

Justice & the New Day by Ken Wilson Easter 2007

The entire biblical narrative could be understood as the search for a garden where all is well.

ACT I: Genesis 2

- + a garden where all is well with God, us, all living things
- + a garden that says, "It's a New Day!"
- + a garden "with a river running through it"
- + "Let justice roll down like a river, righteousness as an everlasting stream."
(Amos 5:24)

- + the first injustice: a breach of trust as humanity grasped for the one thing in the garden forbidden, knowledge they weren't ready for.
- + Act I ends with humanity wandering further into exile.

ACT II: Ezekiel 47

- + injustice has spread: Babylonians overrunning the Temple in Jerusalem
- + In Babylon, the priest-prophet Ezekiel (son of man) has a vision...
- + A New Garden-Temple
- + A River Runs Through It
- + An altar: because justice demands a price for injustice to be undone

ACT III: John 7

- + Jesus in Herod's Temple
- + Feast of Tabernacles (dwelling)
- + Priest bring water from the pool to side of the altar
- + Jesus cries out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink...
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (see Jn. 7: 37-38)

ACT IV: John 19-20

"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid." (John 19: 41)

A garden being the perfect setting for a new day: "Early, on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance." (John 20: 1)

"But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been..." (Jn. 20: 11-12)

"At this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 'Woman,' he said, 'why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?' Thinking it was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means Teacher.)" (20: 14-16)

ACT V: Revelation 20-22

- + a garden-city reintegrating heaven & earth in a New Day
- + a river runs through it "for the healing of the nations"
- + implies the righting of wrongs (justice)

So what do we do? Form an ACT IV club, where all we do is sing victory songs and wait for ACT V?

- + We're part of the drama now. We're part of the story.
- + Since we know the story line we're empowered to fill in the blanks that lead to ACT V.
- + the story line is simple: "Let justice roll down like a river..."

Further Reflection:

<http://mysticalshmystical.blogspot.com/>
the world through the eyes of bill elkington