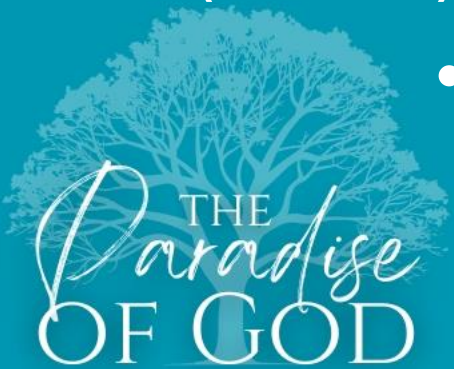


THE  
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OF GOD

# Terminology and References

## Etymology of Paradeisos

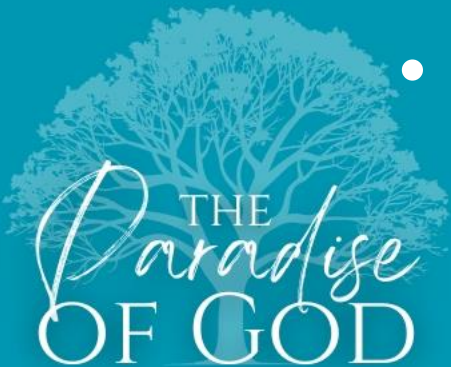
- “a Persian loanword” (ISBE) – *pairidaēza* – “The Persian word originally meant ‘an enclosure’ and came to mean ‘a park surrounded by a wall.’” (ISBE)
- Hebrew – *pardês* – 3x in OT – “park, enclosed garden” (TWOT)
- Greek – *paradeisos* – 3x in NT – “garden, orchard” (LEH Lexicon of the Septuagint)



# Terminology and References

## Paradeisos in the Septuagint (LXX)

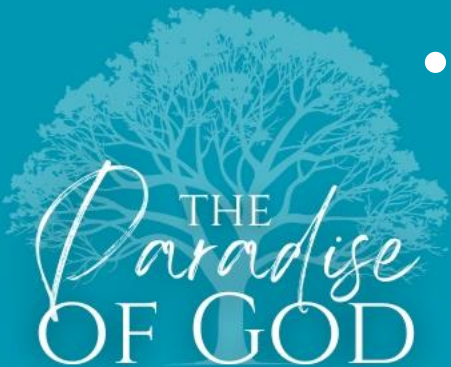
- 27x in 25 verses
- 13x – **Genesis 2-3** – the garden (*paradeisos*) of Eden.
- 7x – elsewhere in reference to the garden of Eden.
  - “*the garden of the Lord*” (**Genesis 13:10; Isaiah 51:3**)
    - Hebrew – “*the garden of YHWH*”
    - “*the garden of God*” (**Ezekiel 28:13; 31:8, 9**)



# The Significance of Paradise

## Fellowship – God’s Presence

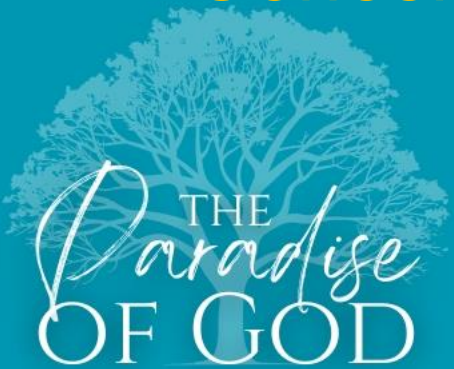
- “*Garden of the Lord/God*” indicates the significance of the garden is due to its connection with God.
- God planted the garden – **Genesis 2:8**
- God walked among man in the garden – **Genesis 3:8**
- Tree of life – **Genesis 2:9; 3:22-24** – life with God.
- Messianic prophecy – **Isaiah 51:1-3**



