

TWO TREES IN EDEN

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INTRODUCTION

It was a cool evening in Eden. As usual in the evening a bluish colored mist, the Shekinah Glory of God, permeated the atmosphere in the Garden of Eden and the hearts of the First Couple. Adam and Eve were enjoying the peaceful setting in which they were living. The Angels of God rejoiced over the New Creation God had recently formed out of chaos.

Light was a new concept where chaos had ruled the darkness before Creation. The beauty and splendor of Heaven and the Hosts of Heaven were present during those days of Creation and the days immediately following.

There was plenty of time for Adam and Eve to enjoy the life they were now sharing with each other. It was Heaven on Earth. Adam and Eve had everything they needed to sustain them in the Garden of Paradise. There were plenty of delectable and delicious fruit trees in the Garden which provided them with everything they needed to sustain them and keep them alive.

There were various fruit trees in the Garden which God had planted in Eden for the First Couple. All but one of the trees in the Garden of their Delight had been placed there to sustain them and to remind them of their Creator, God. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from one of the trees in the midst (middle) of the Garden. That Tree was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Tree of Life in the middle of the Garden was to be their main source of food. Yes, there were many other trees in

the Garden, and their fruit was to be eaten daily. The fruit which the Tree of Life produced was the fruit which gave Adam and Eve spiritual life. Through the Tree of Life they communicated with and worshipped the giver of Life, God. As long as Adam and Eve were eating the fruit from the Tree of Life---Life sustained them.

On the other hand, God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or they would SURELY DIE. The consequence of eating the forbidden fruit would be spiritual death. The fruit on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would bring them tragedy and death if they ate of the Tree.

It was almost time for Adam and Eve to spend some time with their Creator in the cool of the evening. Every evening there was a time set aside for Adam and Eve to communicate with and worship the Father. The love of the Father was something the First Couple experienced from the beginning as they walked and talked with God daily. Nothing unpleasant to the eyes or to the hearts of Adam and Eve had ever entered into the Garden at that time.

There was a Serpent God had created who was called the "most subtle beast of the field." Although he goes by many names, we know him today as Lucifer, or Satan. Adam and Eve were given charge of the Garden, and God instructed them to dress and keep the Garden and to guard it from all intruders who would do them or their garden harm.

As Adam and Eve were preparing to commune with the Father that evening, the Serpent entered into the Garden. The Serpent approached Eve, and began speaking to her in the Garden. He quickly drew her attention away from her plans to communicate with God. Pointing to the Tree which produced the forbidden fruit, Satan said to Eve "YEA, HATH GOD SAID, YE

SHALL NOT EAT OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN?" EVE SAID TO THE SERPENT, "WE MAY EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREES OF THE GARDEN: BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN WE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL WE TOUCH IT, LEST WE DIE." THEN THE SERPENT SAID TO THE WOMAN, "YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE, FOR GOD KNOWS THAT IN THE DAY YOU EAT THEREOF, THEN YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED AND YE SHALL BE AS GOD'S KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 1-5.

Eve looked at the Forbidden Tree and saw that it looked good for food and was pleasing to the eyes. Eve perceived the Fruit on the Tree was able to make one wise. Eve listened to the voice of the Serpent and ate of the Fruit of the Forbidden Tree. After eating the Fruit, Eve handed it to Adam, and he likewise ate the Forbidden Fruit of the Tree.

Through this act of disobedience, all mankind was tragically plummeted into a dark realm that would only bring chaos and destruction to the human soul and psyche of the entire human race. Adam and his descendants would no longer experience the peace and security the Tree of Life produced. Partaking of the fruit of disobedience always leads one toward the Path of death and destruction.

Suddenly, Adam heard a voice in his Garden calling out to him saying, "Adam, Adam where are you?" Adam was accustomed to hearing God's voice in Eden in the cool of the day as he anxiously waited to commune with his Creator. However, now he was experiencing many adverse feelings and emotions which he had never before known or felt. Adam did not understand the gravity of what he had done. He was feeling fear, condemnation, torment and hopelessness, just to name a few. Because of all these negative feelings Adam had never before experienced, he hid himself from the Lord.

