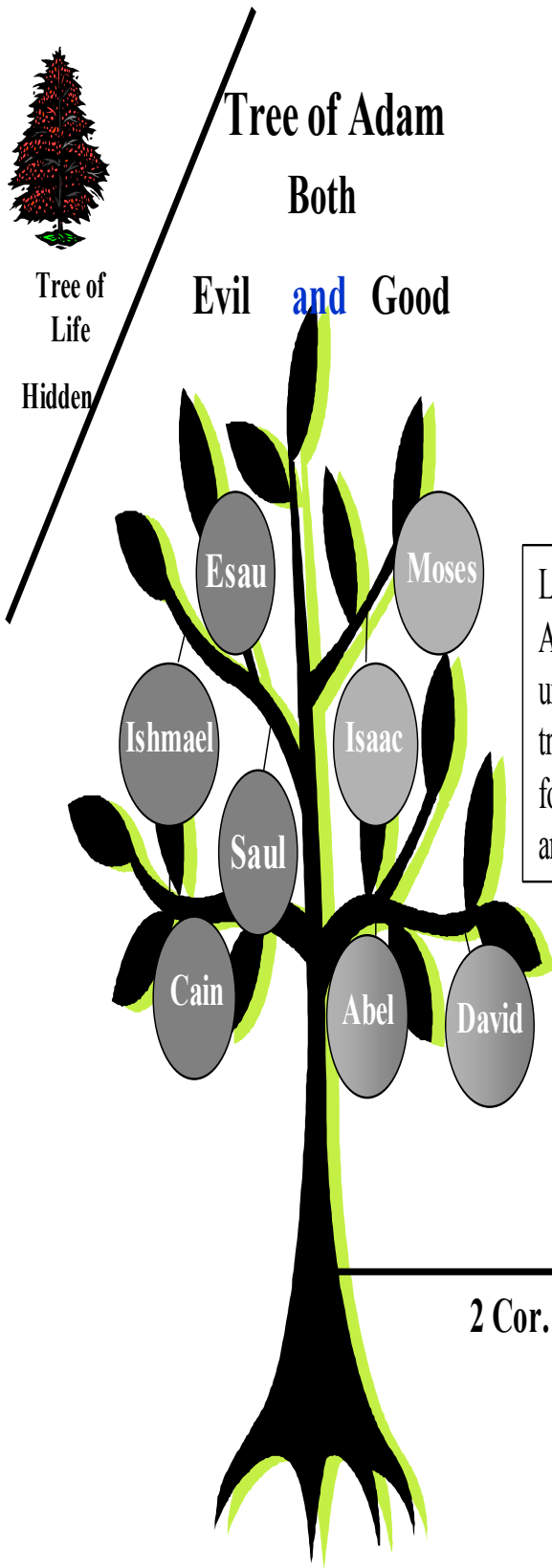


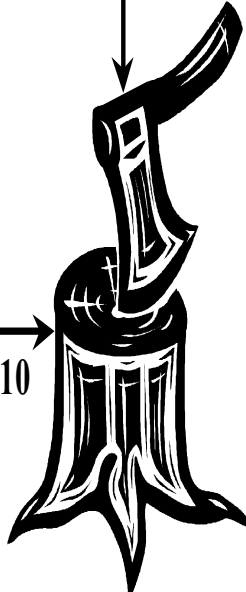
TWO TREES



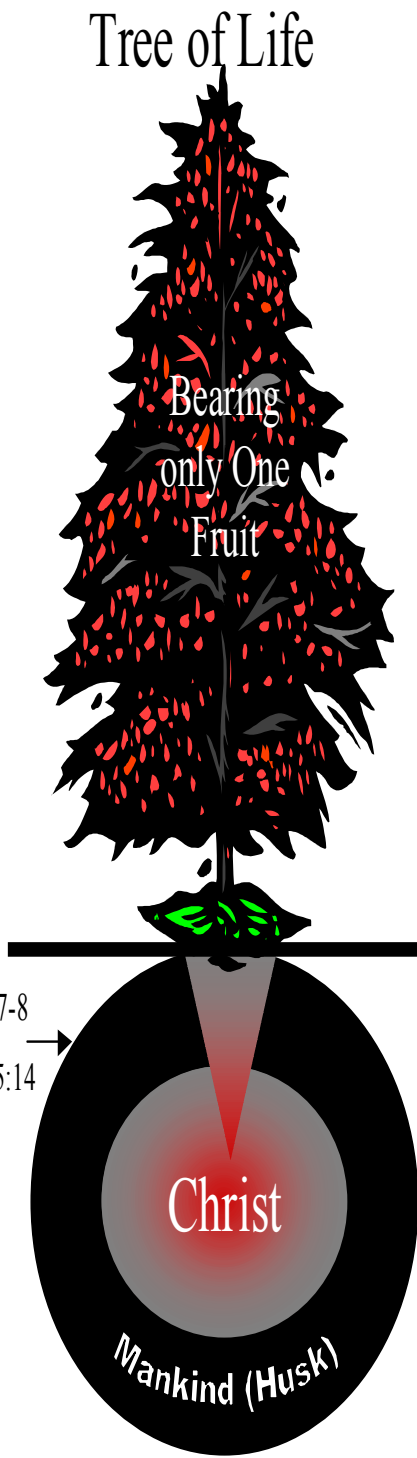
By
J W Luman



Luke 3:9
And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.



