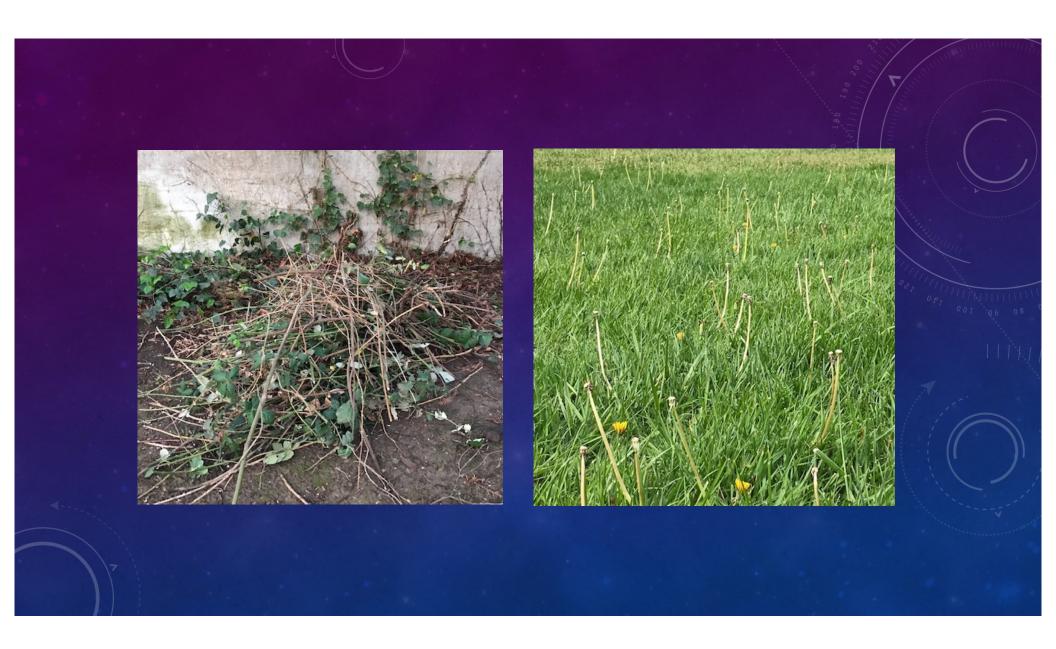


**8** The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. **9** Out of the ground the Lord God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it.

**19** And out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; With hard labor you shall eat *from* it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



**EXODUS 1:8-11** 

(NASB)

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, otherwise they will multiply, and in the event of war, they will also join those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land."

11 So they appointed taskmasters over them to oppress them with hard labor.

## ECCLESIASTES 2:18-20

(NASB)

18 So I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is futility. 20 Therefore I completely despaired over all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

**50** I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—**52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

756 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**58** Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



- 1. IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOUR TALENTS BE USED FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD?
- 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO STAND FIRM AS YOU LABOR IN THE LORD?
- 3. WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE?

