



THE TREE OF LIFE

December 5, 2025 | *Isaiah 11:1; 53:2; John 15:1-5*

The Tree of Death

Today, we will return once more to *Genesis 3* and the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve rebelled against God and introduced sin.

God commanded them, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely, but from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat...” (*Gen. 2:16-17*). Of course, they succumbed to the serpent’s temptation and experienced knowledge of the evil they had committed. They disobeyed God and felt ashamed.

But there is more to the story. Soon after, God identified a problem and its solution. The problem was that there was another tree in the garden — the Tree of Life. Once Adam and Eve had sinned and received their consequences (death being one of them), they could have possibly eaten from the Tree of Life and lived forever (*Gen. 3:22*). His solution was to remove Adam and Eve from the garden and guard the tree with cherubim or angels (*v.23-24*).

While this resolution may seem harsh, it was actually an act of mercy. Had Adam and Eve eaten from the Tree of Life, they would’ve lived forever in their sinful state. By being exiled from the garden, physical death would release them from their fleshly curse, and God would provide another way for mankind to be redeemed and live forever.

However, the banishment of Adam and Eve is also symbolic. Eden represented heaven, a place without sin, the place where God dwells, and the place where they had fellowship with Him. To cast them out of Eden symbolized that they had lost fellowship.

So then, as *Genesis 3* closes, all is lost. Man’s rebellion had ruined everything. Sin is the cause of all our troubles. It is a heavy curse that lies upon all of mankind. We inherit it in our blood. It is passed down from generation to generation, and there is no physical way to break the curse.

However, there is one more mystery to solve. Whatever happened to the Tree of Life? The last time it was seen was in the Garden of Eden, protected from men by armed angels. Will we ever get to eat from the Tree of Life? Yes, but how?

It's important to remember that the forbidden tree (Knowledge of Good and Evil) led to death, but the other tree represented life. In other words, the Tree of Life was a picture of salvation, and it was already there. Its presence is evidence that God knew what would take place in the Garden (sin and death), but He had a plan from the beginning to redeem humanity.

The Tree of Life

In *Genesis 3:15*, God prophesied that a Chosen Seed would destroy the work of the devil (sin). Trees begin as seeds. God would give us an opportunity to eat from the Tree of Life by sending the tree in another form — a man.

Have you ever noticed the tree imagery in Scripture? For example, after the nation of Israel is established in the land of Canaan, it fell away. Eventually, God judged and destroyed it. He spoke of the disaster in *Isaiah 6*.

“Cities will be devastated. The land will be desolate. I will remove men far away (to Babylon), and the forsaken places will be many in the land. Yet there will be a tenth portion in it (a remnant), and it will again be subject to burning like an oak tree whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.” *Isaiah 6:12-13*

Though God severely punished Israel for its sins, He did not destroy it completely. He did not uproot “the tree” (the nation) but left the stump in the ground with its holy seed. From that stump would come the Chosen One He promised.

“Then a shoot will spring up from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.” *Isaiah 11:1*

“He (the Messiah) grew up before Him (God the Father) like a tender shoot (a new branch), like a root from a parched ground...” *Isaiah 53:2*

Jesus, of course, will be Jesse's shoot from *Isaiah 11*, that new branch which would be the Tree of Life.

In *John 10*, Jesus set Himself apart from “the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy, for He came that we might have life, and have it abundantly” (v.10).

In *John 14*, Jesus described Himself as “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (v.6). Then, in *John 15*, Jesus called Himself the “true vine” (v.1). “He who abides in Me,” He said, “will bear much fruit...” (v.5).

Jesus, the perfect Son of God, would give His life on the cross, so that those (like us) who were dead in their trespasses and sins might be redeemed and have eternal life (*Rom. 6:4-8; Col. 3:3*;

1 Jn. 3:14).

Simply put, the Tree of Life became a man who died on a tree to give us life — salvation. But there's more!

He will be our life for eternity, for the Tree of Life will be in heaven. Jesus said, “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the Paradise of God” (*Rev. 2:7*).

Remember, Eden was a symbol of heaven, the Paradise of God. Here's how John described it in *Revelation 21:1-2*. “Then he showed me a river of the water of life, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side of the river was the Tree of Life, yielding its fruit, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations...”

Jesus described Himself as “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” (*Rev. 22:12-21*). He was the Tree of Life in *Genesis*, and He will be the Tree of Life in *Revelation*. Though we ruined all things with our sin, God restored all things through Christ — our Tree of Life.

What Child is this in the manger? The Child is the Tree of Life, whose fruit is and will forever be our salvation!

Ponder and Pray

Jesus came to give you abundant life. What does that mean?

Pray and praise God for the life you have in Him.

**Have you missed some days?
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The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at BiAY.org.



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