

**Bible Study Notes**  
**The Significance of the 'East' in Scripture**

**Genesis 2:8**- God planted a Garden in the **Eastern** part of the land of Eden. In this Garden, God dwelt with man and as we see also in **Genesis 3:8**, God also walked and talked with man in the Garden.

**Genesis 3:24**- As a result of sin, man & his wife were separated from God's presence, [**Isaiah 59:1-2**]. God places two Cherubim and a flaming sword at the **East** of the Garden, to prevent Adam and Eve from partaking of the Tree of Life. Adam & Eve by implication go Eastward (*further east, away from God*) from the Garden and leave God's presence because of their sins.

Our sins separate us from the presence of God.

Immediately, we see that Eden was an actual place and within the Eastern boundaries of this Land of Eden, the Lord placed a Garden.

**Genesis 4:16**- We see the first murder in this chapter and subsequently, the murderer, Cain, has received his sentence from the Lord. He goes out from the presence of the Lord and dwells in the Land of Nod, which is on the **East** of the Land of Eden. Cain now ventures further Eastward and is further separated from God. Mankind was already separated from God because of eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, now, Cain is further separated from God's presence as he journeys further east.

What this shows us is that as we go towards the east we are tending further and further away from God and are moving away from His presence. God in His mercy and love for fallen man is calling us back to dwell in His presence.

*"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."* **Isaiah 43:2**

**Genesis 12:6-8**- Abram builds an altar of sacrifice unto the Lord, who appeared unto him in the land of Shechem. He then moves from there unto a mountain on the **East** of Beth-el and pitches his tent. As a result, Beth-el is now on Abram's western side because he has pitched his tent to the east of Beth-el.

It is interesting to note that the word Beth-el, in the original Hebrew, means HOUSE OF GOD. So, what we see here is that the place where Abram pitched his tent and built an altar unto God was to the East of the place called House of God (BETH-EL), where God's presence later appeared to his grandson, Jacob in a dream, **Genesis 28:19-22**. We must move from East to West in our relationship with Christ, coming back into harmony with the Creator.

Let us not be like Cain, who moved further East, and thus was separated from the presence of God.

**Genesis 13:10-11**- Lot saw the lush green fields of the plain of Jordan, that they were well watered everywhere, before Sodom & Gomorrah had been destroyed by the Lord. The land of these wicked cities was so fruitful and rich in beautiful bounties that it even resembled somewhat the Garden of Eden, whom his ancestors were banished from some 2000 + years before. Consequently, Lot decided to journey further East, choosing to dwell *"in the cities of the plain."* This decision eventually lead to a life of torment for Lot, as he was constantly surrounded by sin on every side, so much so that these cities, with their lush, green fields were forever destroyed by the hand of the Lord and his family was forever affected by his decision to move Eastward. For *"the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."* **Genesis 13:13**

As we noticed in the account of Cain and now with Lot, journeying unto the East always leads to a life of perpetual sin. God is calling us from our Eastern dwellings to His presence, He is calling us back from the East to draw nigh unto Him.

**Exodus 40:20-32**-This description of the East will take a bit more study to see the parallels, but I will try my best by God's grace to explain as best as I can. In the layout of the Hebrew Sanctuary, God commanded Moses to lay out all the pieces of furniture *"according to the pattern"* shown him on Mount Sinai, **Exodus 25:9**.

In the final construction of the Sanctuary, as seen in **Exodus 40:20-32**, notice what we see. Moving from West to East:

1. The Ark of the Testament placed in the Holy of Holies.
2. The Table of shewbread placed on **Northern side** in the Holy Place.
3. The Candlestick placed on the **Southern side** in the Holy Place.
4. The Golden Altar placed behind the veil, separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. This was placed to the **West** of the Table of shewbread.

