

“But you, when
you fast, anoint
your head and wash
your face”

Matthew 6:17

THY KINGDOM COME



- *Fasting and our return to the Kingdom of God*



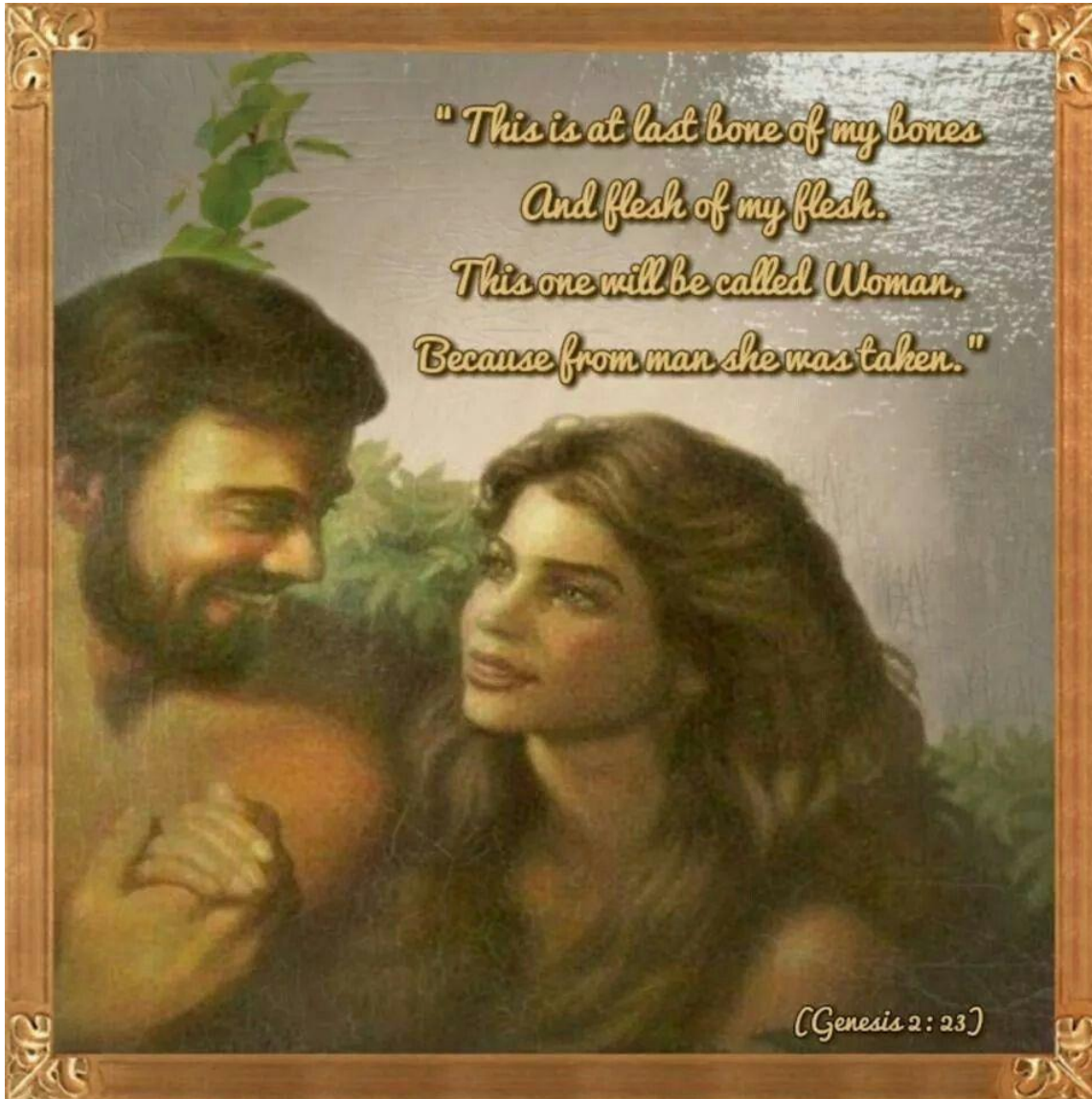
HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Garden
2. The Fall
3. The Return

THE GARDEN (1)

- The first presentation of the Kingdom of God.
- Man delights in God's presence and is comforted by His guidance.
- Adam is given dominion over the Creation and honored by it.

