

# *Carolyn Roth Ministry*

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## *Newsletter*



### **Consequences\***

#### **The Word of the Lord**

Genesis 3.17-20: To Adam he (God) said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

#### **Meditation**

After Adam and Eve’s rebellion, the world, including plant life, became subject to death. Because of Adam’s disobedience, God cursed the ground. From that point to the present time the entire creation groans (Romans 3.22-23). Creation’s groaning will continue until the redemption of human bodies at the end of the ages.

After God cursed the ground, Adam toiled (worked, sweated) to raise vegetables and grow fruit to feed his family. As Adam and his offspring plowed and planted crops, some plants became weeds. The most troublesome weeds were thorns and thistles.

Scholars don’t know which thistle grew first when Adam tilled the soil. The milk thistle, called St. Mary’s thistle, is widespread around projected locations of the Garden of Eden and a likely candidate for the first thistle.

In the Genesis story, the symbolism of thistles is consequences. Consequences are the direct outcome of an action or its end result. Adam and Eve’s disobedience and rebellion against God’s direction to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil resulted in consequences to their lives, to their livelihood, and to planet Earth.

When the serpent tempted Adam and Eve, they could have responded differently. What would have happened if Adam and Eve (as a couple) discussed possible consequences of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil before they took the first bite of its fruit? Perhaps, they would have eaten the fruit; but, perhaps they would have decided not to eat the fruit as they contemplated alternative actions.

Consider ways that you rebelled against God, i.e., how you disobeyed his statutes. List alternative ways you could have behaved in some of these situations had you thought longer. What were consequences from your rebellion? What anguish have you caused yourself?

**Reflection:** How do you rebel against God? What have you learned from the consequences of your rebellions against God?

\* taken from *Gardening Genesis* (2020). CarolynRothMinistry.com

## Cinnamon Tree

A Korean Myth

A giant cinnamon tree stood on earth. It was the only tree on earth. Fairies came from heaven to rest in its shade. No one knew how old the tree was; it just grew larger and larger.

When the wind blew, a fairy felt the tree's movement. She came down from heaven in response to its call.

Once when the fairy was nestled in the arms of the giant tree, she conceived a son.

When the boy was seven years-old, the fairy returned to heaven. The son grew up in the tender care of his father.

After a long time the cinnamon tree died; however, the son lived. He was the first man.

*Have you spent much time thinking about where the first human came from? Which tale is most credible, i.e., Garden of Eden or Korean cin-*

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## What are we doing as we respond to Covid-19?

The spiritual man that he is, Bruce is having increased devotions and meditations. Each morning he gets me a coke, then we spend about an hour discussing some type of spiritual issue. We think that Christ's teachings are paramount and all else is very peripheral, or secondary. *What about you, do you give Moses' or Paul's teachings equality with Christ's teaching?*

I have decided to enroll in another course on Old Testament at Liberty University. It starts on 24 August. I purchased and started to read a textbook. "Overawed" best describes my response to the content. Book is so much more understandable than the ones last year.

Bruce installed a new dryer vent for Elaine and bought her a dryer. He tells me that her bathroom basin is coming out of the wall and needs to be replaced. This morning he is check out basins and cabinets.

Another book is (of course) one of my tasks. *Lore, Legends, and Lies, God's words and ancient myths*. The premise is that the *Bible* and other cultural legends/myths influenced each other. Publication date is September, 2020.

My final activity is learning how to make a Book Trailer for books I published. My web designer, tells me I need to update my skill set and learn to produce videos to advertise my books. It's learn how or pay a producer about \$500.00/ 90 second Book Trailer. Knowing me, you know which one I opted for.

Our church remains closed. I am no longer watching the video services on Sunday morning. *What about you, do you still watch your church's services?*

Our spring season was wet. Flowers in front and on the deck are blooming. Because I am spending more time at home, I take better care of them. Flowers responded positively.