2 Cor. 5:10



The Husk of Mankind dies and Christ Only Remains

Aspects of The Door

I have recently been involved in an ever-enlarging search on The Door. And there just seems to be no end to the dimensions of The Door: and why should there be? For Christ says, “*I am the door...*” (John 10:7,9) You couldn’t show me the end of the dimensions and fulness of The Lord Jesus! But it is that realization of His greatness that is brought by The Spirit into our very souls with the revealing of Christ Himself. It is the realization of that greatness that brings into our hearts understanding: the understanding of our Salvation. That is to say, the understanding of our relationship with Christ, and the understanding of our relationship with all things in Christ; because the understanding of our Salvation is certainly founded upon the understanding of our relationship with The Lord Jesus. And it is that reality, that understanding, the enlightening of the eyes of your understanding, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Revelation knowledge is in The Person of Christ, because who else is the knowledge of God; The Living Word of God, the wisdom, understanding of God – who else? Just **HIM!**

Ephesians 3:18,19 – *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

2 Peter 1:3 – *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

Ephesians 1:17,18 – *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, 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 the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*

Colossians 2:3 – *In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

1 Corinthians 1:24 – *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

Revealing The Son

Many speak of Christ as merely a historical figure, or some kind of a future hope, but He is a very present and eternal reality! So it is the purpose of the working of The Spirit of God in us to reveal that Son, opening the eyes of our understanding. It is “*God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*” (2 Corinthians 4:6) That’s FULL SALVATION, folks! And so this One who says I AM THE DOOR gives

it unbelievable, and I believe unsearchable dimensions - A Great Door: that Door leading into, and as One with itself, Great Salvation. You do not separate that into which The Door leads from The Door itself, because how can you separate the fulness of Christ from Christ? But having entered in by The Door, we are immediately confronted with The Son of God. We are immediately confronted with Christ in Whom all fulness dwells. Immediately we are confronted in a face to face confrontation, with an unveiled heart, beholding The Glory of The Lord!

Galatians 1:15,16 – *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen: immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.*

John 16:13,14 – *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Hebrews 2:3 – *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.*

Colossians 1:19; 2:9 – *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell...For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 – *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Glory of The Lord

How can you behold the glory of The Lord except you behold The Lord of glory? No way! You can’t separate the glory of The Lord from The Lord of glory. Now maybe under the Old Covenant you could, for it was there typically. But in the New Covenant you can not, because nothing is typically; but all things are in FULFILLMENT of that which was typically. So you can no longer separate the GLORY of The Lord from the PERSON of The Lord of glory! This is what we’re confronted with: The Great Salvation that is there IN Christ Jesus, for this Door is into Himself. We have to understand this Door does not have a sign saying “Exit”. It isn’t the Door out of anything. Even initially and primarily it was NOT a Door OUT of Egypt: it was a Door into The House. “*Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.*” (Exodus 15:17) This is why they who died in the wilderness – all died. They rather thought they were escapees from

Egypt, but they weren't. No, "*Israel is my son, even my firstborn.*" (Exodus 4:22) So it was a Door **IN**.

Psalm 24:7,8 – *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

Colossians 1:13 – *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*

Door is Not Out, But IN

Oh, if we could only see this! How many issues that would settle for Christian churches: how many issues that would settle for believers! Just that issue: that The Door is NOT out, but IN. That would settle issues upon which erroneous doctrines have been based, and misunderstanding and false teachings. If we only understood that it is not "Exit" into our Salvation, but "ENTER" into our Salvation. Jesus makes this clear in John 10:9, "*I am the door: by ME if any man **ENTER IN**, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*" And John 14:6, "*...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" That is giving The Door a three-fold dimension in which we find all these other endless dimensions. I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE... This He speaks of HIMSELF as The Door. He is The Door into the Father and into The Father's House.

Ephesians 4:20,21 – *But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus.*

Order Of Salvation

I'm also looking at The Order of Our Salvation. We find we go through The Door and it is heaven first and then earth. It's not the other way round: living on earth, waiting to go to heaven. That is NOT the true Order of Salvation, but that is the order of most comprehension. It is not the Order of Salvation: it's not the Order in the pattern, and it's not the Order in the fulfillment. The order in the book of Revelation is heaven first and then earth. **Christ revealed** – Revelation 1:12,13, "*And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks: And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*" Oh yes, there He is – THE DOOR. Verse 18, "*I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.*" There He is in the midst of the Throne: The Lamb as though He were slain – yet ruling! Oh yes, the ruling nature. It's the same nature as The Blood that was upon The Door. It is CHRIST: there's no doubt about that.

And the Order once again there is heaven first, and then heaven coming to earth: all things proceeding out from heaven into the earth – not the other way around. It isn't the Order of the Bible, it isn't the Order of the scripture, and it isn't the Order of any parable in the Bible, or any book in the Bible. It's not the Order found in Israel, and it's not the Order found IN CHRIST! It is NOT earth and then heaven: it is HEAVEN and then earth. All things are proceeding OUT from The Throne, all things proceeding OUT from The One Who is in the midst of The Throne. It is established in the earth as it is IN HEAVEN. This is The Order.