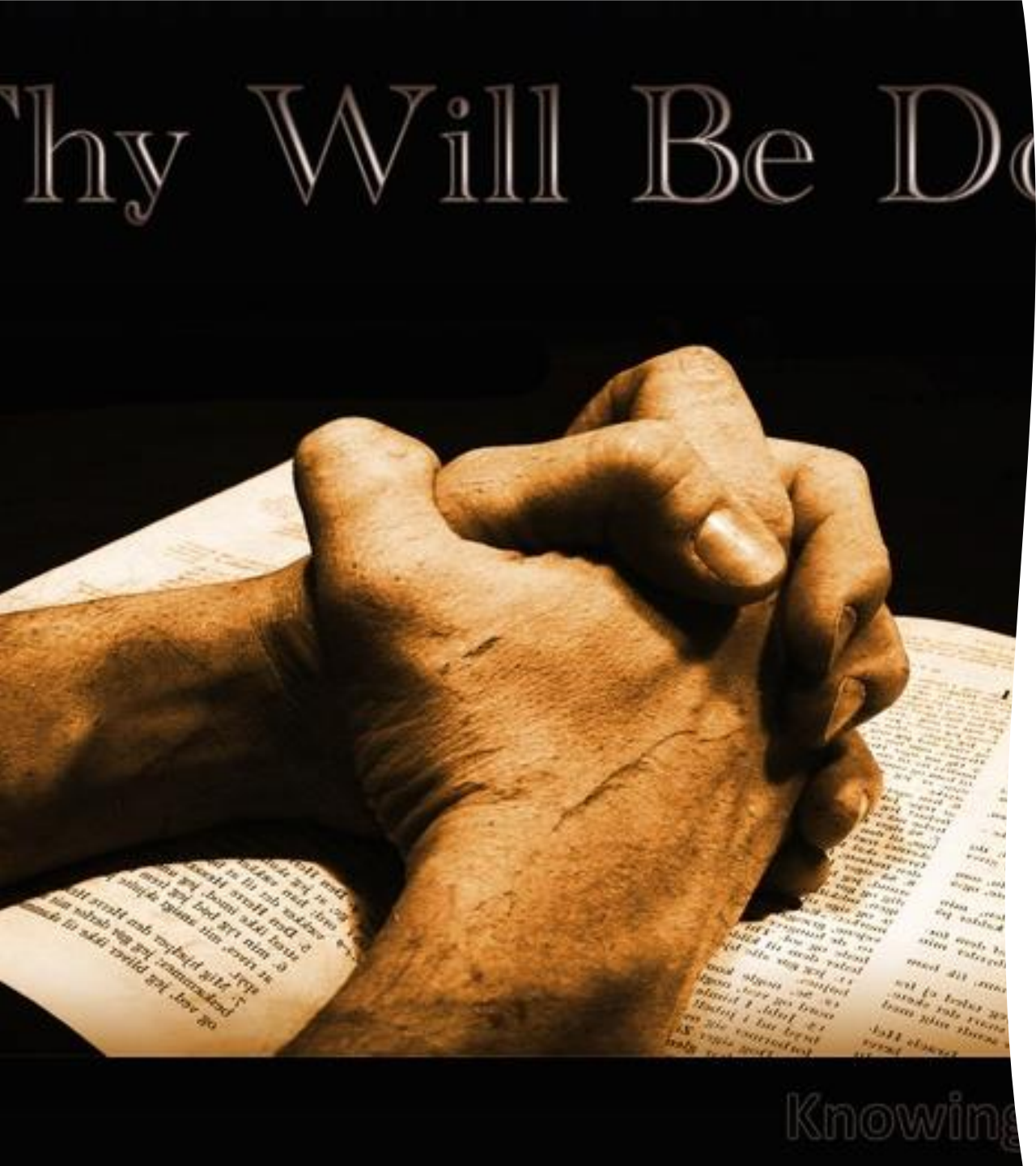




THE GARDEN (2)

- The life of peace and harmony.
- Adam's love and compassion towards Eve: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh"

Genesis 2:23



THE GARDEN ⁽³⁾

- One Condition for Man to observe: Submission to God's Lordship.

THE FALL (1)

- Breaking God's Law and getting broken by it.
- The Fear and Anxiety.
- The loss of control and the humiliation:
 - ✓ The Prodigal Son
 - ✓ The People of Israel





THE FALL (2)

- The loss of compassion and the rise of evil among men:
 - ✓ “The woman you gave me”
 - ✓ Cain and Abel



THE RETURN ⁽¹⁾

- The incarnation of the Son of God and the restoration of the Kingdom “ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” *Matthew 4:17*
- If “Thy Kingdom Come”, then “Thy will be done”



THE RETURN (2)

- The restoration:
 - ✓ Fasting: Control over my self
 - ✓ Prayers: Delighting and finding comfort in God again
 - ✓ Charity: The compassion toward my brother and sister



THE RETURN ⁽³⁾

- With the restoring triad comes an essential change in mindset:
 1. Breaking God's command and losing my freedom, joy, and sense of purpose.
 2. I only fool myself when I look for shortcuts



THE RETURN (4)

3. With Fasting, prayers, and charity there should be a change in heart and abandonment of the evil doings and the works of darkness.
4. God's command is for my own benefit. "They shall be My people, and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, *for the good of them and their children after them*" *Jeremiah 32: 38 - 39*



THE RETURN (5)

5. It's only when I am a member in His Kingdom here, that I can hope to be in His Kingdom in the age to come.
6. We start the Fast because we are in Him and in communion with His Body; the Church.