

## Explaining The Tree Of Life

'Out of the ground God created every tree to grow, pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden close to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil ... God commanded Adam saying, "You may freely eat from every tree in the garden but not from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil for in the day you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:9, 16 & 17).

'When Eve saw the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was good for food, it was a delight to the eyes, the Tree was to be desired to make one wise she took of its fruit and ate then she gave some to her husband with her and he ate. The eyes of both of them were immediately opened and they realised they were both naked ... God said, "Who told you, you were naked? Have you eaten from the Tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam said, "Eve whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the Tree and I ate."

God said to Eve, "What is this you have done?"

Eve said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate" ... To Adam God said, "Because you have listened to your wife's voice and have eaten of the Tree I commanded you saying, "You will not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life."

God said, "Behold, Adam and Eve have become knowledgeable like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now, lest he put forth his hand and take from the Tree of Life and eat and live forever ... " Therefore God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So God drove out Adam and placed Cherubs at the east of the Garden of Eden and the flame of a sword which turned every way to guard the way to the Tree of Life" (Genesis 3:6, 7, 11 to 13, 17, 22 to 24).

The Lord demands complete, total, unquestioning obedience to His every spoken word, command and instruction. God did not explain to Adam, if he ate from the forbidden tree, he and all of his descendents would die spiritually then they would die physically and be eternally damned, He just said, "You will surely or definitely die." It seems as though Adam did not comprehend the enormity of death but God expected complete obedience to His direct command not to take fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Before Adam and Eve disobeyed, they had no knowledge of evil. It did not exist in their minds. They could not have understood what death was because before they sinned, nothing had ever died. Everything God created was perfect. Eve disobeyed first by eating the forbidden fruit and initially nothing happened. God had told Adam not to eat fruit from the forbidden tree then Adam told Eve but God did not tell Eve Himself so Eve actually disobeyed the words of Adam. But God was angry because Adam had listen to the voice of Eve and not the voice of God so when Adam disobeyed God's spoken word by eating from the wrong tree, literally, all hell broke loose. The Tree of Life was designed by God to cause mankind to live forever if they ate the fruit so there would be no death. Before Adam ate from the wrong tree, if he had eaten fruit from the Tree of Life, there would not have been a problem but after Adam brought sin and death to the world by disobeying God's spoken Word, God did not want mankind to live forever in its fallen state so He evicted Adam and Eve out of their beautiful Garden home then guarded the way to the Tree of Life. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit and he blamed God for giving him Eve. Eve blamed the deceptive serpent. If they had repented of their sin instead of blaming each other, the outcome may have been very different, but they brought sin and death to the earth. We are made up of body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Our bodies die but our soul lives forever with the spirit. Jesus came thousands of years later to save our souls from eternal damnation, not to save our bodies of flesh. Our flesh cannot enter heaven (1 Corinthians 15:50).

Holy living and living with the Wisdom of God has been equated to being like the Tree of Life. 'Happy is the person who finds Wisdom and understanding. Wisdom's good profit is better than receiving silver and Wisdom's return is better than fine gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies. None of the things you can desire are to be compared to Wisdom. Length of days is in Wisdom's right hand. In Wisdom's left hand are riches and honour. Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness. All Wisdom's paths are peace. Wisdom is a Tree of Life to those who lay hold of her. Happy is everyone who retains Wisdom. By Wisdom the Lord God founded the earth. By understanding He established the heavens. By His knowledge the depths of the sea were broken up and the skies give us the dew ... The fruit of the righteous is a Tree of Life. Those who are wise win souls (for eternal life) ... Hope deferred makes the heart sick but when longing is fulfilled it is a Tree of Life ... A gentle tongue is like a Tree of Life' (Proverbs 3:13 to 20; 11:30 & 31; 13:12; 15:4).