The beautiful blue mist in the Garden had departed and there was nothing left but turmoil and chaos where peace and serenity had once ruled. Mankind would spend several millennia in the bondage of sin until God Himself would send a solution for their suffering. The Creator, Jesus Christ, would Himself bring salvation to those who would believe and receive Him as Lord and Savior through His sacrifice on the Cross.

The spirit of man can be likened to a garden. From the seeds you plant in your garden (spirit/heart) you will reap a Bountiful Harvest, whether it be good or bad. The spirit must be guarded with all diligence because out of the heart (spirit) the issues of life proceed.

Through the sacrifice of Christ, mankind is able again to eat of the Tree of Life. However, there are still two trees in each person's garden. Unfortunately, many Christians still eat from both trees. God's people are destroyed by their lack of knowledge. The knowledge that comes from partaking of the forbidden fruit can, and will, bring nothing but heartache, sorrow and more temptation. The process of spiritual and physical death began when Adam and Eve took their focus off of the Tree of Life and ate the Forbidden Fruit.

Searching to gain knowledge and wisdom from the Forbidden Tree will always bring about failure. Because it is satanically inspired, the Forbidden Tree only produces fruit which God rejects. Searching for true Knowledge and Understanding which comes only from the Tree of Life will produce a Harvest of Life Everlasting. We must always stay focused on the Tree of Life if we are going to be Fruitful in Christ. Outside of the Tree of Life there is no Everlasting Life, only death and destruction.

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CHAPTER 1

IN THE BEGINNING

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH. AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS. AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT. AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT THAT IT WAS GOOD; AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 1-5.

In the Story of Creation we find many lessons regarding Spiritual Darkness and Spiritual Light. We find the Story of Christ Jesus, who is the Light of the World, and of Darkness which also dwells upon the earth. The whole Story of Creation is an anomaly which can only be understood by those who are dwelling in the Light of Christ. It is not only a Story of Life, but also of Darkness which represents spiritual death upon the earth.

IN THE BEGINNING God hovered over the Darkness and spoke the creative Words, "Let there be Light." The earth was void and without form (it was desolate), and darkness

permeated the deep (waters). The word “void” speaks of there being nothing but an emptiness or vacuum in the darkness. This is a type and shadow of men without the Light of Christ illuminating their souls. Without Christ, the Light of the World, all men walk in Darkness.

“LET THERE BE LIGHT,” was the voice of God speaking to a World engulfed in total darkness. We know that Christ Jesus is the Light of the World. We know that all things were “CREATED BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. AND THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDED (the darkness could not overtake it or prevent it from shining) IT NOT. John, Chapter 1, Verses 3-5.

The Life of Christ is the Light of men. You cannot separate the Life of Christ from the Light of Christ. It is the Life of Christ, the Living Word, which causes us to see and understand the Truth. As the Life of Christ resides within us, the Light of Christ shines and illuminates our soul. Because Christ is Life and His Light dwells within us, we can understand the mysteries of God. We understand that without His Light man is lost and doomed to spend eternity in chains of spiritual darkness.

Darkness still permeates the World and the heart of man where the Light of Christ does not shine. Yes, the entire World is full of God’s Glory, but most of the World still walks in spiritual darkness. They cannot see the true Light which is only found in Jesus Christ. Spiritual darkness rules and reigns in the deepest chambers of the souls of men who have not experienced and received the LIGHT OF CHRIST.

For trees, light from the sun is the key to life. Where light is absent, there can only be death and decay. In order for trees to grow and bear fruit, light and water must be present. In

the same sense, without Spiritual Light (understanding), the heart of mankind is void of Truth and Understanding, and cannot produce any godly spiritual fruit.

LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING

Light is prophetic of understanding. The Apostle Paul in praying for the Ephesians wrote: THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY (light), MAY GIVE UNTO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM: THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT IS THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, AND WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO US-WARD WHO BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS ALMIGHTY POWER. Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 17-19.

