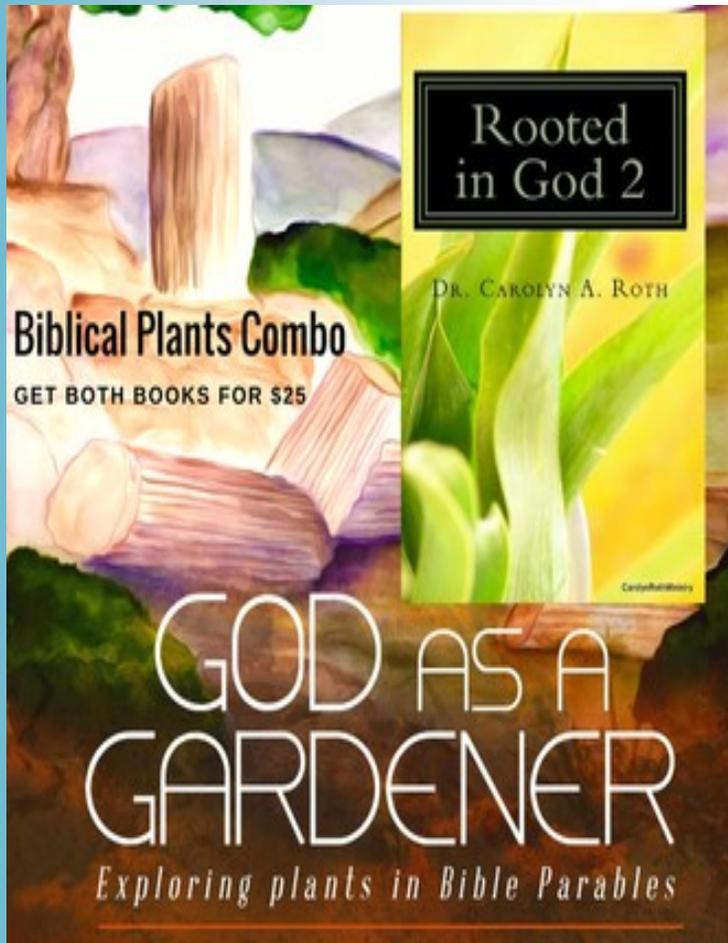


Carolyn Roth Ministry

Newsletter

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What a Theologian is Saying:

Dr. Carolyn Roth is an award winning biblical gardener and celebrated author of books on plants in the Bible. I cannot think of a better person to be writing a book that is sure to capture the interest of millions of Christians who want to learn more about the Bible: Dr. Gerald R. McDermott, Anglican Chair of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School.

Both books are set up as Bible studies.

February is a time to start thinking about gardening. Just in time for Spring planting, I am running a special on two of my books on Bible plants. Both books sell individually for \$15.00; however, if you buy both in February, the cost is \$25.00. Plus, you pay only \$4.00 shipping. Go to my website to make a purchase.

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Endorsement

The private and small group devotional value of *God as a Gardener* is limitless, life changing: and God-exalting: Dr. Ed Bez, President of Biblical Botanical Gardens Society.



African Bdellium plant growing in nature.

First Bible Plant – it isn't what you thought!

God planted the Garden of Eden east of Israel. A river ran through Eden and watered it. After leaving Eden, the river formed the head waters of the Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates Rivers. The Pishon River wound through the land of Havilah, noted for its gold and bdellium, an aromatic resin. The aromatic resin was from the bdellium tree, which was the first plant identified in the Bible. For years, I would have identified the fig tree if asked the first plant identified in Genesis.

The bdellium tree (*Commiphora africana*) is native to sub-Saharan Africa. Probably, it didn't grow in Israel. Ancient Egyptian women carried small bdellium-filled pouches as perfume. The Hebrew word for bdellium comes from *bâdal*, which means "to separate, divide, or distinguish from." The bdellium tree symbolized separation between the Garden of Eden and outside lands. Eden included plants for beauty and food; it was all sufficient. In contrast, the land of Havilah was noteworthy only for its gold and one tree, the bdellium.

Living in Jesus is like living in Eden. With Jesus our lives are beautiful, fertile, and satisfying. When we are separated from him, our lives are bland and unproductive. Often, we hunger for something that isn't present. That something is **Jesus** and a life lived with him.

Reflection: St. Paul assured Christians that nothing can stop Jesus from loving us. What stops, or separates, us from loving Jesus?

Carolyn will be giving a presentation on Bible plants that grow in containers on March 20, 2018 at 12:00 noon at the Mount Pleasant United Methodist church in Roanoke, Virginia.