Luke 11:2 – *And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*

Revelation 5:6 – *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

Exodus 12: 7 - *And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.*

Revelation 21:2 – *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Revelation 4:1,2 – *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must come hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

Old/New

But recently The Lord has begun to deal with me about a particular aspect of The Door that so many seem to miss. We have to back-up, if you will, and see what brings us to this order, because as surely as there is a New Creation, and all things made New in Christ, something has had to happen to the old one. And if that judgment is not in your heart, you will inevitably seek to bring some part of it over into the New. And by that you violate The Door: you violate The Cross, you violate The Blood, but so many do that anyway. We try to bring some part: certainly not the old, ugly part, but some part. And The Lord began to work in my heart about this. We have to at least in the scripture, in the reality of The Truth as it is in Christ: let us at least in Word and in presentation take care of the old before we begin to talk about heaven; before we begin to talk about the New, and the Order of the New. Let's understand the absolute, irrevocable finality

of the first that enables the second to be established. “*Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first...*” (Hebrews 10:9) And the word “He taketh away” means with violence and murder. In every definition it shows a very violent end to the first. Well, where else but The Cross is that effective? Yes, it’s at The Cross and Christ Himself suffered that violence, because no one else could. Humanity could suffer the condemnation but not the violence of destruction. As to the first – He had to come, purposed to death: just as in the Second, He is the very Life itself. Just as “*The first man is after the earth, earthy...*” – totally, completely earthy, so the second man is not merely heavenly but is “*The Lord from heaven.*” (2 Corinthians 15:47) And those who live in Him, live only by Him; yet, “*...not I, but Christ liveth in me...*” (Galatians 2:20)

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Colossians 3:9,10 – *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man and his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that hath created him.*

Hebrews 10:29 – *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he is sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

Hebrews 9:27,28 – *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

Hebrews 2:14,15 – *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

The Death of A Tree

So just how complete is that “taking away”? You might say, ‘How dead is dead’? And so The Lord began to deal with me about something that I had never considered in this context before, and the words kept coming to me – **THE DEATH OF A TREE**. I didn’t know what it meant, but that kept coming to me, and then The Lord began to speak to me about that. The thought and the theme of this is how completely done away by The Cross – whether in our hearts or not, and whether in our understanding or not; but the fact of The Truth of The Cross: how completely did He take away the first? How completely did He bring to death the old? How totally and completely? Is there possibly

any of it found in the New? When God begins to reveal the New, is it in any other than The Person of His Son that we see the fulness of the New? Is anything of you and I ever part of that standard?

Revelation 21:5 – *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

Matthew 24:2 – *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

I had really never seen this, but it goes back to the garden. We're going to look at the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Luke 3, and I can only now just mention it with regard to this tree that must die. But first look at Genesis 2:9, "*And out of the ground made the Lord God 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.*" I'm just calling your attention to those two trees in the scripture for the purpose of this study. And here is the concept that I had never seen before. Now in searching the scriptures, we go into original translations, and research the writers of the early centuries to see how they viewed Christ and viewed the completion of things, and what their testimony was concerning that. And it is necessary to search the languages: the Aramaic as well as the Greek since that was the type of Aramaic Jesus and His disciples spoke. And I remembered that one of those scholars had said with regard to this tree of knowledge of good and evil that it was the tree upon which hung both good and evil fruit. And I never thought of that before, but his presentation convinced me that was the actual picture that is there. It was the tree that had upon it both good and evil fruit.

The Son

Now Luke 3:23, "*And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as it was supposed) the son of Joseph...*" And "son" here means an adult son. It emphasizes not so much birth, but relationship with his father. Well, obviously there was only One with whom Christ had that relationship and that was God, Who in fact was His Father. Then it gives the genealogy and that is the only place in these verses where in the original text the term "the son" is used. In most Bibles in verses 24-38 the words "the son" is in italics, indicating it was added. Now "the son of Joseph" is there, but (as it was supposed). So really the only son being talked about here is Jesus who was The Son of God – but as it was supposed – the son of Joseph. It should read, "... *which was of Heli, which was of Matthat, which was of Levi...*" And it goes on down the line like that. And this is so until the end when it gets to verse 38, "...*which was of Enos, which*

was of Seth, which was of Adam, which was of God.” How many times have you ever heard anybody trying to prove Adam was the Son of God use this verse to you? But it is NOT in the original text, but here is what I want you to see: this is the genealogy of JESUS, who was born (as it was supposed) to Joseph, who was born of Mary. This is the earthly genealogy of Jesus.

Galatians 4:4 – But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Matthew 1:16 – And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Disobedient/Obedient

And there are wonderful names in this genealogy. Most all of them are in fact a type and a shadow of The Lord Jesus Himself! But the genealogy goes all the way back to Adam. So let's diagram this. (See diagram) We have in the garden these two trees. The Tree of Life is very small, because it became hidden. It was first ignored, or perhaps better to say refused, and there is a tremendous study on that as to WHY it was refused. And this brings in the two words: DISOBEDIENT and OBEDIENT. On Adam's part it was an act of disobedience. On the part of Christ, He is The OBEDIENT SON. But how? Why? How is He called "obedient"? Because He was born of Mary? No, the scriptures tell us. Philippians 2:8, "*And being found in fashion as a MAN...*" That's NOT found as a sinner or with sin in Him: "*...found as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*" There's a lot to study here. Now we know that Moses wrote the book of Genesis, and he wrote what was necessary to set forth The Eternal Plan of God in Christ. There obviously was a lot of dialogue between God and Adam and Eve that was not recorded, and we don't even know for sure how many days or years are involved there. But Moses set down in fact what was necessary to The Eternal Plan and Purpose of God for mankind that would be fulfilled in Christ. And that's exactly the record he set down.

