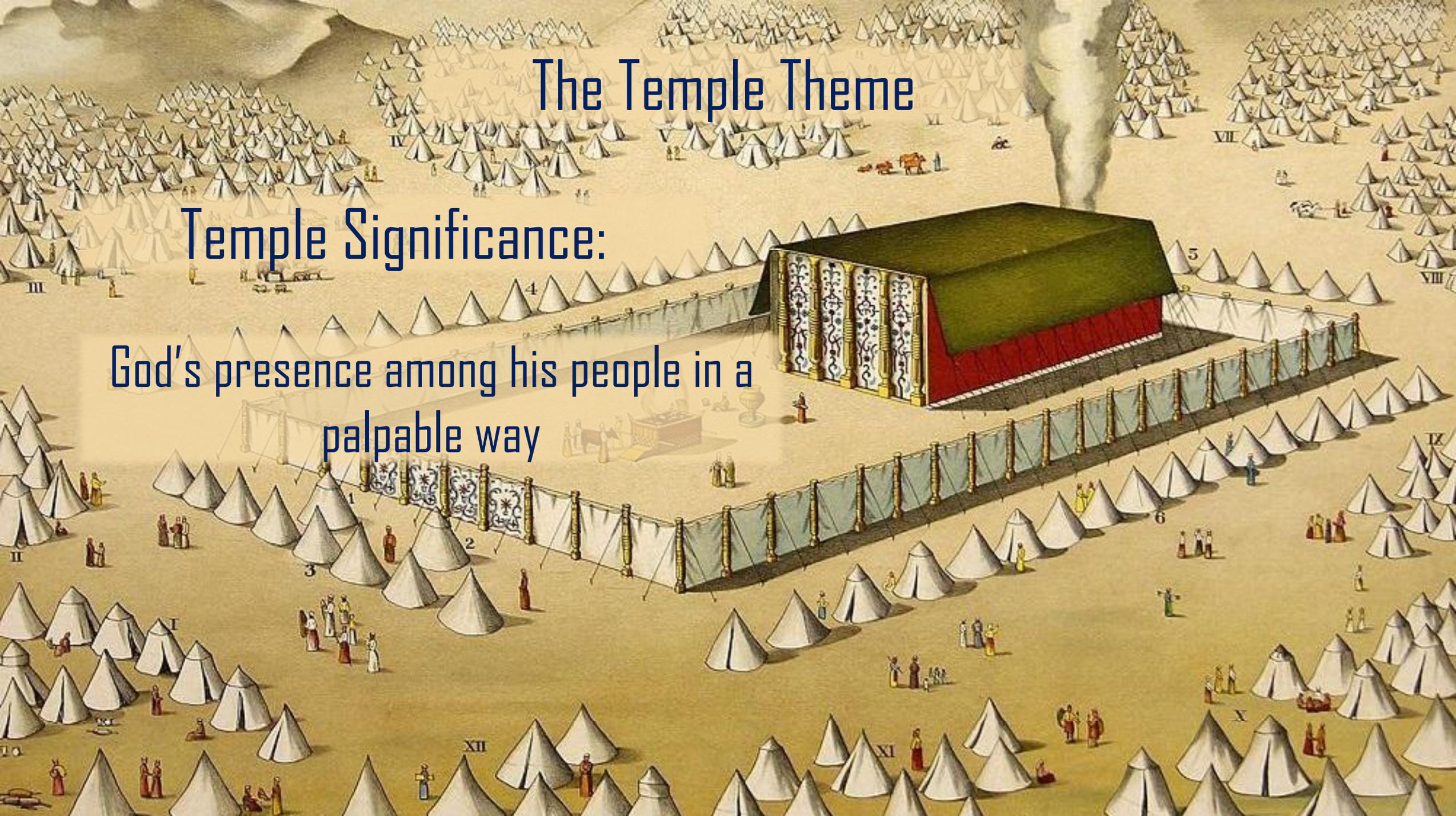
We aren't animals

"But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:20)

