

## Praise for *Gods of Ground*

Carl Gallups has done it again! If your desire is to achieve a much deeper understanding of the tumultuous times in which we live, I could not recommend a better book that will put everything in perspective from a biblical point of view. *Gods of Ground Zero* is a must read! It will blow you away!

—**Gregg Jackson**, national bestselling author of *Conservative Comebacks to Liberal Lies*, *40 Things to Teach Your Children Before You Die*, & *40 Rules to Help Boys Become Men*.

Carl Gallups very rightly points us to Jerusalem as the epicenter and the eye of the storm of emerging geopolitical and spiritual controversy. Like a divine magnet, the whole world is currently being pulled into the raging storms of controversy and warfare that are increasingly swirling over this city. The closer we get to the Day of the Lord and the culmination of God's plan of redemption, the more the attention of the world will become focused on the City of the Great King. Spot on!

—**Joel Richardson**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Mid-East Beast*

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—**Messianic Rabbi Zev Porat**, Tel Aviv,

So many renowned biblical scholars have been trying to tell us these truths—but their findings have been largely ignored and often disconnected from conventional theological understanding. Carl Gallups has pulled the facts and the answers to myriad tough theological questions together into a single, page-turning, captivating resource. If you don't read this book, you'll forever miss the central theme and understanding of the entire Word of God. This book is that important!

—**Dr. Tom Horn**, CEO, Skywatch TV

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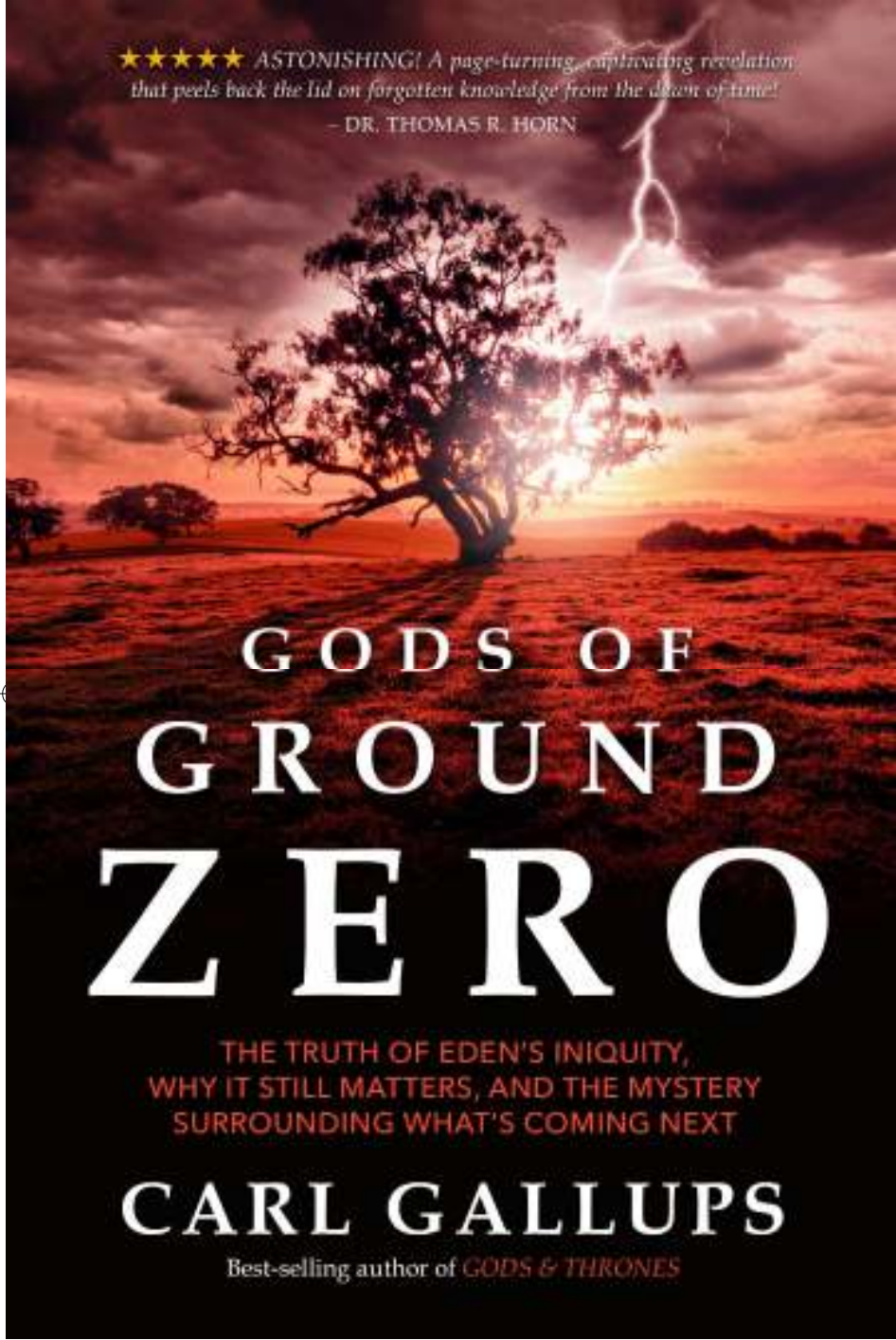
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- DR. THOMAS R. HORN



