

TWO TREES

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There were two trees in the Garden of Eden that would come to divide the course of the human race throughout history - The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. One of these two trees will be chosen by all men. Throughout our lives, believers and unbelievers must make choices between the fruit of these two trees. In them is revealed the mystery of the ages. From Genesis to Revelation we see the results of volition (choice/free-will). The origin of everything is found in the Book of Books beginning with Genesis. The TWO TREES is an amazing story of good and evil.

Please open your Bibles to Genesis and read chapter two, verses nine and seventeen.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was a prohibition from the Lord. This prohibition had its roots in the Fall of Satan. In this Tree is the power of Satan's seed as we shall see. In it is the power of the Devil which is contrary to God. Satan became arrogant when he began to think independently of God (Ezekiel 28:12b – 19). [See "The Fall of Satan" (a forthcoming study) for details of this subject].

Christ came daily in the cool of the evening and taught Adam and Eve face to face, revealing Himself to them – teaching them Bible Doctrine – His Mind – His Thinking. **We have the same teaching that Adam and Eve had in the Garden** (Genesis 3:8; 1 Corinthians 2:16). Adam and Eve had no need for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Their knowledge came from God Himself. God's Word (His fruit) would be all that they would ever need. His Knowledge is perfect and fulfilling.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is Satanic in that Satan first sinned against God with the result that he knew right from wrong, good and evil. The idea of doing good to please God is inspired by Satan. It is his counterfeit to Bible Doctrine. Bible Doctrine reveals the **saving knowledge of Christ**. The Tree of Knowledge gives man the choice between right and wrong. Man inherently knows right from wrong but can never be right enough to please God, because man has the nature to sin in his fleshly body. Works for salvation is the religion of man which, in and of itself, is the counterfeit religion of Satan.

When they ate of the fruit of the tree, they became aware of themselves. At this exact point man became the Tree of Arrogance – the Tree of **Self** who's seed is Satan. All that Satan represents is the root of this tree and the fruit it bears is the fruit of unrighteousness – it is poison for man because it turned man's attention from God to Satan and to self. Satan uses the mask of self-deceit to blind the eyes of man.

It is interesting that the Tree of Knowledge is located in the "center" of the garden (Genesis 3:3) and when Adam ate of it he became self-centered. The Tree caused them to look at self, and Satan replaced God on the Throne of self. Satan is trying to replace God and Man is trying to replace God. Man since the Fall is the seed of Satan.

You cannot know the Lord of the Bible apart from the Bible of the Lord. The Holy Spirit uses

the Word of God to teach us about Christ. Christ is God's Power and Manifestation of Himself to us in his written Word and His incarnation. We have the Mind of Christ - the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:16) and we have the incarnation of the Word - Christ. Spirituality is not measured by the law but by the contents of the mind, full of God's Word and applied in life experiences. The law keeps us in bondage to it and the result is self-righteousness and legalism and denominations and religions – all are the production of man. All are counterfeit to Jesus Christ and Him crucified (Ephesians Chapters 4 & 5). Religious people crucified Christ. Man tries to keep the law for salvation. But, the law convicts! It does not save! It does not make us right with God – it shows us that we are wrong with God (2 Corinthians 3:6). Man needs to trust the work of Christ not the work of the law. Good and evil are counterfeit to the Cross of Christ. It is Satan's trap of deceit. He tricked Eve, then she convinced Adam and they both knew good and evil. The result of good and evil is the sin nature – our nature to sin. This is why we are without hope if we are without Christ.

Adams first act was self-righteousness. The first thing Adam did was to cover himself with fig leaves (Genesis 3:7). But, Jesus rejected Adam's covering. The Lord made a covering of sheep skin to cover sin - a symbol of his Sacrifice on the Cross. The innocent lamb would lay down his life for the sheep (John 10:7-14).

Satan always comes as "an Angel of Light," deceiving mankind. The Serpent was a beautiful creature, probably full of light.

Reading the Scripture as an unbeliever can only result in the knowledge of good and evil. Why? The Scriptures are written by God using believers because believers are the only ones who have the Holy Spirit and a human spirit (John 1:12; 3:3-7). If man is not born again SPIRITUALLY, he cannot discern the things of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14). Therefore, Satan has a counterfeit gospel – "the law of works". The work of Christ on Calvary is man's only hope of forgiveness – the only way to be saved from the wrath of God (John 3:15-18; 3:36; 4:34; 17:4; 19:30; Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 10:5-10). The Tree of death (the Cross) became the Tree of Life in Christ.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil came by the root of Satan. All men must choose between the "Good and Evil Tree," or, the "Tree of Life - Jesus Christ." Both good and evil are human. Human good is rejected by God! Proof of this is the Cross. Proof of the Cross is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His ascension and session at the right hand of the Father are proof of the Fathers total acceptance of the Son's payment for your sins and mine. Christ will remain at the right side of God until God makes the enemies of Christ His Footstool in victory (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:44; Hebrews 10:13; Revelation Chapters 19 -21).