# The Temple Theme

## Temple Significance:

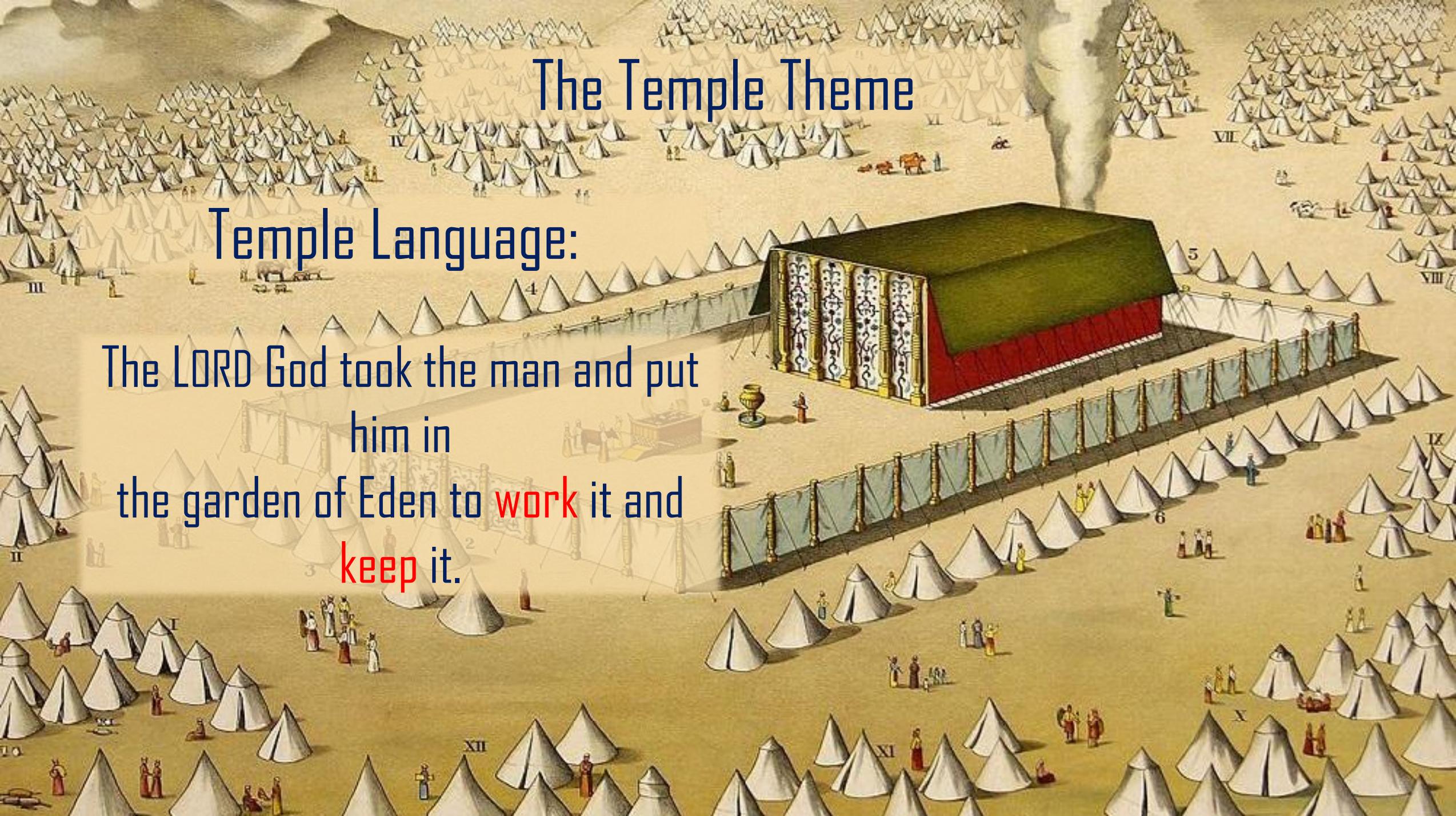
God's presence among his people in a palpable way



# The Temple Theme

## Temple Language:

The LORD God took the man and put  
him in  
the garden of Eden to **work** it and  
**keep** it.





# The Garden of Eden



## Deeper Textures: Contextual Readings



A lush garden scene featuring a variety of trees and flowers. In the foreground, there are vibrant pink roses. The background is filled with dense green foliage, including a large, weeping tree and other tall, slender trees. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