# The Significance of Paradise

## Supreme Blessedness

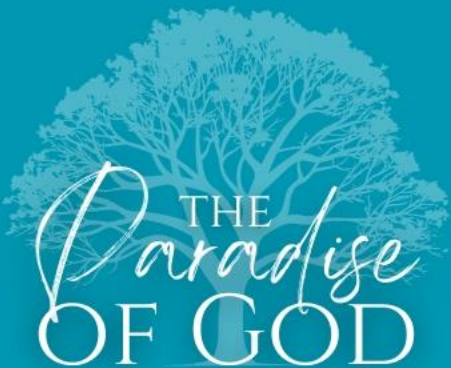
- **Genesis 2:9, 10, 16** – continual sustenance.
- **Genesis 2:15** – blessed labor in God's presence.
- **Genesis 2:18** – supplied companionship/community together with God.
- **Genesis 3:8** – intimate fellowship with God.



# The Significance of Paradise

## Paradeisos in the New Testament Context

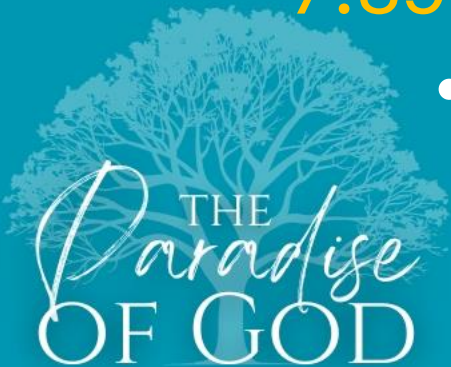
- *Paradeisos* is only found 3x in the NT – twice by Jesus (thief, letter to Ephesus), once by Paul (2 Corinthians).
- The LXX translation, which used *paradeisos* in reference to the garden of God, was made between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC.
  - “*Parádeisos* developed into a specific eschatological concept in the Jewish intertestamental writings, especially in the apocalyptic literature. The starting point for all Jewish thinking about paradise, under the influence of the LXX, was the garden of Eden.” (ISBE, 2nd ed.)



# The Paradise in Hades

## Jesus to the Thief

- Robbers crucified with Him – **Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32**
- Luke’s details – **Luke 23:39-43**
  - “*today*” – **Acts 2:25-28, 31** (cf. Psalm 16:8-11)
  - “*you will be with Me in Paradise*” – **Luke 23:46** (cf. Acts 7:59)
- As with the garden of God, the greatest focus is God’s fellowship and care.

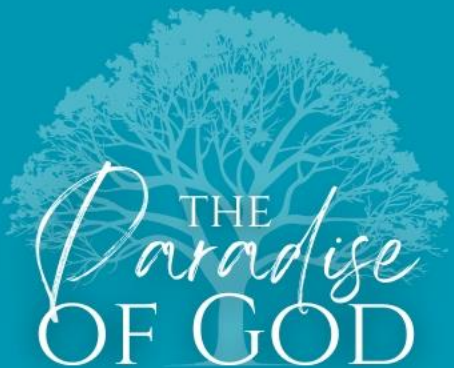




# The Paradise in Hades

## The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

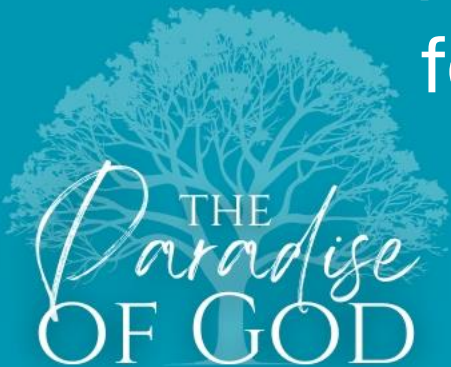
- Upon death, both existed in a realm of the dead (vv. 22-23)
  - Lazarus – Abraham’s bosom, comforted (v. 25)
  - Rich Man – torments in Hades, tormented (vv. 24-25)