GODS OF  
GROUND  
ZERO

THE TRUTH OF EDEN'S INIQUITY,  
WHY IT STILL MATTERS, AND THE MYSTERY  
SURROUNDING WHAT'S COMING NEXT

CARL GALLUPS

Best-selling author of *GODS & THRONES*

*Gods of Ground Zero: The Truth of Eden's Iniquity, Why It Still Matters,  
and What's Coming Next*

By Carl Gallups

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For Brandon.  
My son and my friend. A husband to an amazing wife,  
a dad to my beloved grandson,  
and a partner in the ministry of the Kingdom work of Jesus Christ.  
What more could a father desire?

## Acknowledgments

To my wife, Pam. You are the reason life is still sweet.

To the people of Hickory Hammock Baptist Church. Since 1987, you have stood by my side in advancing the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your encouragement and love.

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To my fellow academic biblical researchers of years past. You blazed the way in much of the scholarly research endeavors associated with this topic. You dared to stand in divergence from some of the safer and more acceptable traditions of interpretation. You endured the initial scorn, which is always the hardest to withstand. You did a lot of the heavy lifting that enabled this book to eventually come forward with a stamp of genuine academic integrity. I am indebted to you.

To Brooke and Sidney. You know why. Pam and I love you both so very much.

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## Foreword

To the materialist, the conspiratorial view of history is pathological paranoia. However, this elemental question of whether history unfolds as either mere happenstance or is willed into being, planned and manufactured by some unseen hand, should be of paramount importance to the Bible-believing Christian.

For anyone who truly desires to discover how our violent and depraved human history is shaped, and by whom, the quest must begin in the Old Testament and chapter 3 of the book of Genesis.

In *The Gods of Ground Zero*, Carl Gallups tackles the foundational question of how a single profane act of betrayal is the root cause of the entire bloody and tragic saga of humankind. As he so thoroughly demonstrates, when it comes to understanding our past, present, and future, all roads ultimately lead back to the garden.

—Richard Syrett, broadcaster and regular guest host of  
*Coast to Coast AM*



You were in Eden, the garden of  
You were an anointed guardian  
you were on the holy mountain of God....

You were blameless in your ways  
the day you were

till unrighteousness was found in

so I cast you as a profane thing

from the mountain of

~Ezekiel 28:13-16,





introduction

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did god really say?

But God expressly forbids us to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Ah yesssss, God... But God gave us life, did He not? And God gave us desire, did He not? And God gave us taste, did He not? And who else but God made the apples in the first place? So what else is life for but to *tassste* the fruit we desire?