Genesis 3:6 – And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 2:16,17 – And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Romans 5:19 – For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Ephesians 3:11 – *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Obedient Unto Death

But there had to be a reason, and the only way I could figure out was to search the thing out IN CHRIST. And I found the reason in those two words: OBEDIENT and DISOBEDIENT. The obedience of Christ was unto DEATH. We know that. Hebrews 5:8, “*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.*” And the proper translation of that word “suffered” is THE CROSS. What else would He have to be obedient to? I mean, here is God in the flesh! What is the only thing that God in His Eternal state is totally opposite and contrary to? Death! So it took obedience on His part – unto death. “*...being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” See, there’s a deeper statement there: not dying IN sin, the Death of The Cross, which goes all the way back to The Tree of Life in the garden.

John 1:1,14 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Adam Ate Of The Other Tree

Well, Adam didn’t eat of THAT tree. Instead he gave identity to the other tree, of which he was forbidden to eat. But he did it anyway, and immediately his eyes were open; immediately he realized he was naked. Immediately he was seen to be who and what he was – all of that was revealed. I mean, God saw him naked every day. God knew what he was: He made him! It was Adam that didn’t know. Now consider this: man chooses to be man, and that’s exactly what happened. He chose to be man rather than what God intended for him. Now we all know, and the scriptures teach very clearly that man NEVER had The Eternal Spirit of God dwelling in him. Man was NEVER of God’s kind. We quote Genesis 1:26,27 and say man was fashioned in the image and likeness of God, and people have played those words to death. But “image” and “likeness” there mean a replica, having no substance of its own. And he was a replica, he was in representation; he was a facsimile, but he had NO substance. His very soul was given of God, was birthed of God, just as his very body was created of God. But do you find SPIRITUAL LIFE there? Paul didn’t. Paul said the first man was NOT spiritual, but the second man, (“was made” is NOT In the original) a life giving spirit. Adam wasn’t a life giving spirit, nor did The Spirit of Life, that Eternal Spirit ever dwell in him.

Genesis 3:7 – *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

Genesis 1:26,27 – *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 5:1 – *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him.*

Romans 5:14 – *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

1 Corinthians 15:45-47 – *And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*

Romans 8:9,11 – *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his... But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Adam's Tree

Adam was NOT God's kind: he was NOT God's Seed. Not only that, but he chose not to be. He chose to be man; he chose what the soul would choose. He chose to "be like God"; he believed a lie. Having NOT The Spirit of Truth, he believed a lie. Oh, God was with him, but God was on the outside of him. God never dwelt IN Adam. Adam believed a lie: he determined and chose to be less than what God intended that he should be. He became man – just man, just soul. By that I mean having no Spiritual Life, no Life Giving Spirit. So Adam identifies with this Tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is ADAM'S TREE: it is his genealogy, it's his family tree. You can put ADAM as the SEED of this Tree. This Tree took upon itself the identity of Adam, and Adam took upon himself the identity of this Tree. So let's look at this.

Romans 8:5 – *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

1 John 2:16 – *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Genesis 3:4,5 – *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

John 8:44 – *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Good And Evil Fruit

Let's put on the one side of the Tree – EVIL – evil fruit. (See diagram) And on the other side let's put GOOD – good fruit. And let's hang some fruit on this Tree. Let's name some fruit. Remember Adam is the seed of the whole thing; this is the family tree of Adam. You can see this in the scripture. This is much more than an analogy: it is a very scriptural representation. An analogy is something from which we draw The Truth, but is not necessarily The Truth itself: it is a picture. But this is a scriptural representation: not just an analogy. There were these two trees. Well, what became of them? In my mind I never dealt with that. I just kind of let it go, and I never really followed it through in the scripture. And I really missed something concerning the completeness of The Cross by not doing that: by seeing it as a Tree. What is so strange about that? We start out in the garden with the Tree of Life, and we end up in the city of God with The Tree of Life in the midst of The River of Life, bearing its fruit! Paul teaches concerning that fruit being the fruit of the very Spirit of Christ!

Genesis 5:3,22,24,28,29 – *And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth...And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters...And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him...and Lamech lived an hundred eighty two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.*

Genesis 6:9-12 – *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.*

Revelation 22:1,2 – *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.*

Galatians 5:22,23 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Good Fruit

The Cross is even being prophetically and regionally referred to as A TREE. Galatians 3:13, “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a TREE.*” Was it actually a Tree? Well, it was made out of wood. And it was actually a Tree made so by The Lord Jesus. Look at this: good and evil, and here’s the whole concept that I had never seen before until someone mentioned something about the men of the Old Covenant. Abel- is he a good fruit? Noah, Moses, David, Solomon? Good fruit on THE TREE OF HUMANITY. What was good about them? Why would we consider them good? David was an adulterer! Solomon – Oh Lord, he ended up worshipping idols! On the evil side we could put Esau, Ishmael. On the good side we could put Isaac and Jacob. We could put names all over that tree. Now names are important, because, “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” (Philippians 2:9-11) And you know that those “names” there are with reference to Biblical names. “In this world” (Ephesians 1:20) meant that world of this Adamic man, this Old Covenant situation – those names, and in that which is to come, which is come in Christ Jesus, because that Tree, and that Creation and that Generation only bears ONE NAME, and that is **HIS NAME!** So the only place where we’re dealing with NAMES (plural) is in the Old Covenant, the Old Creation. The Old Covenant is full of them, and every one of them has a significance. These men are good because all of them are with direct reference typically to Christ Himself. You can go down the list: prophets, kings or whoever it is that is good. Look at the Judges: Gideon, Samson, Joshua, Caleb; the heads of the tribes. All these names – you can search them out in the original language and find out exactly the nature and character that they imply or the work or prophecy that they imply. Every single one of them points TO CHRIST – that’s the only reason they were “good”. They were types of ONE to come. That’s the only good thing about humanity – period!

