

The Three Trees

No. 259

Introduction.

- I. The most remarkable book in the world is the Bible. It is a library of 66 books - 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books. It was written by about 40 men over a period of 1600 years. It is the inspired word of God and tops the best seller list every year.
- II. **Giving a summation of its contents** could be done in a very lengthy fashion or it can be done in a simple fashion.
 - A. One of the simplest ways to summarize this grand book is to discuss “ The Three Trees.”
 - B. The story of the Bible and redemption revolves around “The Three Trees.”
- I. **The Tree Of Knowledge** - The first tree is the tree of knowledge.
 - A. This tree is mentioned in Genesis the 2nd chapter.
 - B. After God created man, He placed him in the garden of Eden.
 1. Here is what the Bible says. (Gen. 2:7-17).

7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die. "

2. Moses tells us here of the creation of the first man and woman and of them being placed in the beautiful garden of Eden.
 - a. There were many kinds of trees in the garden of Eden.
 - b. Adam and Eve were permitted to eat of every tree in the garden, but “from the tree of the knowledge of good and eat.”
 - c. They were absolutely forbidden to eat of that tree, lest they die. (Gen. 2:17).
- C. **Later Satan came to them in the garden** and insisted they would not die if they ate of this forbidden tree.
 1. Adam and Eve ate of the tree and sinned.

2. **As a result of their sin, they died spiritually and were separated from God.**
3. **Before their sin**, they were in a state of innocence and complete sinlessness.
4. **After their sin**, they were sinners and stood in need of a Savior.
 - a. These sinners were driven from the garden of Eden lest they partake of the tree of life in the garden and live forever. (Gen. 3:22).
 - b. **The fall of man involved 3 steps.** They heard a lie from Satan. They believed the lie and obeyed the lie.
 - c. **One author** has suggested that Genesis 1 and 2 set forth man in perfection and innocence, but the last 1187 chapters set forth man's sin and need for redemption.
5. Just as Adam and Eve sinned, all of their accountable descendants, those knowing right from wrong, have also sinned and stand in need of a Savior.
6. **Paul wrote these words in Romans the 3rd chapter.** (Rom 3:9-23).

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. " 13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"; 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood, 16 Destruction and misery are in their paths, 17 And the path of peace have they not known. " 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- a. Paul emphatically declares that all men (Jew and Gentiles) are sinners. This sin began with the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and was followed by every conceivable sin.
- b. The wages of sin is spiritual death. (Eph. 2:1, 2; Rom. 6:23).
- c. This "death" is called the "second death" or "hell" in the book of Revelation.

2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. "

Being separated from the tree of life is the most horrible thing in the world. It means separation from God and it means eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.

II. **The Tree Of Calvary** - This brings us to the tree of calvary.

ACT 5:30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead-- whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

ACT 10:39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree,

ACT 13:29 When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

1PE 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

A. **The verses were all read from the NIV.** The NIV translates the Greek "xulon" "tree."

1. This word literally means "wood, tree, cross." It is clear that the word "tree" refers to the cross.
2. Jesus was likely crucified on two wooden beams made in the form of a "T."

B. **There was no way man could be saved on his own.** There was no way he could regain what was lost in the garden of Eden on his own.

C. **Man needed a Savior.**

1. This Savior could **not be an animal.** (Heb. 10:4).
2. This Savior could **not be just any human.**
3. This Savior was **chosen by God before the foundation of the world** according to Ephesians 1:4.
4. This Savior had to **understand both God and man** - thus He had to be both God and man.
5. This Savior **did not automatically become our Savior** by coming into the world.
6. It was necessary for Him to live a perfect (sinless) life and then to die on a "tree" (the cross) for the sins of man.

D. **Moses wrote long before Christ's death.** (Deut. 21:23).

1. Later Paul wrote. (Gal. 3:13).
2. He also wrote, **"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the**

righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21).

3. Yes, on the tree on Calvary's Hill, Jesus became a curse for us.

- a. The Righteous One died in our places and He became the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He suffered the punishment for us. (Isa. 53:5,6).
- b. Jesus shed His precious blood that we might be cleansed of all our sins and might have eternal life with God. (Matt.26:28; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 1:5).

III. The Tree Of Life - This brings us to the tree of life.

A. This tree was first mentioned as being present in the garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:22).

B. This tree is present in heaven.

1. Jesus tells us that the "tree of life" is for the faithful. (Rev. 2:7).
2. A careful examination of the book of Revelation reveals that the "tree of life" in heaven is not a single tree, but is a kind of tree.

REV 22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3. Observe John said, "And on either side of the river was the tree of life."
4. The righteous will have access to this tree and thus will live forever in heaven.

C. **Heaven is the eternal home of the righteous.** (Jn. 3:16; 6:54; 10:27, 28; Matt. 25:46; Rom. 6:23).

REV 22:3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; 4 and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

Conclusion.

- I. Yes, the Bible and redemption is summarized by the story of the "The Three Trees."
- II. We were separated from "the tree of life" (through no fault of our own), but we are lost because of our own sins. We can now have access to "the tree of life" by accepting the One who died on the tree on Calvary for us.
- III. We invite you to come to Jesus that you might have the abundant life now and in the world to come have eternal life. Be buried with Christ in baptism and then arise to live for the One who shed His blood on the tree for us. Come as we stand and sing.

