

The Garden of Eden

Eden's Door Was Locked

Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden a long long time ago. Their disobedience came at a high cost and we've all suffered ever since. They had companionship with God and they had paradise... and they lost it all! Foolish Eve listened to the serpent and foolish Adam listened to his wife. As a result the LORD God drove both of them from His garden. Eve was sentenced to pain and sorrow and Adam was sentenced to toil and sweat. Then the LORD placed a flaming sword to block the entrance and guard the tree of life (Genesis 3). They would soon find out what they had lost but there was no way back in! Eden's door was locked. We can only imagine their shock when they found themselves banished from their garden paradise with no possibility of ever going back.

God Shut the Door

Men have been looking for paradise throughout history. Our hearts yearn for it. We dream about it, write songs and books about it and even make movies about the quest, but it has never been found because God shut the door and blocked the way. We have no idea what the entrance to Eden looks like so we could be staring it in the face and not even recognize it! Mankind can never return to Paradise unless God Himself opens the door. "These things says He that is holy... He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens."(Rev 3:7)

God's Plan For a Bloody Door

A lot happened after Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden and eventually some of their descendants became slaves in Egypt. And then, after four hundred years of slavery God provided a door for them, a way out. Liberation would come but it would only come in God's way and on God's terms. Hebrew households were told to sacrifice a lamb without spot or blemish and to spread its blood on the doors of their homes. It was a gory and strange thing that God required but freedom and deliverance were granted to all who obeyed. Those who embraced God's plan for a bloody door were set free!

Jesus Christ is Our Bloody Door

More centuries passed and then a man stepped on the scene who was unlike any other man who ever lived. He was born of a virgin and he raised the dead, cured the blind and healed the sick. Jesus walked on water, stilled a storm with His words and fed multitudes with a few loaves of bread. He said, "I am the door" (John 10:9) and "no man comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus claimed to be the Christ, the Anointed One and the only begotten Son of God. Jesus Christ is our bloody door! In Him God has provided us with a way back to the tree of life. He alone is the way to immortality and the way to peace with God. He is the **only** way.

The Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

When Jesus questioned His disciples about His identity it was Peter who answered rightly and declared "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (Matthew 16:16) Based on this revelation Jesus proclaimed that He would give the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven to Peter. The knowledge that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God is the key to heaven's door! The bloody door that leads into the garden of God and immortality is none other than our crucified Savior Himself, and the key that unlocks this door was given to Peter. When the Apostle Peter preached his very first sermon he plainly declared that men should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to receive the promise of eternal life (Acts 2:38). We think that was a wonderful offer then and it's still a wonderful offer today.

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PS: What are you waiting for? Who knows how much time God will give you to make up your mind? Go ahead... act now while the door is still open!