# The Paradise in Hades

## The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

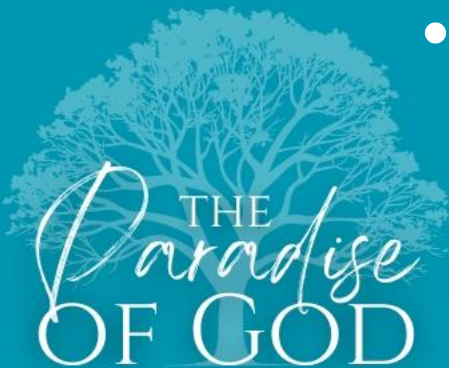
- Abraham's Bosom
  - A place Abraham was himself (v. 24) (cf. Luke 20:37-38)
  - Bosom – a place of embrace, or reclining at supper, denoting fellowship (cf. Romans 4:11). (cf. Luke 19:9)
    - A place of fellowship with God, and those who have fellowship with God, with comfort until the last day.



# The Paradise in Hades

## Other Passages of Significance

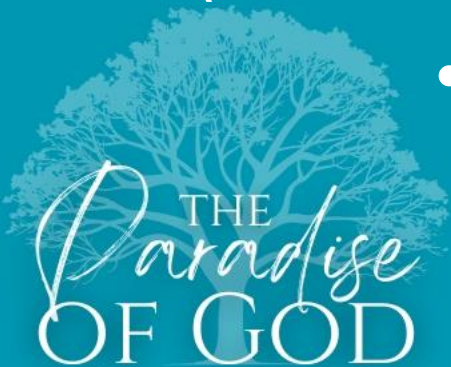
- **John 6:38-39; Romans 8:38-39** – those who belong to Jesus won't be lost to or separated from Him by death.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** – “*sleep in Jesus*”
- **Philippians 1:21-24; 2 Timothy 1:12** – dying is gain to be with Christ, who keeps us.
- **2 Corinthians 5:6-8** – “*courage*” even if going without a body for some time because of being with the Lord.



# The Paradise of God

## Paul Concerning His Visions (2 Corinthians 12:4)

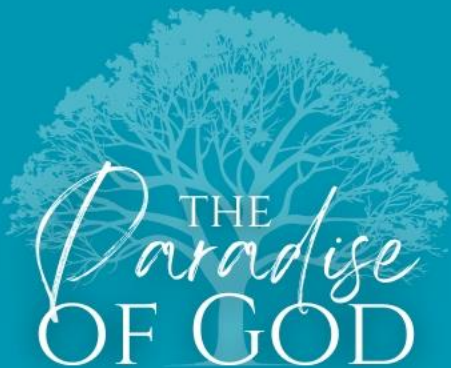
- “*the third heaven*” (v. 2) = “*Paradise*” (*paradeisos*) (v. 4)
- Third heaven – firmament, then space, then God’s abode.
- Paradise (*paradeisos*) – used in reference to heaven, God’s abode, the place prepared for the saints in the end. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:50)
- What did he experience? – “*heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*”



# The Paradise of God

## Christ's Promise to Them That Overcome (Revelation 2:7)

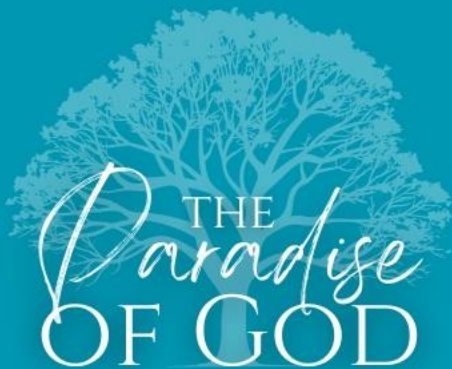
- “*tree of life...Paradise of God*” – both bring the mind back to the garden of Eden.
  - **Tree of life** – signified fullness of life, and immunity from death – **Genesis 2:9; 3:22** – Life comes from God.
  - **Paradise of God** – “*of God,*” like in the references to *paradeisos* in the LXX, places the significance on God – His place of dwelling, His presence – fellowship with God is Paradise.