Deuteronomy 21:22,23 – *And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is cursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*

Genesis 4:4 – *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering.*

1 John 3:12 – *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

Genesis 6:8 – *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

Hebrews 11:32,33 – *And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae: of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets; Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

2 Samuel 11:3,4 – *And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.*

1 Kings 11:4 – *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

Ephesians 1:20,21 – *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.*

Testimonies of Christ

Now every one of them fell short of that of which they were a type – of HIM of whom they were a type: every single one of them. Even Solomon – once he had finished the type and carried out the typology of Christ in Resurrection, of Christ in Zion: once he had finished that, he went straight downhill! The only thing good about them was that they were testimonies of Jesus Christ. Then what was evil about these other men: because this whole tree was the tree of mankind – what was evil? They were evil because they were each the antithesis of Christ. These evil men showed the worst of

human nature: these good men showed the best of human nature. But the point is that it was still NOT The Tree of Life! It was still NOT CHRIST: it was still humanity! But God in His wisdom, as you will find Him doing again and again, takes what disobedience brings about, what sin brings in: He takes that and uses it in type, even if by contrast to His Son. Yes. He did that with them in the wilderness. They were disobeying God every time they turned around! And yet every dealing of The Lord with them wasn't to reward their disobedience, but it was to bring in a fresh new type of HIS SON.

1 Kings 9:1- And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the Lord, and the kings' house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do...

Romans 5:17-19 – For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Psalms 78:10-12,20,22-25,32 – They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them. Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan...Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? Can he provide flesh for his people? ...Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation: Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven. And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full...For all this they sinned still, and believed not his wondrous works.

1 Corinthians 10:4 – And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

God Faithful to His Own Testimony

Yes, that's so because God starts out looking at The Tree of Life, and He ends up looking at The Tree of Life. His intention is fulfilled in The Tree of Life. So in the Law, although the Law was added because of transgressions, added because of sin: but even in the Law you find the promise of Life. Even in the Law – the ceremonies, the sacrifices, the offerings, the priesthood – you find the type of the Eternal. But that was not Eternal, and was never meant to be Eternal, and wasn't meant to make anybody

Eternal or even make them righteous. And yet in it you find the TYPE of righteousness, the order of righteousness, the promise of Eternal Life. Think about The Tabernacle. The Temple of God is NOT made with hands. Is not the Temple of God, Paul would say, "...*eternal in the heavens.*"?(2 Corinthians 5:1) Even God Himself, speaking through the Prophet Isaiah asked what house is it that you can build for me. Isaiah 66:1,2, "*Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*" God says He will NOT find His rest there; and yet they spoke of the House, didn't they, because The Lord is faithful to His Own Testimony. He is faithful to His Own Eternal Plan and Purpose. And He will never deter from that, and He will never deal with any one – you, me or anyone else, except in accordance with that. We may accept it or not accept it, but God sees nothing else. He sets the standard.

Galatians 3:19 – *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

Hebrews 7:19; 8:4,5; 9:23,24; 10:1 – *For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God...For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount...It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*

Galatians 2:21 - *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

Ephesians 1:11; 3:11 – *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will...According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2 Timothy 2:13 – *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

God's Standard

And the standard of course is fulfilled in HIS SON. Everything this first tree was a type of, yet was not – is fulfilled in His Son. And everything that this tree was in its worse was also fulfilled in His Son. May I remind you: who is the last on the tree of Adam; who is the last “good man”? JESUS! Did Adam’s genealogy go one generation beyond Jesus? No, it did not! It came to its END in Him. He is the only truly “good man” that ever walked the face of the earth. Therefore He summed up all the other “good men”; and He also summed up all the “bad men” didn’t He? He was the last “good man”. “...*Jesus (as it was supposed) son of Joseph...*” (Luke 3:23) Jesus – born of Mary; Jesus – born under the Law; Jesus – born of the flesh. “...*being found as A MAN... became obedient unto death...*” (Philippians 2:8)

Galatians 4:4 – *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.*

Romans 8:3 – *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.*

The Seed

So we come from the tree, and in Abraham we find the promise of **THE SEED**. Now actually The Seed is introduced in the first chapter of Genesis, but nothing much is made out of it. But here in Abraham, much is made out of The Seed: The Seed that was to come. There was already one seed here: but The Seed that was to come. ‘Unto thy Seed is My Covenant. Thy Seed – greater than the numbering of the stars; greater than the numbering of the sand of the sea.’ It cannot be measured by heaven or earth – THIS SEED! The promise goes on and on in the Old Covenant, and then Paul picks this up and says in Galatians 3:16, “*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is **CHRIST**.*”

Genesis 12:7 – *And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.*

Genesis 1:27,28 – *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have*

dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 13:15,16;15:5;17:19;22:17,18 – *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered...And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be...And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him...That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore, and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