As Bible students, we know that there was only one door into the Sanctuary and this door/entrance was to the **East**, **Exodus 40:28**. Additionally, Not only was there one door into the Sanctuary, but there was also one door into the Courtyard, which was also to the **East**, **Exodus 40:8,33**. For High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies, he had to enter through from the Court on the East and then into the Sanctuary itself with its entrance also on the East.

The presence of God, dwelt in the Holy of Holies, upon the Mercy seat, **Exodus 25:21-22**, **Exodus 26:33-34**, and as we can see, there was only one way and one direction that the High Priest could enter into God's presence, and this was from the Eastern entrance.

This further confirms what we noticed in the Garden of Eden, which itself was a type of Sanctuary. For man to enter into God's presence, we must move from East to West, in essence, we must move **Westerly**. Moving away from God, that is, moving TO the East and not FROM the East, results in our separation from our Creator.

I invite you to study this in more detail in your own time.

**Joshua 12:1-3 [Deuteronomy 3:8-9]**- In this passage we see a perfect example of [typology](#).

The Israelites, *God's people of antiquity, i.e. The OT Church*, being led by Moses, their leader, a *type of Christ*, overcame the kings of the **East** and destroyed them and conquered their land.

In the same way, Spiritual Israel, *the NT Church of God*, led by Jesus Christ, the leader and head of the Church, at the last day, shall destroy the '*kings & inhabitants of the east*', and then shall the meek shall inherit their lands.

*"For evildoers shall be cut off, but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be, yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."* **Psalm 37:9-11**

**Judges 6:3-4**- We see that even from the days of antiquity, those who oppressed Israel, *God's covenant keeping people*, were referred to as the '*the children of the east*.' Likewise, those who reject God and His Son Jesus Christ and oppress His people, can be seen as present day '*children of the east*.'

**Job 1:1,3**- Speaking of the righteous servant of God, the Scriptures tell us that he "*was the greatest of all the men of the east*." God has children even in the '*east*'. He has children in all the false systems of worship, who are following after Him, the best way they know how. Thus, when the time comes for the Loud Cry message to be poured out during the mark of the Beast crisis, all those faithful servants shall hear the call of Jesus and shall come out of all the apostate Churches into the Remnant Church.

Says Jesus, "*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one-fold, and one shepherd.*" **John 10:16**

*'And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

*For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying,*

**Come out of her, my people**, *that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.* **Revelation 18:1-4**

**Isaiah 2:6-9**- The Prophet Isaiah shows us the apostasy of the Church in His day, which is also a message for our day. The Church was full of idolatry, fornication, love of mammon and pride; they were "*replenished from the east*", that is, they had joined hands with the apostate nations surrounding them, who knew not the One True God and had turned to idolatry. Is this not a message for our day?

Is Christianity today not full of apostasy? Has the Church not joined hands with the world and have been sorely influenced by worldliness. Satan has infiltrated the Church and caused a great *falling away*, from the truth. **2 Thessalonians 2:3**.

**Ezekiel 8:15-16**- The prophet Ezekiel, lived during the time of the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem, by King Nebuchadnezzar II. During his time, Jerusalem was pillaged 3 times, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> time being the worst, because it involved the destruction not only of the city but also of the sacred Temple.

Ezekiel who was taken as a captive in the 2<sup>nd</sup> siege of Jerusalem in 597 BC, prophesied about the soon coming destruction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> siege which was to occur 10 years later. Under the divine influence of the Holy Spirit, Ezekiel was allowed to see the greatest apostasies committed by the leaders of the Church, which led to the destruction of the Temple.

Says the Prophet *'Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.'*

Notice the greatest apostasy in the Church which occurred in the days of Ezekiel. The leaders of the Church, *five and twenty men*, who were tasked with teaching the people the way of the Lord, and leading them in the truth, had turned their backs on the Temple of the Lord, the place where His glory dwelt in the Most Holy Place, and they were worshipping the sun towards the **East**.