'The ungodly wilfully forget, the heavens were from of old (ancient times) and the earth formed (created) out of water and amid water by the (spoken) Word of God. The world that was, being overflowed with water (during Noah's flood) perished. The heavens that now exist and the earth, by the same Word (of God) have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... The Judgement Day of the Lord will come as suddenly as a thief in the night, when the heavens will be destroyed with a great noise and the universe will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up. Since all these things will be destroyed by fire like this, what kind of people ought you to be in

holy living and Godliness? Looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the Day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements (universe, solar system, milky way, planets, the moon, comets etc) will melt with fervent heat? But, according to God's promise, we (the repented redeemed) look for new heavens and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:5 to 7 then 10 to 13). The newly created earth will not be this earth, it is going to be a completely newly created, perfect earth, created for redeemed, righteous people to dwell. All ungodly and wicked people who rejected God while they were on this earth will be shut out (Revelation 21:8).

The Lord promised to create a new heavens and a new earth to replace this earth and our universe, which He had originally created as perfect but have been corrupted by sin and death. The area we call space is loaded with space junk, old satellites and other waste. The earth is filled with idolatry, wickedness, violence and death. After Adam brought sin to the world, at some point in ancient time, the Lord moved His holy Tree of Life to the newly created heavens and the new earth. The Tree of Life will have another purpose. Originally it was designed to make humans live forever but redeemed people are already destined to live forever with God, so the Tree of Life is now for the healing of redeemed people, both physically and emotionally. This corrupted earth and the entire universe is destined to be destroyed by fire but the righteous people who walk with God will be taken to the new earth and heaven where God Himself will come and dwell with His people. This is what God has promised, "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth and the former things (events and sorrows that happened on earth) will not be remembered nor come to mind ... As the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make will remain before Me, says God, so your offspring and your name will remain" (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22). "I (Apostle John) saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth have passed away and been destroyed and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride, beautifully adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people. He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things (all sorrow, sadness, stress etc from earth) have passed away. God Who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:1 to 5).

The new things include a new incorruptible spiritual body that can never die. There is a natural body and a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:44). Our new incorruptible bodies will be similar to the body we had on earth. When Jesus had risen from the dead, His new immortal body was so similar, some of the disciples recognised Him immediately. The amazing Tree of Life is already on the new earth and only righteous people will have access to it. 'Those who have a (spiritual) ear let them hear what the Holy Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To those who overcome (difficulties) I will give permission to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of My God ... He (the holy angel) showed me (Apostle John) a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus), in the middle of its street. On this side of the river and on that side was the Tree of Life bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. There will be no curse (of death) any more. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it and His servants serve Him. They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no night and they need no lamp light for the Lord God will illuminate them. They will reign forever and ever ... Blessed are those who do His commandments so they may have the right to the Tree of Life and may enter in by the gates into the city (the new Jerusalem) ... "I, Jesus have sent My holy angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies. I am the root and the offspring of David the Bright and Morning Star." The Holy Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Those who hear let them say, "Come!" Those who are thirsty let them come. Those who desire let them take the water of life freely. I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this Book (of Revelation) if anyone adds to them, may God add to him the plagues written in this Book. If anyone takes away from the words of the Book of this Prophecy, may God take away his part from the Tree of Life and out of the holy city (Jerusalem), which are written in this Book. Jesus Who testifies these things say, "Yes, I come quickly." Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints (God's holy, righteous people). Amen (Revelation 2:7; 22:1 to 5, 14, 16 to 21).

We hope this Bible study will clear up any confusion regarding the Tree of Life and its purposes. The Tree is no longer on this earth so looking for it is pointless. When we see the Lord face to face He will not be a stranger to the righteous people who have walked with Him and stayed committed to Him even through very difficult circumstances. Job said, "As for me, I know my Redeemer lives. In the end (end times) He will stand upon the earth. After my skin is destroyed (after death and burial) then in my flesh (Job's new heavenly body) I will see God, Whom I, even I, will see, acting on my side (my behalf). My eyes will see Him and not as a stranger" (Job 19:25 to 27).

Amen and God bless you.

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