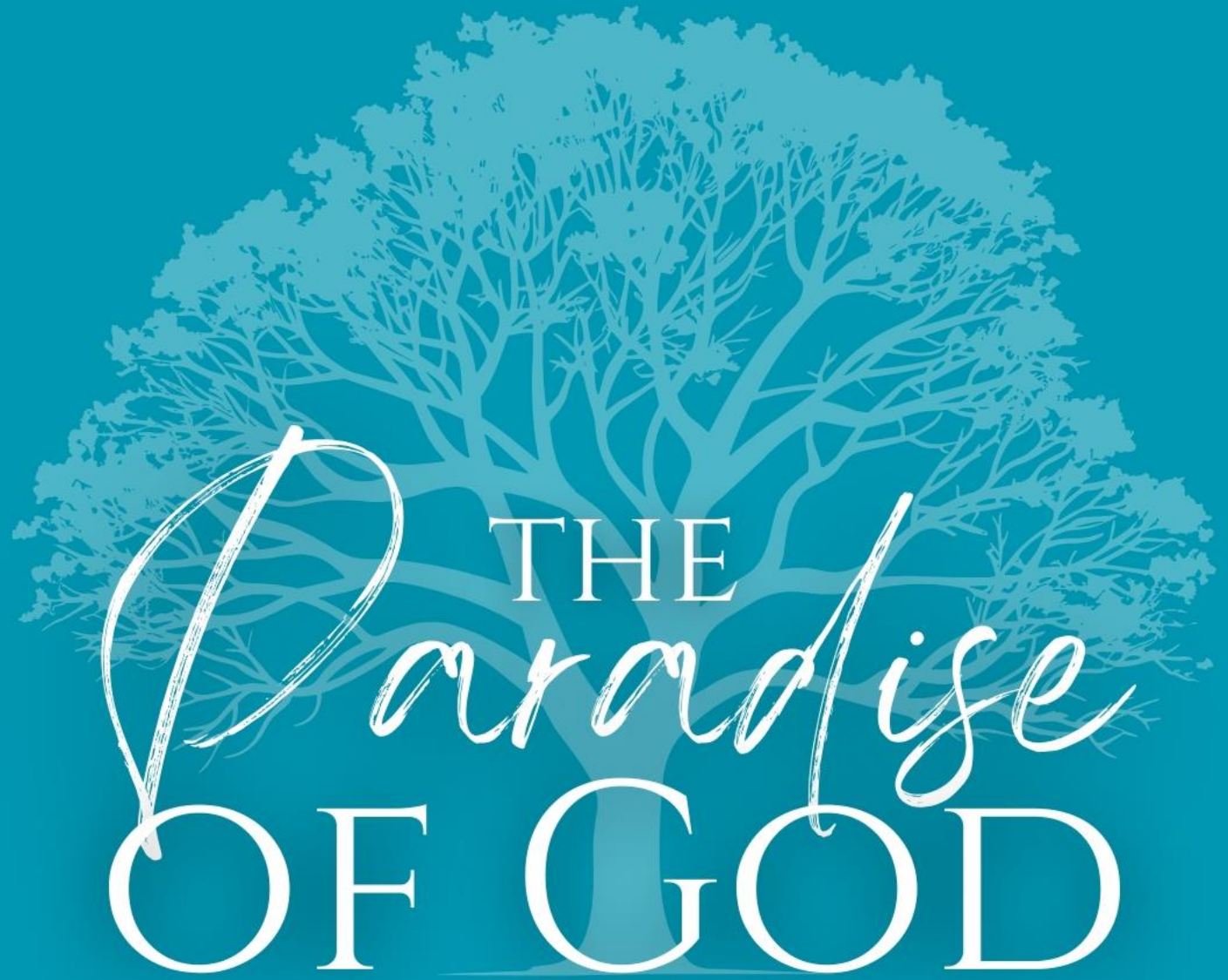


# The Paradise of God

## Christ's Promise to Them That Overcome (Revelation 2:7)

- Revelation extends the metaphor describing that what was lost in Eden is regained for those in Christ – **Revelation 22:1-5** – eternal fellowship with God in His presence.





THE  
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