# The Garden of Eden

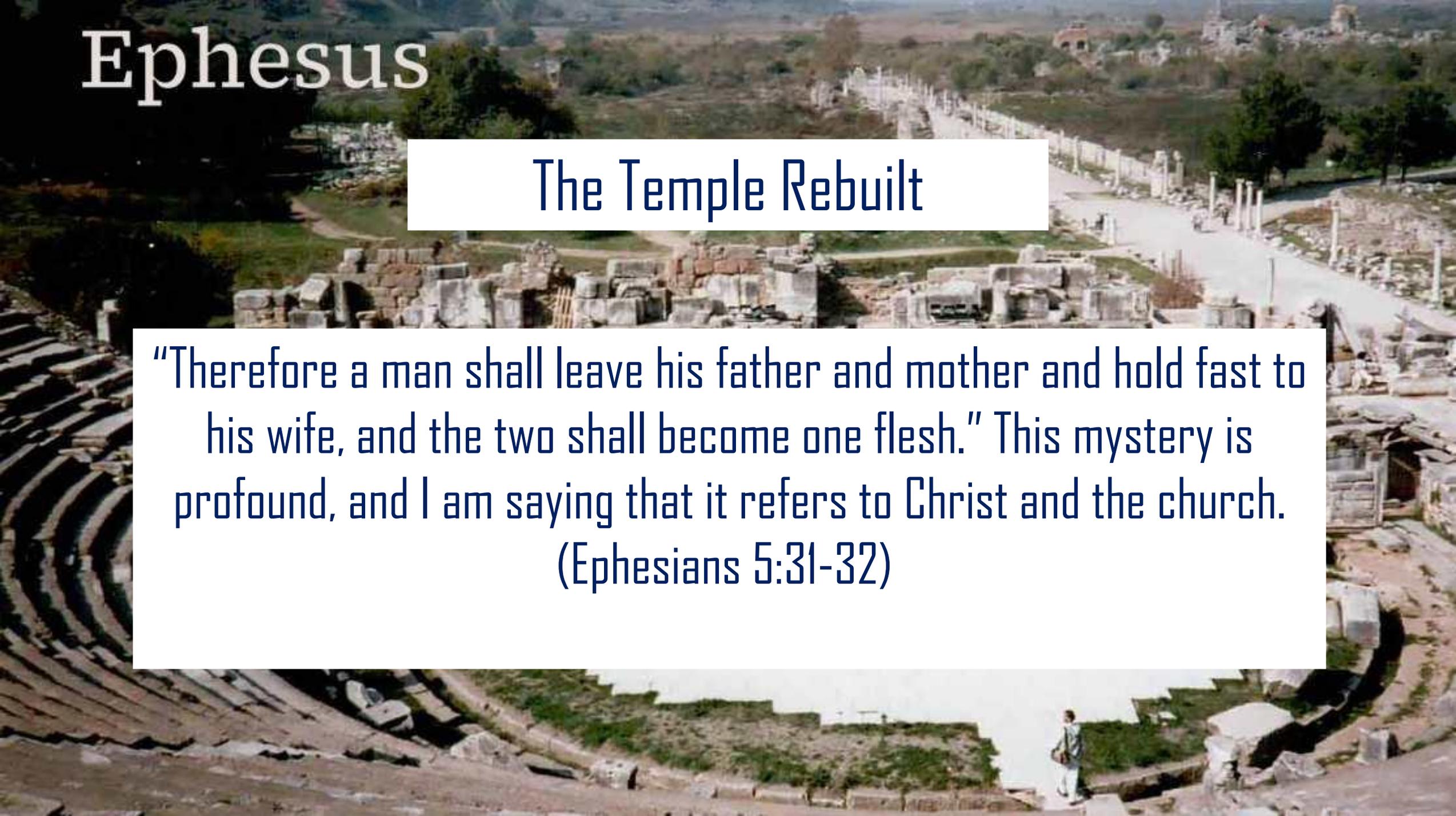
A blue-tinted garden scene with a path leading through various flowers. The path is made of light-colored stones and is bordered by green hedges. The flowers are in shades of pink, purple, and yellow. The overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful.

## New Testament Textures



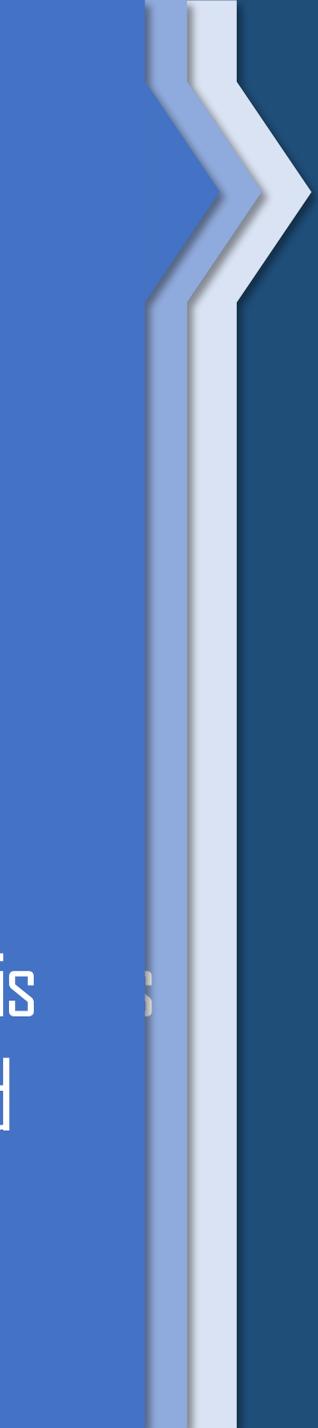
Personal  
Relationship

# Ephesus

An aerial photograph of the ancient ruins of Ephesus, Turkey. The image shows the Temple of the Virgin Mary, a long colonnade of the Cardo street, and the Theatre of Ephesus. The ruins are set against a backdrop of green hills and a clear sky.

