

Key Themes Common to Genesis 2–3 and Revelation 2–3

Explanation

The Garden of Eden was a holy, sacred place. In many ways, it was a prototype of the temple built in Jerusalem, where mankind could again seek to stand in the presence of God, as had Adam and Eve. Chart 17-3 identifies seven temple elements in the primal account of Genesis 2–3. For example, the tree of life is present, clothing is given by God, and names are given. Prominent in the book of Revelation is the New Jerusalem, which houses the heavenly temple in which the Lord and his Saints shall dwell (Rev 21). As John begins his book of Revelation, he addresses seven cities of the province of Asia. The church in each of these seven cities is promised a blessing. As shown on the right hand column of chart 17-3, each of these seven blessings relate to the promise of the temple for these congregations of Saints.

References

Based on Richard D. Draper and Donald W. Parry, “Seven Promises to Those Who Overcome: Aspects of Genesis 2–3 in the Seven Letters,” in *The Temple in Time and Eternity*, ed. Donald W. Parry and Stephen D. Ricks (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1999), 121–41.

Gerald N. Lund, “John, Revelations of,” *EM*, 2:753–55.

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	PRIMAL TEMPLE (EDEN)	TEMPLE OF HEAVEN
1. Tree of Life	Adam and Eve are forbidden to eat the fruit of the tree of life (Gen 2:17).	The elect will partake of the fruit of the tree of life (Rev 2:7).
2. Death	Death enters the world because of the transgression of Adam and Eve (2:17; 3:3).	The elect will not be hurt by the second death (2:11).
3. Bread/Manna	Adam and Eve eat bread by sweat (3:19).	The elect will eat the hidden manna (2:17).
4. Dominion	Adam and Eve replenish and subdue the earth and have dominion over the animal kingdom (1:28).	The elect will have power over the nations (2:26).
5. Sacred Clothing	God made coats of skins, clothing Adam and Eve (3:21).	The elect will be clothed in white raiment (3:5).
6. Expulsion/Return	The Lord “sent [Adam and Eve] forth from the garden” and “drove out” the man and the woman (3:23–24).	The elect will reenter and symbolically become pillars in the temple, possessing eternal temple access (3:12).
7. Receiving Names	God “called their name Adam [humankind] in the day when they were created” (5:2).	The elect of God will receive the name of God and Christ as a new name (3:12).