

**“Spring Cleaning”**  
**By Tom Hanson**  
**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Reason and Restoration:**

*Isaiah 1:18-19* ...let us reason together, said the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...

He says He’s going to clean our lives; but we need to be willing to come to Him.

*Psalms 51:10-12* Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Spring cleaning is a tradition round the world. You open the windows, let the rugs air out, etc. You always need some kind of a cleaning agent: 409, Mr. Clean, something. If we’re looking for cleaning in our lives, though, we need a spiritual cleaning agent; we have to be baptized in Jesus’ name. Spiritual cleansing is not a seasonal thing, (although for every thing there is a season—Ecclesiastes 3:1) it’s something that we have to do on a regular basis, like washing a car.

**A Garden, a Field, and a Little River**

Eden was a region. It wasn’t just a little garden.

*Genesis 2:7-8* ... in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

In the same way, God’s Spirit gives us life, and then God brings the garden to us.

*Genesis 2:21-23* ...made He a woman, and brought her unto the man...

The only one ever created in the Garden of Eden was the woman. They had a perfect relationship with Jesus, but then Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and then Adam did. They were driven out of the Garden of Eden.

*Genesis 3:23-24* ... God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken...

So now they’re in a different setting; there is less of what they had before. You know, the Bible doesn’t talk about it, but I wonder about what they told their children. “We used to live in a perfect place, but...” maybe talking about why they had to leave. Of course, the greatness of God didn’t change.

Then Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4:8). This is the conflict of righteousness versus unrighteousness, because the Bible says that Abel was righteous (Hebrews 11:4). Sin is now on the table, and from that point it increases.

*2 Samuel 15:22-23* ... the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

Kidron will play a part in this message. In this passage, King David's son had risen up against him, and Kidron became a dividing point between God's people and the enemies of God's people; righteousness and unrighteousness.

*1 Kings 2:37 ...passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die...*

Shimei had cursed David, but David left it up to his son Solomon, when he became king, to decide what to do with Shimei. Solomon told him to build a house in Jerusalem, and to stay there; that the day he passed over Kidron, he would surely die. So, Kidron was a boundary to this man. There are boundaries for us, too. These stories aren't in the Bible just because they are nice stories; they have to make sense to us, spiritually, today. Here, King Solomon is using this river to establish a boundary between Holy and Unholy.

*1 Kings 15:13 ... Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.*

King Asa was cleansing the House of the Lord, and he destroyed an idol that his mother had made, and used the brook Kidron as a cleansing agent.

*2 Chronicles 15:16 Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.*

King Josiah saw a need and got to it.

*2 Kings 23:4 ... he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron...*

It is established that this is the place where evil will go.

*2 Chronicles 29:16 ... And the Levites took it, to carry it out abroad into the brook Kidron.*

King Hezekiah had the Levites remove all the uncleanness from the Temple. This has become a landmark.

*2 Chronicles 30:14 ...all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.*

They took away all the altars to the false gods.

Sin plagued us until we became the Temple of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is the Comforter (John 14:26), and Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

So we started with the Garden of Eden, and we're going to go to a different garden.

*Matthew 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane...*

The disciples followed Him loyally.

*John 18:1 ...he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden...*

Cedron and Kidron are the same brook; it's just that the Old Testament was translated from Hebrew, and the New Testament from the Greek, so sometimes words get spelled differently. But when Jesus crossed over Kidron, He obtained a victory over sin.

*John 19:41-42*      *...where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher...*

I started to call this message 'Two Gardens,' then I saw that it was three gardens, then I saw that there was a river, and then I realized it was message title out of control...

*Joel 2:2-3*      *...the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness...*

His presence is the Garden of Eden in us. Where's our Kidron? We go to Jesus. He is exactly the replacement for this place. He cleans us up.