Without light I cannot see anything. Light gives me the ability to see the things and places around me. Light helps me to maneuver around this planet without walking into things and hurting myself. Light helps me to see dangers that may be in my pathway. Without light, I would be in total darkness and subject to the things and forces which are around me.

In the same sense, without Spiritual Light (Christ), we cannot see and understand things which are spiritual. Without Christ we walk in darkness and cannot understand Spiritual Truths. Without Christ we cannot see the dangers of living in spiritual darkness and the forces of darkness which are scheming against us. Understanding who Christ is and what He has done for us gives us the ability to walk in His Light. His Light shines in the deepest parts of our souls which once was full of darkness and void of Truth and Understanding.

Paul wrote in Colossians, Chapter 1, Verse 9: WE ALSO DO NOT CEASE TO PRAY FOR YOU, AND DESIRE THAT YOU BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING. Spiritual Understanding is good, however, we need to be filled with the Knowledge of His Will in ALL WISDOM and SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING so: THAT YE MIGHT WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING, BEING FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK, AND INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verse 10. Without Spiritual Light I cannot know the Will of God and I am blinded to the Wisdom of God's Truth. It is the Truth we know that sets us free. It is the Light of His Truth which causes us to find our way through this dark and sinful World.

THIS I SAY THEREFORE, AND TESTIFY IN THE LORD, THAT YE HENCEFORTH WALK NOT AS OTHER GENTILES WALK, IN THE VANITY OF THEIR MIND, HAVING THE UNDERSTANDING DARKENED, BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD THROUGH THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN THEM, BECAUSE OF THE BLINDNESS OF THEIR HEART. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 17-18. If our understanding is darkened, we are alienated from God and our hearts are blinded; and we live our life in vain. Without Spiritual Light men are condemned to a life of darkness and they are bound in chains of spiritual darkness. However, if men know (understand) the Truth, those chains of darkness will not have dominion over them. Spiritual Truth can only be found in the Light of God's Word.

According to Solomon, Wisdom and Understanding are the principle things. Wisdom and Understanding are the most important things we can possess. Christ, who gives us Understanding, also fills us with His Wisdom. He is our Wisdom and He gives us understanding of how we are to live for Him. In Christ we find all the Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding we need to please God and perform the good works He has

called us to accomplish for Him. By faith in the Blood of Jesus and in His name we possess the power to overcome every obstacle the enemy places in our Path.

True Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding are treasures found only in Christ Jesus. To find these treasures we must seek for them with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN. 1 John, Chapter 1, Verse 7. If we walk in the Light of Christ, we will have fellowship with others who are also bearers of His Light. If we are not fellowshiping with others who are bearers of His Light, then our fellowship is being misdirected and misappropriated. If we walk in His Light, His Blood cleanses us from all sin.

AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD: AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY, AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 4-5. As children of God we are called the "CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT AND CHILDREN OF THE DAY: WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT, NOR OF THE DARKNESS." 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 5. Because the Light of Christ dwells within us, we are separated from the Darkness.

People who are not Children of Light have no spiritual understanding, and their minds cannot comprehend the Truth. They possess no Light to guide them through a World bound by Spiritual Darkness. Their hearts are filled with the Darkness of this present World. Their souls are aimlessly wandering toward eternal judgment and punishment unless they hear, believe and receive the Message of the Cross of Christ. In Christ we find all the HIDDEN TREASURES OF an Abundant Life.

GENESIS

One Sunday Morning I was working on a message regarding the Power of the Tongue which I was going to deliver in Maryville, Tennessee. My main scripture verses were in James, Chapter 3. When I came to Verse 6, the scripture read: **AND THE TONGUE IS A FIRE, A WORLD OF INIQUITY: SO IS THE TONGUE AMONG OUR MEMBERS, THAT IT DEFILETH THE WHOLE BODY, AND SETTETH ON FIRE THE WHOLE COURSE OF NATURE; AND IT IS SET ON FIRE OF HELL.**

After reading this Verse the Lord told me to look up the word “nature” to see what it meant in the Greek. I found that the word “nature” was translated into English from the Greek word “genesis”. Upon further study, I found that the word “genesis” means “beginnings”. It does not mean just the beginning of mankind, but the **BEGINNINGS** of mankind. Genesis focuses on the nature of mankind and the changes which took place in man’s natural and spiritual makeup in the beginning.