~David Mitchell, *Ghostwritten*<sup>1</sup>

**D**o you want to know a dirty little secret? Here it is. Much of the real message of the Garden of Eden has been “adjusted” over time. Surprised? If you are, you’ll soon discover why you shouldn’t be.

Of course, this adjustment of truth is exactly what the enemy desires, because uncovering the reality of Eden’s iniquity exposes Satan’s diabolical scheme of the ages, and it will give you more insight into the Word of God than you have ever before possessed.

By the time you have finished this book, you will be stunned to see how deep the obfuscation process has plunged.

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## The Question

Right out of the box, let's begin by asking a foundational question.

Is it an academically sound practice to read a passage of Scripture and stop there, assuming you've gleaned the most accurate interpretation of it without doing an extensive comparison of related passages? Of course not. But, it happens more often than it should.

However, the Bible isn't simply a random collection of individual passages. It is a cohesive and inspired unit. The Old Testament must always be interpreted by the greater revelations of the New Testament, and vice versa. Therefore, the entirety of the Word of God ought to be contextually plumbed to its depths before declaring a particular interpretation of a single passage of Scripture to be a solid one. Most scholars apply that type of methodology to practically every challenging passage except, it seems, for one biblical episode in particular: the Garden of Eden. We will correct that travesty through the following pages.

## The Significance

The plain truth is that the third chapter of Genesis happens to be the foundational platform for the entire biblical message, including the Gospel itself. This is why it is so important that we get this matter correct. In fact, right up to some of the very last words of the book of Revelation, the Word of God has a number of shocking things to say about Eden. As you uncover what the Bible communicates about the subject, you might find yourself asking aloud, "*Why haven't I been told this before?*"

Think of the eternal ramifications. Literally everything wrong with the world, as well as with our personal lives, is directly linked to the Garden of Eden. Why is it, then, that we so frequently insist upon turning that vital chapter into a childlike bedtime story? How can the Garden

## gods of ground zero

account so often be glossed over with a few winks and nods, as well as cryptic and cartoonish interpretations, without appealing to a deeply academic study of contextual biblical comparisons? You'll soon find the answers to these questions. But be forewarned: The truth is not very pretty, nor is it always comfortable. I have a feeling you're going to be shocked by what you see—and probably more than once—as we move forward.

### Contemplations

Have you ever wondered about the following?

Why was the Garden of Eden created in the first place? Was God alone in the Garden when He created Adam and Eve? Did God have divine “assistance” in the creation process? Was the “serpent” alone with Adam and Eve in the Garden when the Fall occurred? When were the angels created? When was Satan's original fall?

Where was the original *region* of Eden? Does the Bible give us any clues as to the location of the Garden within that region? Did Jesus say anything specific about the Garden of Eden? Do any of the New Testament writers mention the Garden? Will the Garden ever be restored?

Did you know that Jesus Himself indisputably links Satan with a tree, a garden, and fruit? And did you know that He also directly connects Himself with a specific tree of the Garden of Eden? It's true! Those two facts alone begin to shed a different light on the traditional interpretation of the Garden of Eden, don't they? But there's much more. I promise. I'm just trying to whet your appetite for everything else that lies ahead.

Here are a few more considerations: How does what happened in the Garden directly relate to today's world, our personal lives, our walk with the Lord, and where eternity is headed? And this is probably the most important question regarding Genesis 3: *Does the Bible tell us*

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*exactly what happened in the Garden—what was the actual “sin” of Adam and Eve?*

Think of the gravity of that question. Are we truly meant to believe that a real-life, walking, talking snake manipulatively convinced humanity’s first couple to eat a single piece of literal fruit? Is that really the scenario that plunged the entire human race, and creation itself, into an eternal course of destruction and indescribable depravity? Or is there a more specific message that is, somehow, infinitely deeper than the text appears to indicate? Once you see the truth, so many other answers about life, spiritual warfare, and our world’s current ills will be laid bare before the eyes of your soul.

