

Ezekiel 28:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Analysis

Describing the king of Tyre's original state: 'Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.' The mention of 'Eden the garden of God' clearly transcends any historical Tyrian king, pointing to prelapsarian conditions. The nine precious stones listed (sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, carbuncle) recall the high priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:17-20) and the New Jerusalem's foundations (Revelation 21:19-20), connecting this being to God's presence and glory. The 'tabrets and pipes' (tuppim venequbim, תַּפִּים וְנֶקֶבִּים) suggest musical instruments, leading some to identify this being as a worship leader who fell through pride. The phrase 'in the day that thou wast created' confirms this is a creature, not God—even this exalted being is created and therefore subject to divine authority.

Historical Context

If this passage describes Satan's original state (as many interpreters believe), it reveals he was created as a magnificent being associated with worship, beauty, and divine presence. His fall came through pride (verse 17: 'thine heart was lifted

up because of thy beauty'). This explains Satan's ongoing strategy—tempting humans with the same pride that caused his fall ('you will be like God,' Genesis 3:5). The precious stones connecting to priestly garments suggest this being had priestly/mediatorial functions before his rebellion. His presence in Eden explains the serpent's access to tempt Adam and Eve. Understanding Satan's original glory and tragic fall helps us recognize pride's danger—even the most exalted created being fell through self-exaltation.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Satan's created status (not eternal evil) and original glory affect your spiritual warfare perspective?
2. What warning does this passage give about pride's power to corrupt even those closest to God's presence?

Interlinear Text

אָ בָּן	כָּל	הִי יְתֵ	אֱלֹהֵ יִם	גֶּן	בָּעֵדֶן
stone	H3605	H1961	of God	the garden	Thou hast been in Eden
H68			H430	H1588	H5731
וְיַהֲלֵם	פֶּטֶד הֶ	אֶדָם	מְסַכֶּתָּהּ	יָקָר הֶ	
and the diamond	topaz	the sardius	was thy covering	every precious	
H3095	H6357	H124	H4540	H3368	
וּבְרִקְתָּ	נֶפֶר	סַפִּיר	וְיָשָׁפֵה	שֹׁהֵם	תִּרְשָׁשׁ יֵשׁ
and the carbuncle	the emerald	the sapphire	and the jasper	the onyx	the beryl
H1304	H5306	H5601	H3471	H7718	H8658
בִּי וּם	בְּךָ	וּנְקָרָה יְךָ	תִּפֶּי יְךָ	מְלֵ אֶכֶת	וְזָה בֶ
in thee in the day	H0	and of thy pipes	of thy tabrets	the workmanship	and gold
H3117		H5345	H8596	H4399	H2091
כּוֹנֵנוּ:	הַבְּרָאָה				
was prepared	that thou wast created				
H3559	H1254				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:15 (Creation): Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Genesis 2:8 (References God): And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Ezekiel 27:16 (Parallel theme): Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making; they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple, and brodered work, and fine linen, and coral, and agate.

Isaiah 51:3 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 30:32 (Parallel theme): And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.

Isaiah 23:16 (Parallel theme): Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered.

Isaiah 14:11 (Parallel theme): Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

Ezekiel 36:35 (Parallel theme): And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.