The Tree Under The Law

So we find this tree, and this tree comes under the Law, and in Galatians 3:19-24 we find that what happened to the tree under the Law was that the Law condemned the whole tree! The good of it, and the bad of it: it was the Law that brought in the understanding that the whole tree is CORRUPT! The Law did that. All those names – look at them under the Law. Their righteousness is as filthy rags! The Law condemned the whole tree! The Law came in and said, “*Thou shalt... Thou shalt not...*” The problem was that they could NOT do the ‘thou shalt’ and they would NOT keep from doing the ‘thou shalt not!’ And the Law was configured that way. Paul explained the Law wasn’t meant to bring you to righteousness: it was meant to show you your unrighteousness. He said in Galatians 3:21, “*...for it there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*” He said in Galatians 3:19, “*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions...*”

Romans 3:20,23 – *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Romans 7:7,15 – *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet...For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do.*

Isaiah 64:6 – *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Psalms 53:2,3 – *God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Everyone of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Exodus 20:3-5,7,13-17 – *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain...Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery... Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.*

Galatians 2:19,21 – *For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God...I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

He Became This Tree

The Law had its purpose; however – upon this tree... He told the whole tree: The whole tree is CORRUPT! ‘Yes, but I’ve got some good things about me.’ Well, the only good things on this whole family tree is the things that pointed TO CHRIST: the things that could only be fulfilled in Christ. The others of this family tree pointed to the death to which Christ would have to go to become this tree, because He became this tree! He hanged! As name of all names – He hanged upon this tree: He bore the curse of the fruit of this tree. He became this tree. And this cleared up a lot of questions for me. This wasn’t so obvious when you just looked at Adam as a man, and other men; and you kind of get lost in all the men, unless you realize they are all just fruit in the same tree. And then when I saw that in the genealogy in Luke 3, I thought, My God – the last good man on the tree DESTROYED THE WHOLE TREE! And He did not do it out of the disobedience of that seed: He did it in obedience as a Son. For He was not by nature corrupt: but by nature incorruptible. And the fact that He BECAME sin does not indicate that He was ever sinful. But He became sin... He bore the curse.

2 Corinthians 1:20 – *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Galatians 3:13 – *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.*

Galatians 5:19-21 – *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Romans 5:19 – *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

1 Peter 1:23 – *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

Mankind

Someone had to do something about the tree! Because though it could bear evil fruit and good fruit, it could NOT bear LIFE! It had no Life in it: good works, but not coming out from Life. Here you see the worst of man and the best of man, but what you are seeing is MAN nonetheless. It is not The Tree of Life. It has no Life in it. It is by nature and character SOULISH to the core. Are there not “good” virtues in the soul? Certainly. Look at the fruit there. Are there not baser and corrupt characters in the soul? Certainly. Look at the fruit. You can look as this as nations. You can bring in the nation of Israel and all the names of the twelve tribes, or you can bring in the Gentile nations. It doesn't make any difference because we understand that whether Jew or Gentile, it doesn't make any difference: they are made one body by The Cross. They are seen to be one mankind in His Body by The Cross. So then The New Creation is NOT made up of “good” Jews and “good” Gentiles: it's ONE NEW MAN that is neither Jew nor Gentile!

Hebrews 9:14 – *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Ephesians 2:8,9,14-16 – *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast...For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments*

contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.

Galatians 3:27,28 – *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 3:10,11 – *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

Another Tree

And you see that so clearly in the tree. So we have to bring the answer. And that is another tree – **THE CROSS**: The Cross, which is to the first – death; but to the second it is Life. We have looked at Galatians 3:13 and Deuteronomy 21:22,23 which refers to everyone that hangs on a tree becoming a curse FOR US. That’s the way it is stated in some older manuscripts. Jameson of Jameson, Forsett and Brown commentators says, ‘Becoming what we by nature were.’ By nature – and I would add, ‘by seed’, because the nature is in the seed. Becoming – this is it: becoming. He gathered it all up, didn’t He? The Law has already said none of you are righteous. Paul speaks of that in Romans 7 where Paul gives a record of himself having at one time under the Law tried to find his righteousness under the Law. And the only thing he was faced with every time he would seek to do good by the Law was it would reveal evil being in him. To the point it just drove him to despair and he cried out, “*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*” (Romans 7:24) The Law has pronounced that, so another Tree was in answer to the Law and in answer to what the Law has shown; not just an answer to the Law, because Christ was coming whether there had been a Law or not!

2 Corinthians 2:15,16 - *For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.*

Ephesians 2:3 - *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Romans 3:10 – *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*

Romans 7:15-19 – *For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not: but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

The Law

But the Law was His forerunner. Yes, just like all the prophets, the Law was His forerunner. Did not John come as actually the very forerunner, and as the END of the Law and the prophets? The Law was His forerunner: The Law declared the absolute necessity that One should come because The Law plainly stated and showed that only the righteousness of ANOTHER Who is yet to come would do. The Jews called Him THE MESSIAH, The Anointed of God – only His righteousness would suffice. They knew that and taught that. The Law demanded that: the types and shadows testified of that. The prophets prophesied of that, and the psalmists promised that.