## Impact

Each of the foregoing questions and a number of others like them will be explored to their depths in the pages that follow. And when those clear revelations are linked together in their proper context, the disclosures are jaw-dropping. Trust me.

In response to innumerable requests to investigate the topic of the Garden of Eden more thoroughly, this book became the natural sequel to my previous work, *Gods and Thrones*. And while it is essential to briefly revisit several defining themes from that first book, I can assure you that the book you now hold contains a treasure trove of brand-new material and fresh biblical revelation. It is not necessary for you to have read *Gods and Thrones* to thoroughly understand and enjoy this work.

Warning! In the pages that follow are many startling disclosures that will forever change the way you read the Bible, as well as the way you understand the times in which we live. What might once have been considered “unknowable” biblical mysteries are about to be unfurled onto your lap. By the time you reach the end of this book, you might even hear angels singing. In short, expect the unexpected.



## gods of ground zero

[The **LORD** said] Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3, nas)

Now, if you're up for a journey like the one I just described, *let's dig in.*



Part One  
-----  
The Primordial



Do you, good people, believe that Adam and Eve  
were created in the Garden of Eden  
and that they were forbidden to eat  
from the tree of knowledge?  
I do. The church has always been afraid of that tree.  
It still is afraid of knowledge.  
~Clarence Darrow<sup>2</sup>





## chapter one

# of angels and men

And the sunlight was coming from what certainly did look like a different world—what they could see of it.

~C. S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*<sup>3</sup>

There are those rare instances upon the path of life's brief journey that contain an extraordinary potential to forever change a person's perspective.

The transformation might come through the turning of a significant life corner. Perhaps it comes through an unexpected epiphany. Or, it could involve one of those exceptional moments when one brushes right up next to the supernatural.

One such day delivered all three of those components into the lives of several unsuspecting people. In the following several pages is the account of that true story.

## Life and Death

The funeral chapel was already at capacity attendance. The crowd had long ago extended into the vestibule and spilled over to the parking lot.

The deceased was a well-known, local woman in her early twenties.

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The pastor who was about to preach her funeral had only met her within the last few weeks. She had been the mother of a 4-year-old girl, and she had been the wife of her longtime sweetheart. At the time of her emergency hospitalization, the young mom had been pregnant with the couple's second child—another girl. Mercifully, the doctors were able to save the newborn through a Cesarean procedure shortly before the baby's mother tragically passed away.

Just a few days before, in the hospital, the pastor had led the young wife to a born-again faith in Jesus Christ. Very soon thereafter, she was gone from this world. The young couple's first daughter now had a new sister. But, that heartbroken 4-year-old had also just lost her mommy on a day that should have been full of joy and celebration.

All these realities raced through the pastor's mind as he began presenting his message to the somber crowd. He silently prayed: *Lord please give me your strength. Assist me with your supernatural presence.*

The father-in-law of the deceased sat in the front row of the family section, snuggling his granddaughter as he held her in his lap. For the last few minutes, she had been whispering into her Pawpaw's ear, and every few moments, she had pointed in the pastor's direction. Suddenly, Granddaddy's mouth dropped open, and he looked directly at the pastor with an expression of utter shock.

The preacher thought to himself, *Oh my word! Have I said something inappropriate?* He could feel the sweat begin to trickle down his temples. He continued the message along with his silent plea for divine help.

## The Divine

After the final prayer was delivered and the attendees were beginning to disperse from the chapel, the pastor eased over to stand with the family. He went straight to the grandfather. "What happened?" he murmured. "Is everything okay?"

## gods of ground zero

The man explained in a whispered voice, “Pastor, when you went to the pulpit to preach—my granddaughter leaned over and asked, ‘Paw-paw, who’s that man dressed *all in white* standing beside the preacher?’”

Now the *pastor’s* mouth was gaping in shock. “*Wha...?*” He tried to speak but couldn’t.

