

Pastor Sheryl's Notes

Trees in the Garden

Question: What will be the difference between the tree of knowledge, good and evil in the Garden of Eden versus the Tree of Life in the world to come. And will we be able to eat from it or will we be kicked out of heaven for doing so? Both trees were and will be planted by a river which I'm sure has some meaningful significance as well.

Among all the trees in the Garden of Eden, God identified two special trees: of life, and of the knowledge of good and evil

- Genesis 2:9: "And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

God allowed Adam to eat from all the trees except the tree of knowledge of good and evil, warning that death would result.

- Genesis 2:16: The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Two things to notice: God did NOT forbid them from eating from the tree of Life! Also, from the beginning of time God has ALWAYS given man choice.
 - Deut. 30:19: I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and they seed may live.

After being tempted by the serpent, Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and Adam did the same.

- Genesis 3:6-7: So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

After eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil—in part to become "wise"—Adam now possesses the knowledge of good and evil like God does, as well as knowledge of their nakedness.

- Genesis 3:22: Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil'

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TWO SPECIAL TREES

Genesis 1:11-12 Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and tree from which they came. And that is what happened. The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. The seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good”

FROM THE BEGINNING GOD CALLED ALL THE TREES IN THE GARDEN “GOOD”. Notice again that he said they were ALL good, and there was no restriction on the Tree of Life, only the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil for was forbidden.

THE TREE OF LIFE

Genesis 3:22, NLT: Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!

- The Tree of Life is the gift of the sustaining power of God. By eating from the Tree of Life, they would receive inward and spiritual renewal, eternal life, growing strong on God’s life and maturing in his goodness.
- Pay attention: they obviously had NOT eaten from the Tree of Life before the serpent got to them
- The Tree of Life is taken away for their good.
- Had Adam or Eve or any of their children, having sinned and fallen from glory ([Rom 3:23](#) ), taken from that Tree they would have had endless life, but that living forever would have been a living forever in a condemned and cursed state, eternally cut-off from redemption. Being the Tree God made it to be, it would have sealed Adam and Eve, but it would have sealed them for destruction
- By suspending the eating of the Tree of Life, God opened up his story for a plan of redemption, the opportunity for new life in God.

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, on other hand, while being for food is **not permitted to be eaten** by Adam or Eve at the beginning of their time in Eden.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:12, NLT:** You say, “I am allowed to do anything” but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything”
 - **So once again, we see where from the beginning of time God has given us choices but he always helps us understand the consequences of bad/wrong choices.**
- **The knowledge of good and evil suggests authority to rule and exercise judgement.**

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- Solomon, his son, prays for the gift of wisdom to “judge between good and evil” (1 Kgs 3:9^L)—a request which God grants. And the author of Hebrews longs for the church to grow in maturity, putting away the food of infants and moving on to true spiritual nourishment in order that they may discern between good and evil (5:14).
- The Serpent is not wrong, therefore, in telling the woman that eating of it makes one like God
 - This is why it’s important to study! The devil knows the scriptures, and He knows how God operates. He will use what “seems” to be truth and distort it.
 - Check out Matthew 4:1-11 where he tempts Jesus! He uses scripture but Jesus corrects him and gives the FULL understanding of the scriptures!! STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!!
 - What Satan said was not a lie, God himself said that they had become like “us” after eating the fruit. So what was so wrong with them eating it?
 - Throughout scripture we see the theme that God gives wisdom to judge between good and bad **with maturity**. It has been suggested that with time and maturity God may have allowed Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil but Satan tempted them to eat it before they were ready, and this brought about the Fall of Mankind.
 - **Moving out of God’s timing leads to destruction!! God will not give you what you’re not ready for!!**

THE CROSS BECAME THE TWO TREES

- **The cross of Jesus Christ in the new Tree of Life** – it feeds the people of God and has given us the opportunity to receive from it and gain eternal life.
- Jesus offers us himself! Those who take of him shall never hunger and we will be raised up with Christ and live with him forever!
- **The cross of Jesus Christ also fulfills the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** - Christ is the true king who rules and reigns in truth from the tree.
- The one who hangs there as its fruit is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (John 5:39^L), the one who grew in wisdom and favor with God and man (Luke 2:52^L), the one whom the scribes could not answer (Matt 22:46^L), the one who was greater in wisdom than Solomon (Matt 12:42^L).
- To partake of his life, to eat of the fruit of the cross, to fellowship with Christ in his sufferings is to grow in true knowledge of good and evil. ***The cross is the road by which we come to wisdom not on our own terms but on God’s.***

THE TREE OF LIFE IN REVELATION

The angel shows John the river of the water of life. This river of living water is pictured as being as bright as crystal. The river flowing through the New Jerusalem is desirable and beautiful. These are the flowing waters that bring life. These are pure waters. The river of the water of life flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. Remember that there is no temple in the city. God and the Lamb are on the throne and the river of life is flowing from the throne through the middle of the street of the city. All who belong to this city have access to the river of the water of life for it flows through the middle of the city right down its main street

- On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. (Zechariah 14:8 ESV)

On either side of the river of the water of life is the tree of life. The tree of life yields fruit each month and the leaves bring healing to the nations. This imagery also comes from Ezekiel's prophecy.

- And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing." (Ezekiel 47:12 ESV)
- The "healing of the nations" in [Revelation 22:2](#) is not about healing physical ailments in the New Jerusalem, as there will be no sickness or pain there. Instead, it refers to the complete restoration of spiritual, relational, and societal wholeness after the curse of sin is removed. It **symbolizes the end of divisions, conflict, and corruption among nations, leading to a state of perfect harmony and unity under God's reign.**
- The river of the water of life and the tree of life represent the life of eternal fellowship with God and Christ. There is no sin and therefore there is nothing accursed. The throne of God and the Lamb are in the midst of this city and his servants worship God.
- The servants of God and the Lamb will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads. The hope of God's people is finally realized: seeing God face to face.
- The godly are pictured as priests, worshiping God in his presence, seeing his face. His name on the foreheads of the servants continues to picture the intimate fellowship between God and his people. Finally, we are reminded that there is no night there as we will live in the light and the glory of God. Everything is now perfect. There is no more evil, no more death, and no more pain.
- As the Lord comes in judgment, he is bringing recompense with him. Christ will repay everyone according to what they have done. The wicked will be repaid and the righteous will be repaid. Christ is the sum of all things. He is the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city of God