The word “genesis” speaks of the nature of man and the course his nature took in the beginning of Creation. The entire Book of Genesis is about man’s nature and the course his nature took from his humble beginnings in the Garden of Eden to the sojourning of Israel in the Land of Egypt.

In the beginning it was the tongue of the Serpent which was the driving force that brought the downfall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. The Serpent spoke to Eve, beguiling her into eating the Forbidden Fruit. After Adam and Eve ate of the Forbidden Fruit, their whole nature was changed from a God-conscience nature to a Sin-conscience nature. They had sinned and come short of the Glory of God, and the unholy seed of self-righteousness was found in them. From that time forward the depravity of sin and self-centeredness proliferated.

EVEN SO THE TONGUE IS A LITTLE MEMBER, AND BOASTETH GREAT THINGS. BEHOLD HOW GREAT A MATTER A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH! James 3, Verse 5. After disobeying the Commandment of God, we see Adam and Eve using their tongues superstitiously, blaming someone else for their sin. Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the Serpent. Apparently the First Parents had inherited the Seed of Beguilement from the Serpent. The course mankind's nature was on had been diverted onto a deadly disastrous Path.

BUT THE TONGUE CAN NO MAN TAME; IT IS AN UNRULEY EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON. The unholy Seed of the Serpent was now part of the "nature" of man. The deadly poisons produced by the Seed of the Serpent had invaded Eden's Paradise. Man had sinned and the course of nature had been hurled toward perdition. Fortunately God had a Plan that would reverse the course of nature in fallen man, and mankind would again find Eden and all its godly treasures. For all who believe in the sacrifice of Christ the way to the Tree of Life has been restored.

CHAPTER 2

TWO TREES IN EDEN

AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN; AND HE PUT THE MAN WHOM HE HAD FORMED. AND OUT OF THE GROUND MADE THE LORD TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT IS PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT, AND GOOD FOR FOOD; THE TREE OF LIFE ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. AND THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN, AND PUT HIM INTO THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO DRESS IT AND TO KEEP IT. AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN SAYING, OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST EAT FREELY: BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST OF IT THOU SHALT SURELY DIE. Genesis, Chapter 2, Verses 8-9 and 15-17.

As we saw in the Story of Creation, there is a dual application for the things which transpired in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was not just a physical place, but a spiritual place also. We know this because the two trees which were in the Garden were not the typical everyday trees you can find in your back yard. Thus, they represented something more than normal or natural trees. These Two Trees were planted there to represent spiritual truths which pertain to Life and Death.

Prophetically, the ground and earth speaks of the heart (spirit) of mankind. The spirit within us is like a garden. Words, like seeds, are planted in man's garden. The good seed is the Seed of Christ. The corruptible seed is the seed which is sown by the Serpent, Satan. God planted in the ground (spirit) in Eden the two trees we are going to look at in this book.

There were many other trees God planted in the Garden, but the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil are the most important ones. They are representations of the two most important forces and issues mankind has to deal with in life.

The Tree of Life, of course, represented "CHRIST." Jesus Christ is the Life, the Truth and the Way. This Tree represented the Truth and the Way as much as it did Life. As long as Adam and Eve were partaking of the Tree of Life things went well with them. They were in fellowship with Life Himself. Adam walked and fellowshiped with God in the cool of the day in the Garden. It was like Heaven on Earth. In reality, it was Heaven on Earth.

The temptation to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is an ongoing battle which every person in the World and in the Church faces every day. This tree is rooted in the Kingdom of Darkness, and the King of that Kingdom continues to beguile the hearts of mankind to EAT or partake of the Forbidden Fruit every day.

On the other hand, the Tree of Life is the source of all Spiritual Life, Truth and Understanding. Everything a person needs spiritually is found in the Tree of Life. This Tree is rooted and grounded in the Kingdom of Heaven where God's Light rules and reigns supreme. **CHRIST IS THE LIFE, AND THE LIGHT OF MEN.**

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