

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 venequibim, תְּפִפִּים וְנְקִיבִּים) 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

בָּעֵד	גַּן	אֱלֹהִים	כָּל	אָתָּה
Thou hast been in Eden	the garden	of God	all	you
H5731	H1588	H430	H1961	H3605
stone				H68
יְהִי כָּלֵב הַמִּסְכָּת בְּקַבְּנָה	פָּנִים הַתְּבִשְׁלָמָה	יְהִלְלָה		
every precious	was thy covering	the sardius	topaz	and the diamond
H3368	H4540	H124	H6357	H3095
וְבָרְקַת תִּתְּבִּרְכָּה שְׁבָטְךָ וְשִׁבְעָה	בְּפָנָים סְפִירָה	תְּבִרְכָּה		
the beryl	the onyx	and the jasper	the sapphire	the emerald and the carbuncle
H8658	H7718	H3471	H5601	H1304
בְּיָמֶיךָ יְמִינְךָ יְמִינָה וְלִמְלָאָתְךָ	תְּבִרְכָּה יְמִינָה	בְּיָמֶיךָ		
and gold	the workmanship	of thy tablets	and of thy pipes	in thee in the day
H2091	H4399	H8596	H5345	H3117
בְּבָרְכָּה	פָּנָנוּ			
that thou wast created	was prepared			
H1254	H3559			

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 broidered 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.

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