

Carolyn Roth Ministry

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Newsletter



After Eden

God planted a garden, the Garden of Eden, and placed mankind in it. The Hebrew word for Eden means “delight.” The Garden of Delight was a place of pristine natural beauty. All types of plants, i.e., trees, flowers, grains, etc., grew there. A river watered Eden. After leaving Eden, the river flowed through the land of Havilah, where bdellium (an aromatic resin tree) grew.

Perfume was made from bdellium tree resin. The resin seeped through tree bark after horizontal cuts were made on the tree. Ancient Egyptian women carried bdellium pieces in cloths which they lifted to their nose in foul-smelling surroundings or used to release a pleasant odor from their bodies.

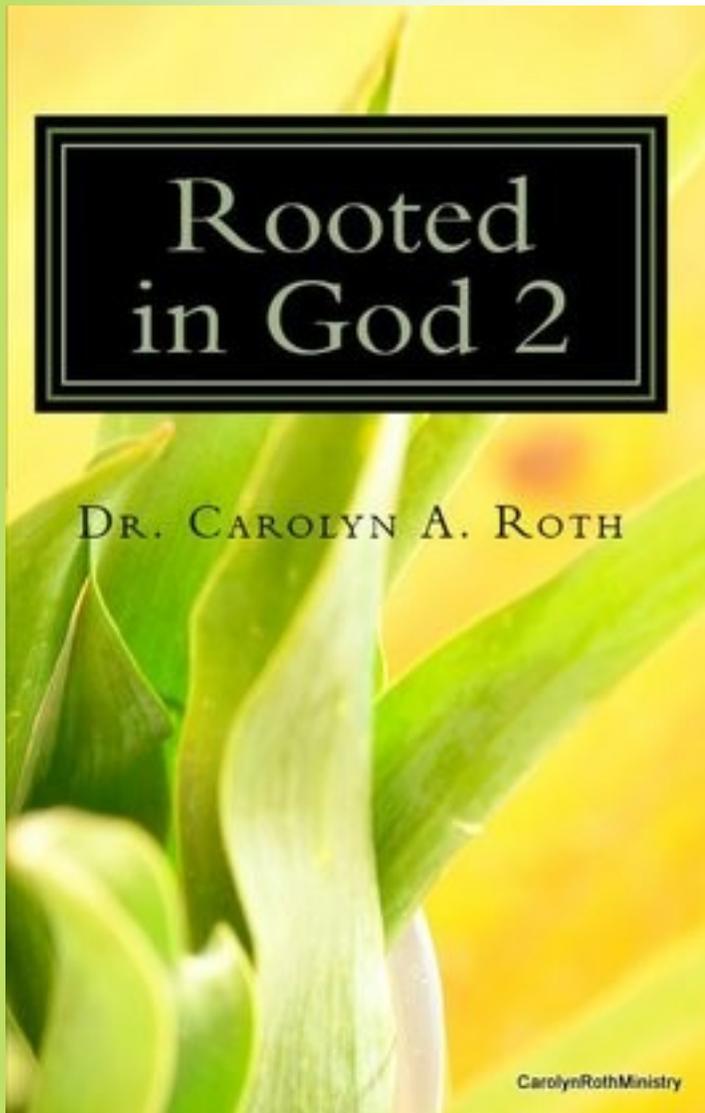
Bdellium comes from the Hebrew word “*bâdal*,” which means separate, or distinct from. The bdellium tree symbolized the separation between the Garden of Eden and outside lands. Eden included plants for beauty and food. In contrast, Havilah was notable for only one plant—the bdellium tree which produces a sweet-smelling resin.

Living with Christ is like living in Eden; life is beautiful, fertile, and satisfying. Separated from Christ (outside of Eden), life is flat and unproductive. Our surroundings and our actions are a stink in our nostrils despite attempts to cover them over with perfume.

Many times what we don’t do is as important as what we do in our effort to have a meaningful relationship with Christ. At this time, my country is experiencing a pandemic. Churches are closed. By not having a set time each week to worship God, do we put space between God and ourselves? The best we can do when we can’t leave home is watch church services on social media and read biblical literature, such as devotionals.

Reflection: How do you put space between you and Christ?





Description

Like us, plants groan under the impact of sin in the world. They wait in eager expectation for a new earth to be revealed.

Most people are unaware that the Bible mentions over 125 different plants. Yet, Holy Scriptures contain no excess information or "filler." Every scripture is given by God and is valuable for instruction in holy living. Whether a fruit tree, cereal grain, or thistle, each plant has a purpose in Bible stories. Plants had meanings in ancients' lives, and that meaning extends to Christian lives of 21st individuals. We can learn, or perhaps refused to learn, Godly lessons from Bible plants.

Sheltering in Place

Redeeming the Time

All I can say is thank God my home is laid out so that Bruce has his space and I have mine. He is downstairs watching television and I am up stairs writing. My friend tells me she can't even go the bathroom without her husband checking on her. Oh my!

But, Bruce spends part of his morning "Getting Centered." That means he has his devotions including prayers. Then, he checks Craig's List to see antique cars offered for sale.

I finished a devotional and have it out for publication. Currently, I am researching and writing about lore, legends and lies about Bible characters. Wow, there are a lot of myths (legends) out there! Even the Ark Encounter in Kentucky got the shape of the ark wrong.

I am cooking delicious meals. Bruce thinks he is in heaven with all the nutritious and tasty options. One thing I noticed: I no longer use a cook book when I cook. I just put into the recipe what tastes good to us and what we have in the pantry. Also, I still cook like I did when I was growing up. You know, 6 children in the family. Good thing Bruce is willing to eat left overs.

Keeping in touch with friends during times of social distancing is important. Primarily, I use Facebook. Church services are streamed and most days there is a devotional from Cave Springs United Methodist Church.

Don't forget to send checks to your church even though the building is physically closed.

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