



# The Lord's Lawn Work

*A Garden to Behold*



# Scripture

- *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. (Rev 21:10 NIV)*
- *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. (Rev 22:1 NIV)*
- *On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev 22:2 NIV)*



# Scripture

- *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (Rev 22:3 NIV)*
- *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Rev 22:4 NIV)*
- *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (Rev 22:5 NIV)*



# Introduction

- Now that it's springtime, many of us are resuming a once-a-week exercise routine we call ...  
**mowing the lawn!**
- Some of us will pay someone else to do it.
- But, if we have a lawn, it needs to be mowed.





# Introduction

- Often, however, mowing is simply the first step.
- After mowing, we may grab the weed whacker, and then, if we are particularly fussy, apply some grass shearers to more delicate or intricate areas.





# Introduction

- In addition, some of us have rolled and edged the lawn, applied **weed killer** and **pesticides**, dug out crabgrass and then spread fertilizer.
- This of course, ensures that we will have to begin the whole process over again sooner than later!





# Cynthia Crossen

➤ Writing in The Wall Street Journal about the bustle of lawn care, staff reporter Cynthia Crossen comments . . .





# Cynthia Crossen

- ❧ “Lawns of smooth, green grass pit humans against nature in a pitifully lopsided contest.
- ❧ Nature has all the big guns: . . .
- ❧ moles, voles and other obnoxious animals, droughts, floods, insects, viruses and, the coup de grace, weeds.”





# Question

- So why do we do all that work?
- Prior to the 20th century, Americans were too busy raising food and feeding livestock to devote much time to beautifying the ground around one's home.
- But, with the advent of suburbs, the salaries that enabled people to live there and, especially, with the introduction of the rotary mower, things changed.





# Better Homes & Garden

- Landscaping developed as a career.
- Those practicing it encouraged their customers to have lawns that were a “velvet robe” for their home.
- **Better Homes and Gardens** even argued that not to mow was “to attack one’s neighbors.”
- So now, one way or another, if we have a lawn, we see that it's regularly mowed and tended.