The Lord created light and he separated light from darkness (Genesis 1:3,4). When man trusts Christ, he receives a human spirit (spiritual rebirth) and the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, which is the Light of Life, Eternal Life (1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16). When we believe, we receive Christ as personal Savior and we receive the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. This indwelling protects us from Satan the adversary. **The Holy Spirit seals us forever and begins our transition from darkness to light by the daily intake of God's Word metabolized and applied in our lives.** He begins to turn the

darkness in our soul to light. Thus, our struggle with human good and evil enters us into the Angelic Conflict (see the Doctrine of the "Angelic Conflict" - a forthcoming study).

As believers, we are to be led, through truth, by the Holy Spirit and into battle with the whole Armor of God (His Word in us). We battle daily against our flesh (the sin-nature); and against the counterfeit good and evil of Satan's diabolical world. Truth sets us free and in Christ we shall be victoriously free (John 8:32 & 36). Daily we can have victory over sin. Daily we can be free from the slavery of sin by confessing our sins to the Father (1 John 1:9).

In Genesis 1:11, 12 & 29 and Luke 6:43 & 44, God said that trees would produce fruit after their own kind, forever establishing a pattern. Therefore, the Tree of Good and Evil would always produce good and evil. The tree of life (Genesis 2:9; 3:43, 44) will always produce eternal life. Jesus is Eternal Life (John 11:25). The Tree of Eternal Life (Genesis 2:9; 3:22-24) and the Fruit of the Tree of Life will always produce believers (Luke 6:43, 44). Christ as the Eternal Tree of Life makes each believer a Tree of Righteousness (Isaiah 61:3). The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the Tree of Death and will always produce deceit and death. Mankind chooses this Tree because it appeals to his human nature, the nature of Good and Evil. "I know what is good therefore I will do it and please God." But, man cannot be good enough to please God because he is the enemy of God, inherited from Adam (Genesis 3:15). The seed of Satan is mankind (spiritual death, as in Ephesians 2:1), because of Adam's transgression. We are all spiritually dead, hence the requirement of the new birth (John 3:7).

In Genesis 2:17, "dying" is plural, literally "two deaths" – spiritual and physical. It should have been translated dying (spiritually) thou shalt die (physically). To this day we are all born without a human spirit, this is the reason Christ said we must be born again, "spiritually" (John 3:3-7), To this day we all die physically. Both death and the need to be "born again" are proof of the depravity of man and his need for a Savior which is why, in due time, Christ came.

Sin is empowered by the law (1 Corinthians 15:56). We derive our knowledge of Good and Evil from the law. Our knowledge drives us to do both good and evil, self-righteousness and corruption. Sin is in the flesh, that is why we must physically die. That is why we must be born again spiritually. God is a Spirit and we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Therefore, we must have a Spirit (John 3:3-7) this is how we have fellowship with God.

When Adam and the Woman ate of the Tree they died spiritually and death spread to all men thru Adam's seed. So, God immediately promised the Savior – the Seed of the Woman, the Virgin Birth (Genesis 3:15; Luke 1:26-35).

Eve gave birth to two sons and we can discern the seeds of the two trees in each. After the Fall, the Lord prophesied the perpetuation of the two seeds within man, meaning there would always be two kinds of people on the earth: those who trust Christ "seed of the woman" and those who do not who would remain the seed of man – "the seed of Satan." Cain was a tiller of the ground (Genesis 4:2), "earthy", a symbol of rejection of salvation and devoid of God. In other words, Cain rejected the God of Heaven. He chose to be earthen. Abel on the other hand chose to be a shepherd, symbolic of his salvation.

Man is still worshipping the created. Man is by nature a creature of worship but, because of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, some men will always choose creature worship rather than worship of the Creator. Religion is the worship of idols - man's invention. Human good is the good side of evil - which is still evil. The "spiritualist" seeks their harmony and fulfillment in the worship of creation. The New Age Movement and religion are imperfect examples of man as his own God, man in his egotistical arrogance.

In the First Book of the Bible we learn about the two seeds of man and how they originated at the fall when Adam ate of the Tree of Good and Evil. The two seeds of man are the seed of Satan and the seed of Christ. Throughout Scripture we can see the path of deceit and destruction and God's answer to Satan, found only in Jesus Christ – God Incarnate. Throughout history we can see the seeds of aggression and self-righteousness; of the ego and arrogance of man. In the last Book of the Bible we learn about the culmination of history at the final battle between good and evil. The Bible is the revelation of Jesus Christ and His ultimate victory over Satan. Until this end-time battle, we as believers are engaged in "Angelic Warfare" for the Salvation of souls which has been ongoing since time immemorial – since Satan's fall in eternity past (Ezekiel 28:12b – 19).

Thank you, Father, for your Word.

Amen.