The grandfather resumed the explanation, “I asked her: ‘Baby, what man are you talking about? Do you *see* a man dressed in white up there at the pulpit right now?’”

She told me, “*Yes* Pawpaw, he’s there right now; he’s standing right beside the preacher. Don’t you see him?” The pastor stood dumbstruck, listening to the incredible account.

Pawpaw continued, “I asked her what she knew about the ‘man in white.’ I asked her if she had ever seen him before. She told me that she didn’t know anything about him and had never seen him before this moment.”

Granddaddy momentarily paused the story to regain his composure. “She kept pointing in your direction,” he said to the pastor. “I didn’t see anyone there, of course.”

He continued, “And there was not a single person in the crowd dressed all in white, either. But she insisted the man was standing right there beside you the entire time you were preaching!”

The shaken grandfather added, “Pastor, she was as sincere as any child could be. But that’s not all; she also said the man had even spoken to her! She said that he came over to her just as the funeral began and told her that her mommy was going to be okay and she didn’t need to be afraid.”

He swallowed hard and said, “Pastor, I can tell you—this little girl knows very little about angels or the deep things of the Lord at this point in her life.”

When the grandfather had finished the account, the child gazed directly into the pastor’s eyes with a look on her face that said, “My Paw-paw’s telling you the truth, Mister!”

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## The Reality

It has now been well over two decades since I preached that difficult funeral. The event forever changed the perspective by which I currently view my life and ministry—as well as my perception of the world around me. All these years later, “Pawpaw” and I still reminisce about that day—a day when, while she was walking through the valley of the shadow of death, a grieving little girl was lovingly visited by the benevolent side of the unseen realm.

In instances of a reported “supernatural experience,” I am careful to measure the account through the contextual Word of God. However, in that particular event, I could find nothing biblically out of bounds about what that innocent preschooler related to us. On the contrary, everything she asserted squared perfectly with well-known assurances revealed in the Scriptures—assurances of which she had no prior knowledge....

See that you don't look down on one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels continually view the face of My Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:10, **hcsb**)

You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you. (Psalm 8:2, **nlt**)

[The angel said to me] I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God! (Revelation 22:9)

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (Luke 22:43)

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)



## Glimpses of

The truth is that there was once a time when humanity and divine beings dwelt together. There was no veil of separation or “unseen realm” during those ages. There was nothing incredulous about seeing and talking to a celestial being—one that came straight from the throne of God.

That marvelous place was one of ultimate delight, and it was designed specifically for the placement of humanity’s first generation. That garden paradise was in a specific region of our primordial planet: the region known as Eden.

A heavy veil between the divine abode of the original Garden of Eden and our earthly existence has since been erected. We have been cut off from that direct heavenly fellowship. However, on occasion, certain mere mortals are briefly allowed to have a peek at the divine realm, even in the midst of our unholy world and our own personal iniquity.

Through those glimpses, and through the promises of the Word of God, we are reminded that our Creator has not abandoned us. He is not finished with us, and He will reinstate our original divine nature at the final restitution of all things.

And, most thrillingly, in the midst of our ever-darkening, sin-stained world, our Creator vows that we will once again dwell among our heavenly counterparts in a restored paradise...in the *Garden of God*.

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## chapter two

# The Realm of the Unseen

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator  
for all I have not seen.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson<sup>4</sup>

Even a number of sincere believers still have difficulty imagining the possibility of the existence of unseen dimensions—especially realms that might be inhabited by intelligent beings who sometimes interact in our earthly domain.

To those skeptics, the topic sounds like the stuff of science fiction or a tale from ancient mythology. To others, talk of the angelic and demonic realms are merely discussions of theological fascination. The mention of the idea serves only as a point of amusing conversation over a cup of coffee and holds little relevance to the daily cares of this mortal life.

I understand.

At one time, I too shared some of those same apprehensions.