Sun worship, idolatry within the Church, was the greatest of all apostasies, which led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the departing of God from His Temple, **Ezekiel 9&10**. This apostasy led to a sealing of all the faithful saints in Jerusalem that they die not when the wrath of God was to be poured out upon the wicked.

Sun worship in the church...Worshipping on the day of the sun... Sunday.

Are we seeing a repetition of what Ezekiel saw in His day? After all, *'The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.'* **Ecclesiastes 1:9**.

One may argue that worshipping the sun and worshipping on the day of the sun is not the same thing. But in principle it is the same.

God created both the Sun, **Genesis 1:14-19** and He also created the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, **Genesis 1:3-5**. He did not create the sun for worship and neither did He create the first day of the week, *Sunday*, for worship either.

So, whether one worships the Sun or worships God on the day of the Sun professing it to be the Sabbath of the Lord, in principle all is idolatry and Satan has deceived the entire Christian Church into acknowledging a false Sabbath. For he, satan, knows that *"whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit*

*adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So, speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."* **James 2:10-12, 1 John 3:4.** He that said do not commit adultery, and do not worship any graven images, is the same One who said to Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.

It is by this Law, the perfect '*Law of Liberty*', that we, all mankind, shall be judged by.

**Matthew 2:1-2**- The wise men of Babylon, **Daniel 2:12,14**, had journeyed from the East to the West, unto Jerusalem to seek the presence of the new-born King. It was a common thing for these wise men to be magicians, astrologers and sorcerers in the presence of their kings but what a rebuke to the leaders of the OT Church, who were not paying any attention to the prophecies of the Messiah that was to come but three heathens from the land of the East, were searching with all intent, the prophecies of old which spoke about the coming Messiah. God in His mercy had given a sign to the Gentile nations at the birth of Christ that the Kingdom of God was soon to be, for says the wise men, "*we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship Him.*" This again confirms what we noticed in the Book of Job that God has children even in the '*East*' and when they shall hear His voice, they shall '*come out of Babylon.*'

Those who were intent in the studying of the Scriptures and the prophecies received great light from Heaven.

Oh, how we today should learn from these wise men, and devote time and effort to the studying of God's Word, then we shall truly be wise indeed.

**Matthew 8:11**- Jesus Himself, tells us that not only shall many come from the '*west*' but also there shall be many who shall come from the '*east*', and shall come to a knowledge of the One True God. They shall all receive of the wedding garments and shall partake of the marriage supper, with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Heaven. **Marriage 22:1-14, Luke 14:15-24, Revelation 19:5-9**

**Matthew 24:27**- Jesus gives us a description of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming in the following passage. Many teach a non-Biblical doctrine, that Christ shall come secretly in some sort of hidden rapture, *another deception of Satan*. Friends, if it is in the Bible, we want it, and if it is not in the Bible, we don't want it. Jesus, Himself tells us that when He shall return, all eyes shall see Him, for as the lightning cometh out of the east and is seen in the west, so shall Christ's coming be. Let us not be deceived by false doctrines which have infiltrated the Church through Satan's sympathisers.

Know the truth that you may know what is error. In these last days, perilous times shall come, says the apostle Paul, many shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, many will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts, they shall heap to themselves teachers and having itching ears they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned to fables. **2 Timothy 3:1; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4.** Let us not be

tossed to and fro and be carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. **Ephesians 4:14.**

Let us heed the voice of God and depart out of the land of the East like the wise men, that we may come unto the New Jerusalem to worship Him. Let us put away sin, lest we be separated from God and shall suffer the punishment of sin which is eternal death. For as in the days of Moses, it was the inhabitants of the east who were destroyed and their lands taken by the children of Israel, so shall it be at the Coming of Jesus, our Great Commander. The inhabitants of the 'East' shall be destroyed, and the Children of God shall inherit the New Earth.

Therefore, let us journey from East to West and not from West to East. Let us come to God and not journey away from Him.