Galatians 3:24 – *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

Matthew 3:2,3 – *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

Mark 1:7 – *And (John) preached saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.*

Luke 3:15,16 – *And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*

John 1:6-8,23 – *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light...He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

Matthew 5:20 – *For I say unto, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Isaiah 32:1;62:1,2 – *Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment...For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.*

Malachi 3:1-3 – *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.*

Romans 10:4 – *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

Only One Tree In The End

But before any of that THE TREE had to be dealt with. There can never be two trees in the garden of God again! There are NOT two trees in the garden of God. Now we've said that there's nothing of Adam in Christ. All right, but I'm showing you this in the tree. There are not two trees in the garden of God. Go to the letter to the churches that John wrote by The Revelation of Jesus Christ. There's ONE tree in the end of all things – in the garden, in the city of God, in the midst of the Throne – out from which the river of Life flows, which is indeed the true street of Heaven. There's only ONE tree there, bearing the fruit of Eternal Life, having even healing in its leaves! What happened to the other one? It didn't just get old and die. "... becoming a curse for us..." (Galatians 3:13) 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" And most of the notable writers will hurry to add 'being sin for us, but not sinful.' What was the sin that He bore? **ME AND YOU!** He became the only piece of fruit on the tree and He died. And with Him, the whole tree died. It is said in Matthew 3:10 and Luke 3:9, "*And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*" He didn't come and clip some bad limbs off. You can sermonize on this all night and really get into some good things!

Revelation 22:1,2 – *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

2 Corinthians 5:14 – *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.*

Not a Tree-Trimming Party

The Cross is not a tree-trimming party! The only limbs that are purged are on The TREE OF LIFE. They are part of the True Vine. They are purged to produce fruit. We must understand that is the working of His death in us, so that His Life may be expressed. My point is this is not a tree-trimming: The Cross is not that. Luke 3:9, “...the axe is laid unto the root of the trees...” Well, that’s the whole tree. There most specifically it is speaking of The Tree of Israel, but that’s the reason the tree comes under the Law; the whole of mankind was gathered up under the Law in Israel. “*Death reigned from Adam to Moses...*” (Romans 5:14) It was all gathered up in Moses and the whole tree was condemned, and now the axe is laid to the root of it. I mean, He chops it down at the very root! Now I would consider that as pretty complete! Now there are lots of trees like the Giant Redwoods and Sequoia that once you cut them down and make just a flat stump out of them and leave them alone, they will start producing trees. Big trees will start coming right up out of that stump. I stood and looked at that one time and ended up crying, realizing, ‘My God, this is THE RESURRECTION! The idiots thought they killed this tree. Look at it – The Resurrection!’

John 15:1,2 – *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

2 Corinthians 4:10-12 – *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

1 Corinthians 1:8 – *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

The Root/The Seed

But the first tree has NO RESURRECTION. He didn't just cut it down even with the ground: He chops the root, He cuts the root. But then... what about the SEED? But God's not through with the tree yet. It wasn't enough for Him to cut the tree down by the root: He went after the SEED as well! "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*" (John 12:24) It has to DIE. You see it is right and proper to say that all Life comes out of death if you know THE DEATH you are talking about. Otherwise it is not proper and right to say that at all, because death is not the origin of Life. But if you understand what you're talking about then it is proper and true to say that. And here is the Seed. Now Jesus was after the flesh the seed of David, consequently the seed of Adam, and there comes the genealogy back in Luke 3. This was all after the flesh; but after The Spirit He was none other than The Incorruptible Seed of God! This Seed had to fall into the ground and die. And what died? What died was the husk of humanity. That's what died. He laid aside the old man, He laid aside the first man. In His obedience – not disobedience, He bore it, and He bore it unto death: He bore it unto the grave, He bore it into the pits of hell, He bore it into the deepest part of the earth! And He shed it like an old garment!

Romans 1:3 – *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.*

Matthew 1:17 – *So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.*

1 Peter 1:23 – *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

Colossians 3:9-10 – *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*

Hebrews 1:11,12 – *They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*

John 20:5-7 – *And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying: yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre,*

and seeth the linen clothes lie. And the napkin, that was bout his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Husk Of Humanity Rent

Yes, this husk of humanity was rent just as sure as the veil in the Temple was rent, which stands for the same thing. And is this not so even in the analogy of the death of a natural seed? It is the husk that dies to give way to the life: to release the life that is in it. And that's what The Cross is to Christ – it is A RELEASAL OF LIFE: a doing away with the one, that the other may come forth in the power of The Resurrection. This seed dies – it dies in the ground from whence it is. Made of dirt – it goes to dirt: earthly – it dies. And what happens when it dies? A NEW tree, an altogether OTHER Tree comes out of this seed. “ *I am the vine, ye are the branches...* ” (John 15:1) But the branches can do nothing of themselves. As I have borne you... As I have brought you forth in My Resurrection, so ye must bear My fruit: YE MUST BEAR ME! See, there are no names on this fruit. There are no people's names on this fruit. There are names like JOY, PEACE, GRACE, FULNESS, LONGSUFFERING, WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE.