However, regardless of the various objections, the disclosure of the existence of the unseen realm is one of the most prominent communications of God's Word. From cover to cover, the Bible assures us that the "other side" exists, and that the reality of its existence is crucial to understanding the overall biblical message as well as our own earthly existence and purpose.

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## Nemo's Dilemma

Over the years, I have illustrated these great truths with examples straight from our own mortal realm. Perhaps you will find these simple illustrations helpful as well.

For instance, a goldfish that spends its life in a bowl on a shelf, in a specific room inside a house, has no idea of what exists just outside its bowl. That little fish is incapable of comprehending the enormous cosmos on the other side of the front door of the house. The fish's concept of reality consists only of whatever is in that room, and only of that which it can at least faintly comprehend. That's it. That's the entire known world, as far as our fishy little friend is concerned.

Think of it: That goldfish can't even come close to fathoming the reality of seven billion creatures called *humans*, or of twenty-plus million other species of living things that exist all around it, unseen by its eyes. If that goldfish were somehow told by another goldfish that we truly did exist, and the first goldfish then exclaimed "I don't believe it! That's impossible! That's a crazy fairytale!" well, that little unconvinced fish would be entirely mistaken. Even its most ardent disbelief would be irrelevant regarding the reality of what truly exists just outside that door.

## Atom Ant

Similarly, ants cannot fully experience the world that surrounds their mound of dirt. They have no idea that their little tunneled kingdom is situated on a planet called earth, a globe that revolves around the sun and hangs on nothing in the middle of an endless universe. As a matter of fact, ants don't even know humans exist. Yet, here we are, billions upon billions of us, and so are all the other realities around us that the ant will never be able to comprehend. But the reality of our world is simply not predicated upon what the ant *believes* or *doesn't believe* about

## gods of ground zero

its own world, or upon what it can or cannot see. We are here whether the ants understand it or not.

### Sorry, Charlie

The same is true of certain sea creatures destined to live their entire existences at the bottom of the deepest levels of the ocean's vast, circumnavigating expanses. How could they know of the universe of other living things that exist miles above them and at the same time surrounding their very presence? They cannot. But, it's all there. The ocean-bottom dwellers simply cannot experience the other world of reality in which their world is immersed; therefore, they don't "believe" in it. But little do they know...

On and on the illustrations go, right in our own world. Like the goldfish, the ants, and the ocean-bottom sea creatures, we too are surrounded by intelligent life created by Yahweh and existing in physical realms of reality that we are not yet equipped to fully experience. From the first book of the Bible to the last, we are assured of this incomprehensible fact.

But, from time to time, some of us are allowed a peek at the "other side"—just like what happened to the precious little girl at her mother's funeral and to those of us who were directly affected by that incident. Those kinds of moments often change a person's perspective...forever. As you traverse the remaining pages of this book with me, I pray you will receive at least a small glimpse of similar divine revelations. When you do experience them, they are truly exhilarating.

### The Day That Lives In Infamy

It was in the Garden of Eden that a certain diabolical portion of the *other side* first made its ugly mark upon our earthly existence. That ominous

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day started just like every other day before it. But, after the sun set, the color-drenched landscape of the brand-new paradise had already faded into a mere façade of the beauty it once displayed. Shamefully, humanity eventually grew to prefer the resulting darkness, rather than the light in which it had previously basked. Their deeds became increasingly evil as their hearts blackened and turned into hard stone.

So they concealed the most intimate parts of their bodies, then quietly hid themselves under the silky gray skirts of the loathsome darkness. They thought to themselves: *Surely, our Creator can't find us here.*

They were mistaken. He *could* find them. In fact, He had never lost sight of them. Little did they know that even the cover of darkness could not hide them from the crime they had committed. As a result, a heavy veil of separation descended upon the land of Eden.

The trees of the Garden drooped their mighty heads...and wept.

They knew.

Death had arrived, and humanity was enslaved by its dread.

But, because of the Creator's great love for His creation, they had not been abandoned. God had a plan. There would come a day of restitution. Everything would be made new.

But not yet.

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