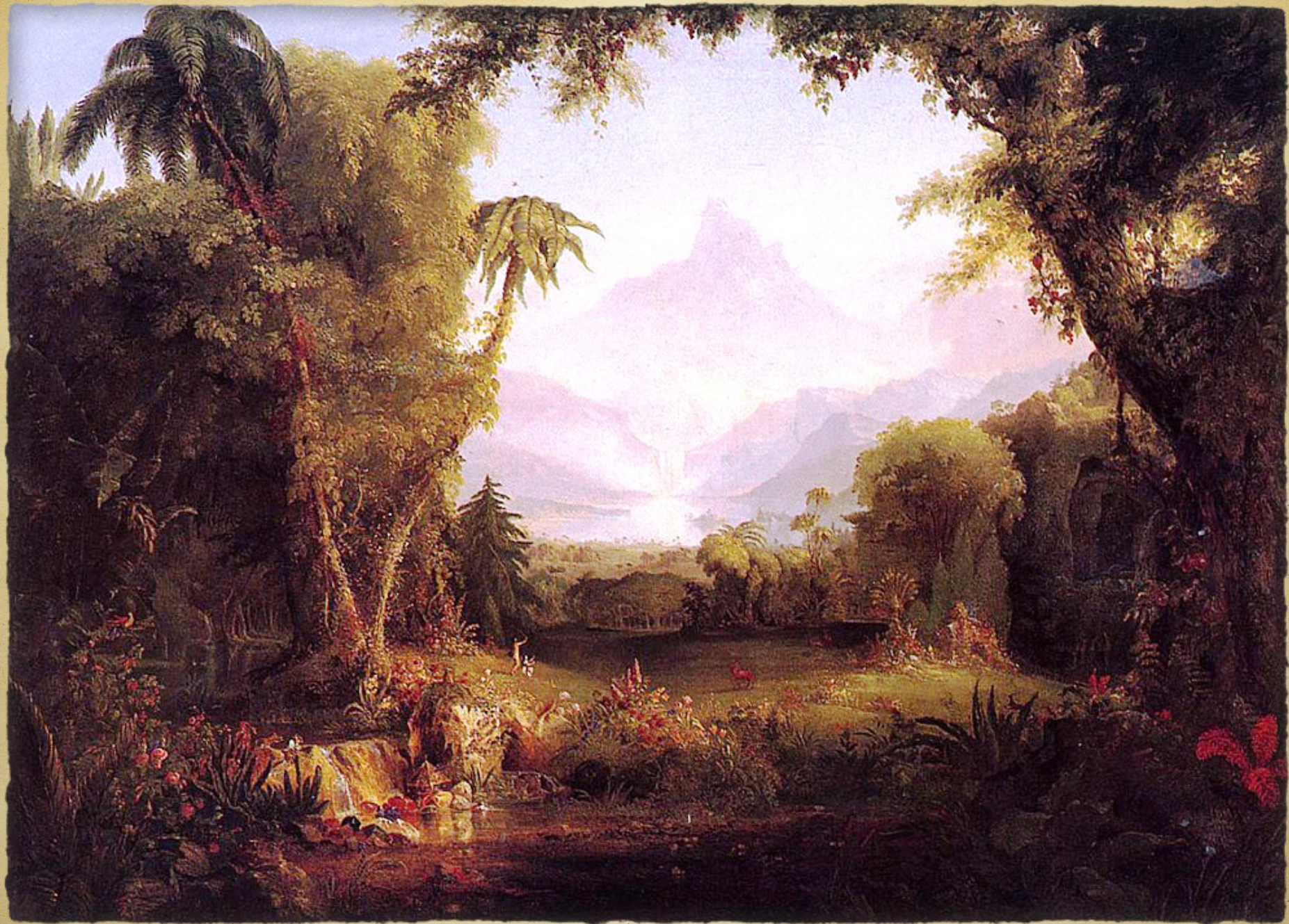




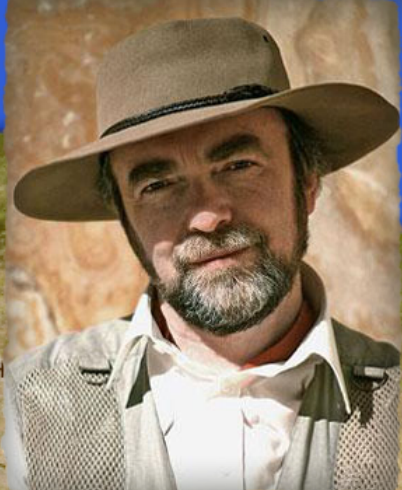
# The Lord's Lawn

- Of course, we're here to talk about **God's Word**, not give lawn care advice.
- In fact, the word "lawn" does not appear in the Bible.
- The word "yard" does, but only as a reference to an enclosed area that functions as a courtyard.
- The word "garden," however, appears about 50 times, and it often refers to a location by a home where the resident could spend leisure time.











Copyrighted Material

# From Eden to Exile

THE 5000-YEAR HISTORY OF THE  
PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE



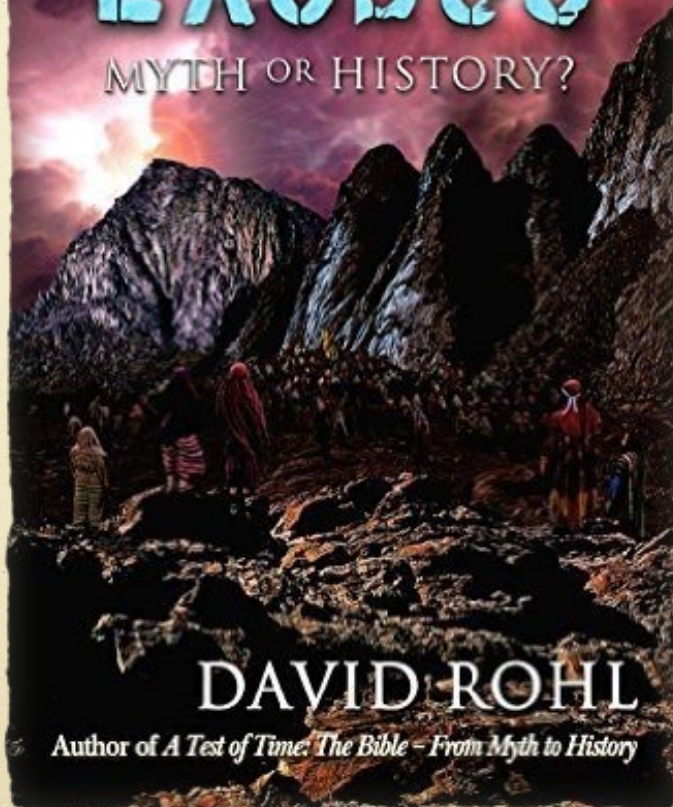
DAVID ROHL

Author of *Pharaohs and Kings, Legend  
and The Lords of Araris*

Copyrighted Material

# EXODUS

MYTH OR HISTORY?



DAVID ROHL

Author of *A Test of Time: The Bible - From Myth to History*



# Restoration

- Let us look again what the Apostle John says in Revelation 22.
- *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev 22:1–2 NIV)*
- What does this sound like to you?



# Restoration

- This description is of a **garden-like** setting, and, in the context of the whole Bible, it implies a restoration of the **Garden of Eden**.
- The Bible introduces us to that garden in Genesis.
- Eden was a place of direct fellowship with God, and it represented fullness of life — life before it was corrupted by sin and all the accompanying consequences.
- And, here in Revelation, it tells us of an Eden restored.



# Face-to-Face

- The Bible begins and ends with a garden — a garden of the divine presence; a garden where creation and Creator are one; a garden of communion and companionship.
- In the **New Jerusalem** garden, says John, citizens will see the face of God (Rev. 22:4), which has huge implications.



# Face-to-Face

- When Moses spoke with God on Mount Sinai, God told him “*you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live*” (Exodus 33:20).
- Yet, here in New Jerusalem, seeing God is a commonplace occurrence, which, far from taking life, is what makes life glorious.
- As John puts it, “*They need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever*” (Rev. 22:5).







# Ezekiel

- Ezekiel was a priest who was snatched from his homeland in Judah and forced to live in exile in a foreign land with many of his friends and countrymen.
- In **Babylon**, Ezekiel became God's spokesperson to the exiles.
- He foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the grief this event would bring to the Jews, his people.





# Ezekiel

- But then, Ezekiel saw a vision of God's restoration of the people.
- He says, *"This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden ..."*  
...





# Baton Rouge

- In 1987, when Sally and I left Minnesota to prepare ourselves for full-time ministry, we moved into an apartment complex that was definitely a step down from what we had previously enjoyed.
- We not only lived in a dwelling where cockroaches were as big as small animals, but where many students from LSU used as their dorm.
- In fact, next door to us a group of boys brought in a pool table and played pool at all hours of the day.



# Favorite Scripture

- So what do you think was my favorite Scripture?
- *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*  
(Rom 8:18 NIV)
- *[A]s it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”* (1 Cor 2:9 NIV)



# New Jerusalem

- According to the book of Revelation, the New Jerusalem will be in the shape of a **cube**, 1,400 miles wide and 1,400 miles high.
- When it comes down from heaven after the Millennium, it will be so beautiful that the Apostle John describes her as *a bride dressed for her husband*.
- Then in a loud voice he hears, “*Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*” (Rev 21:3 NIV)



# New Jerusalem

- And what do you think will be the first order of business?
- *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Rev 21:4 NIV)*
- In fact, there will be no need for the sun because the whole city will be lit by the glory coming from God’s face.





# Conclusion

- So then, with these wonderful and great promises, what kind of people should we be?
- The Apostle Peter says, . . .
  - . . . *dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.* (2 Pet 3:14 NIV)
  - *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* (2 Pet 3:9 NIV)



# Conclusion

- The final words of the Apostle Peter are as follows . . .
- *Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, **be on your guard** so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your **secure position.** (2 Pet 3:17 NIV)*
- *But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be **glory both now and forever! Amen.** (2 Pet 3:18 NIV)*



# Garden of Paradise