Matthew 27:51 – *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.*

John 1:17 – *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

Hebrews 10:19,20 – *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.*

Genesis 3:19 – *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

1 Corinthians 15:47,49 – *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...and as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

John 15:5 – *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Galatians 5:22,23 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

The Increase of Christ

That fruit is the increase of CHRIST: that's what this Tree is for! That's what this Seed is for: the increase of The Lord Jesus Christ. His increase we know is in His Body, but here it is The Tree of Life, which is The Church, which is His Body, the fulness of Him! I'm not talking about the building sitting on the corner; I'm talking about that people who are out from that Seed! And who bear the fruit of it: for the ONLY name on that Tree is the name of The Seed, and the name is NOT apple, or orange, or grapefruit, but **JESUS CHRIST THE LORD!** In bearing His Name, what do they bear? They bear His nature, they bear the fruit of His Spirit, they bear His character, they bear the evidence of His substance. **THEY BEAR HIS LIFE!**

Ephesians 3:19;4:13,15 – *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God...Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ...But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*

Ephesians 1:22,23 – *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

2 Corinthians 4:10,11 – *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

Condemnation Fulfilled – New Tree

And if there are times of pruning of these branches, it is only that more fruit may be produced. “*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*” (John 15:8) That has nothing to do with the deeds of the flesh. The deeds of the flesh are taken care of way back in the deeds of the Law: “thou shalt, thou shalt not...” And all “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” did was just name the fruit – good and evil. Thou shalt = good; thou shalt not = evil. But then the Law revealed a law – a law of sin and death: a law that said you can not do the “shalts” and you can not keep from doing the ‘shalt nots’. Because the Law was not given to instruct you in Eternal Life, but to expose your unrighteousness, and your need of another. The Law condemned the tree. But with The Cross condemnation was fulfilled! “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*” (Romans 8:1) Now there's a whole NEW TREE! There may be instruction, there may be dealings of the Lord, there may even be pruning; but there is no

condemnation of The Law. And the fruit of this Tree is not the deeds of the flesh – good or evil; but rather The Life Giving, Life Flowing nature of CHRIST finding its expression in the branches.

Romans 8:3,4 – *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Hebrews 13:7,9,10 – *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ...Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

The Tree God Chose

So we come from the one tree to the other. A Tree that was seemingly ignored, and actually refused by Adam, is now the only Tree in the garden, because it is the Tree that God chose, and chose from before the foundation of the world. Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, “*For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” It is that fruit; that which he is speaking of. That is, we are chosen with a purpose. Purpose is not found in yourself: purpose is found IN HIM. So He chops down the first tree. He chops down the tree and He burns it, but He also destroys the seed. So He goes after it lock, stock and barrel. He goes after it limb, trunk and seed! How can we say that anything of the old is brought over into the New? They are two totally different trees, but there are NOT two trees still abiding in the garden. The one is absolutely and irrevocably done away with in Christ. You don’t find it in Him. It’s not there! The only thing left is for you and I by The Spirit of the Lord to identify with the first. Yes, and then find ourselves in the second – not as an old, not as a transplanted vine, or a transplanted tree. But as those who have absolutely no Life but Christ! The Seed brings forth in His Resurrection the increase of HIMSELF! And that is The Tree of Life! That you may have fruit for those that are hungry, those that would be fed and eat; those that would have Life. That you might have fruit.

1 Peter 1:20 – *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*

Hebrews 10:9 – *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

Galatians 2:20 – *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

One Tree

Well, we could go on and on, for you see the death of this husk never ceases to work in us. For it is His death working in us by which we minister Life to you. We never become The Tree. You don't break a limb off of this and go plant it and call it a tree. No more, Paul says, can the ear say he's the nose, and the nose say he's the ear, or the member say he's The Body. "*But now are they many members, yet but **one body.***" (1 Corinthians 12:20) I don't care how many limbs there are on the Tree, as long as there's just One Tree. I told a brother once about a meeting in another country to which I was invited to speak, and it was a "mixed" rostrum. And by "mixed" I mean people saying everything except the same thing. And I called him and said I wasn't going. And I told him I don't do those kind of meetings, and I know at first he thought I was an egotistical person who wouldn't go if I wasn't the only speaker. But I corrected him that I didn't care if there were twenty speakers, as long as they are all saying the same thing: and the thing they are saying is CHRIST! I refuse to participate in anything that is a mixture.

1 Corinthians 12:19-21,27 – *And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you...Now ye are the body of Christ, and members is particular.*

Bearing The Same Fruit

It makes no difference how many branches are on the Tree as long as they are all bearing the same fruit. That's not having the same ministry: but bearing the same fruit, expressing the same Life. Do you understand me? Not all dressing alike, but all having the same Life. For you see, never is the word "more" or "much" used with reference to the limbs. It is used only with reference to the FRUIT. So it's not The Tree with much limbs that counts, but it is the branch bearing much fruit that counts. On and on we could go with this because it is The Truth, but it is one of the clearest pictures that I have seen of the death of the tree, and the coming forth of another, out of that Seed which is Christ. You can't attach yourself to that Tree, and I think many try to do that. You could have attached yourself to the old tree: you either were good or evil. But you can't attach yourself to that Tree which is Christ – all and in all. That won't work!

Philippians 1:27; 2,2 – *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs,*

that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

1 Corinthians 12:28 – *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

Colossians 3:11 – *Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

No Mixture

Therefore you can not put new wine in old wine flasks. You can not sew a new piece of material on an old garment. You can not bring wood, hay and stubble upon the only foundation – which is Christ. You can't do it! It won't work. May The Lord help us to come to that realization in our hearts, because it is out of that we have the liberty to walk in the New. Yes, being released into all that Christ is. So I pray The Lord will bring us to the finality of The Cross in our hearts; the finality of this tree, and that our own hearts will be set upon Him. Even the Lord Himself brought this into the very reality of Salvation. Surely there is therein something that we need to understand, and I just pray that The Spirit of The Lord will work that understanding in us – in the revealing of His Son. Amen.

Matthew 9:16,17 – *No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.*

1 Corinthians 3:11-13 – *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

Galatians 5:1 – *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

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