

# “THE TREE OF LIFE”

## INTRODUCTION

- I. In the creation week, God created trees for man’s food and pleasure. Gen. 2:9
  - A. The continuation of trees was possible through **seed**, and each tree reproduced “after it’s kind.” Gen. 1:11-12
  - B. There were **two** trees that were special—in the midst of the garden.
    1. Both trees had “fruit” of which Adam and Eve COULD partake, but nothing is specifically said to it’s having **seed** for reproduction.
      - a. The “tree of life” was a tree that would sustain physical life forever.
      - b. The “tree of knowledge of good and evil” was that which could result in death (both spiritually and physically).
    2. Adam was forbidden to eat of ONE of the trees, and prohibited from eating of the other.
- II. Now let’s look at the “tree of life” that was **first** and **only** in the garden of Eden.

## DISCUSSION

### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, let’s look at the Old Testament references to the “TREE OF LIFE.”

- A. The **only** Old Testament reference to this tree are in the book of Genesis.
  1. The first reference is in Gen. 2:9. (Read and discuss)
  2. The second reference to it in Gen. 3:22 (Read and discuss)
- B. These references call it “the” tree of life (making it the ONLY tree of life), while other references in the Old Testament uses the term “figuratively”, to “a’ tree of life.
  1. All 4 references are made by Solomon. Prov. 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4 (*wisdom, fruit of the righteous, desire fulfilled, soothing tongue*).
  2. Another reference uses **language** similar to the New Testament references to the tree of life, as we shall later examine. Ezek. 47:12
    - a. The context is that of Ezekiel’s vision of a river flowing from the temple of God, as described in verses 1-11.
    - b. The text speaks of “trees” (plural), but the “tree of life” is not mentioned.
    - c. However, the language is very **similar** to John’s description of the “tree of life” in the book of Revelation, while Ezekiel is giving a figurative description of the inheritance the Israelites were to enjoy in Canaan.

### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, let’s look at the New Testament references to the “TREE OF LIFE.”

- A. The first passage records a **promise** for Christians who overcome adversity. Rev. 2:7 (Read and discuss).
- B. The second passage is description of the **location** of the tree of life in heaven. Rev.22:1-2 (Read and discuss, and compare to Ezekiel’s vision of Ezek. 47:1-12)
  1. When Adam sinned, the Garden of Eden was off-limits to him, and the tree is obviously transferred to heaven.
  2. Now, the tree of life is available in the garden or paradise of God. Gen. 2:7; 22:1-2
- C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final passage to the “tree of life” is found in Rev. 22:14. (Read)

## CONCLUSION

- I. At this point, we pose a question, **“Just what IS the tree of life?”**
  - A. In searching the available materials for this study, we find that there are **many** ideas as to what it is.

1. Some think that the whole thing is a “myth” that crept its way into scripture.
2. Some think of it as “figurative language”, describing the fact that God is the One who somehow provides eternal life.
3. Some think of the tree as being “representative” of the love of God.
4. Some say the tree of knowledge of good and evil was **actually** the “tree of life”, but the text speaks of “the tree of life” AND “the tree of knowledge of good and evil”—they were 2 separate trees.
5. Some suggest that the tree of knowledge of good and evil was the “date palm” tree, but it seems strange that anyone could reach such a conclusion.

B. Whether it is figurative or literal language, we choose to believe that it is **real**, and like to approach the subject from that viewpoint.

1. God USED literal language to describe it.
2. If it means something else, we can’t go wrong is studying about it’s **reality**.

## II. Another question, **“Who shall partake of the tree of life?”**

A. The obedient ones have a given right to partake, for they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

B. The devil deceived Eve about sin, which kept her **away** from the “tree of life” in Eden, and today he deceives many through temptation and false doctrine—to keep souls away from the “tree of life” in heaven—don’t let him keep YOU from it.

1. If you have never obeyed the commandments of Christ, why not put Him on in baptism and enjoy salvation in view of the tree of life in heaven?
2. If you have given up your right to the tree of life by having returned to sin, why not now confess sins and let us pray for your salvation?

II. The invitation is yours—right now—while we stand and sing for your encouragement.

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