## The Temple Rebuilt

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.  
(Ephesians 5:31-32)

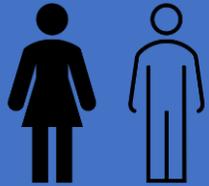


# POINTS

*for home*

# 1

## *Human Dignity*



"God created man in his own image... male and female"

# 2

## *Equality*



"While he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh"

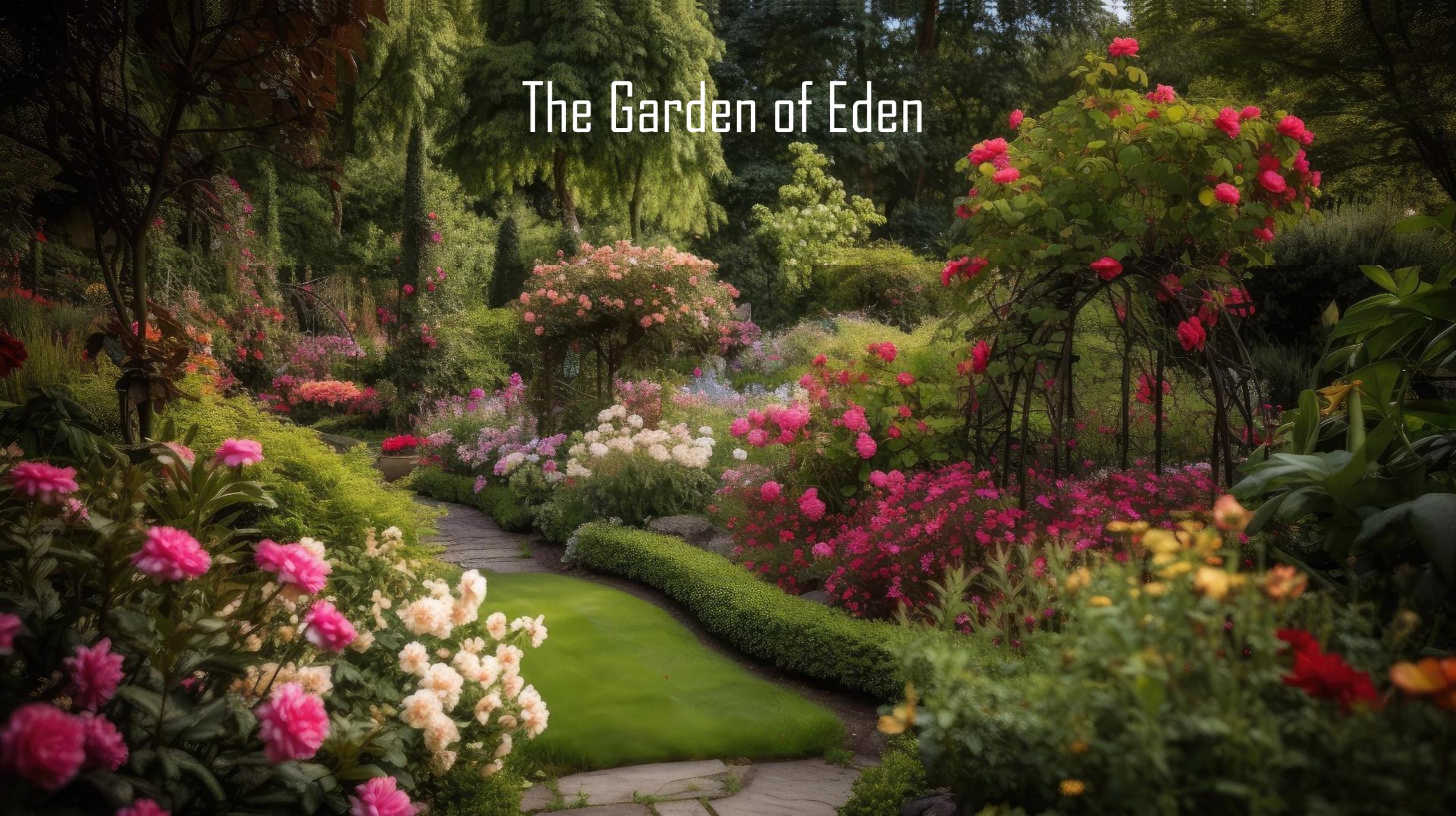
# 3

## *Work*



The LORD God ...put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it

# The Garden of Eden



GENESIS