

The Protected Tree Of Life

Ge 3:20 ¶ "And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 ¶ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 22 ¶ And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

The serpent, Adam, and Eve have already received their individual curses from God. The serpent for his deceit, Eve for her covetousness, and Adam because of his covetousness and blatant disobedience to God.

Notice, we are told that Eve is the mother of all living, but we are not told of any children being born until they are driven from the garden.

Notice, God made Adam and Eve coats of skins and clothed them. This tells us that after the fall into sin mankind is to cover their natural bodies with clothing. God does not intend that sinful mankind go around naked or even almost naked, which would be depicted by Adam and Eve covering themselves with aprons of fig leaves.

Notice, God says that mankind has become as one of us, and now they know the difference between good and evil. This is our inherited flesh nature against which we have constant warfare today.

Notice, God drove mankind out of the garden lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever in their fallen state of sinfulness. God demanded of mankind that they till the ground. Why? Because fallen mankind is not worthy of the freely given fruits of the garden. Now man must work for his food. This reminds us that the unsaved are not worthy to receive the free gifts that come with the new birth of a Child of God, which the primary one is eternal life, which is coupled with the eternal remission of sins.

Notice, God "***placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.***" Wherefore, we understand that God, by his divine power, has protected the tree of life from being eaten of by fallen mankind. What does this have to do with us today? It is a prophetic picture of the coming age of salvation by grace, and the divine protection provided for God's people on earth. With the first coming of Christ to earth, Jesus established the church, the kingdom of God on earth. The Garden of Eden is a picture of God's church here in time.

Understand, no person, who has not been born again, is able to enter into this church, nor partake of the tree of life, which is representative of Jesus the Christ. No person, who is unsaved can hear and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, we see the realm of religion has been infiltrated by the unsaved, and thereby brought disgrace on the name of the church of God. Yes, this is true, but remember, these are not a part of the true church of God. Only those who have been regenerated, from the life, of dead in trespasses and sins, into the marvelous light of the new birth, are members of the true church.

How do we know this is true? Remember, when Jesus came to earth; he was believed upon by those who God gave sight and understanding. Yet, even, among the nation of people who bore God's name, there were those who believed not that he was the Son of God, nor did they believe his word.

With this thought in mind: remember that the tree of life was protected by God in the Garden of Eden, so that fallen in sin mankind, the unsaved person, could not partake of it and live forever. Now, With the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a way has been provided, by which the born-again child of God may partake of the tree of life and live forever. Quite literally: when you are born again you are given eternal life in Jesus the Christ. We know this from the word of God in:

- ***Joh 10:28; 27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one."***
- ***Ac 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."***
- ***Ro 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."***

These words of God give us the infallible truth and proof of the eternal protection of God for the saved, just as God protected the tree of life in the beginning. None, but the saved children of God, have this divine protection provided by Jesus Christ.

The tree of life is a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ. As in the beginning, when God established protection for the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, Jesus Christ in mortality was protected by having a prepared body, which was sinless. Jesus was protected because he is the Word of God, and God's Word is truth and has no lies in it. How can we be sure that the Word of God was protection for Jesus? Because, when tempted by Satan, Jesus refuted the temptations of the devil with the Word of God. Because Jesus is the Tree of Life, he has revealed himself to his chosen people in the new birth. They are partakers of the bread of life, the body of Jesus, and they are going to live eternally in a saved body, which shall be resurrected, or changed, to an immortal body, like the body of Jesus, when Jesus returns the second and final time.

The resurrected Christ has provided protection for the saved, who are the church of God, as seen in: **Mt 24:24** *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* We are protected from eternal damnation by the power of Christ in us. Without Christ in us, we can only do like Adam and choose to disbelieve God, be obsessed with covetousness, and believe the lies of the serpent.

God knew that man, who was created with the ability to choose to obey, or disobey, God's commandment, would choose to disobey and live a life of sin. Do you understand: that because God knew this, even before he created everything, he knew that he had already provided a way that the new heaven and the new earth would be populated, and would be the sinless place like he first created?

Why would God create mankind with a will to choose, and allow mankind to fall in sin? Because love that is unexpressed is useless. God could not demonstrate his mercy and grace without a world of sin. Without realizing that we were dead in trespasses and sins, we could not experience God's grace and mercy, and we could not express our love to him for the gift of eternal salvation. God demonstrated his true love for his chosen people by sending Jesus Christ to redeem them from their lost in sin state. This is why we are told in scripture: **1Jo 4:19** *"We love him, because he first loved us."*

We see this manifested in: **1Jo 4:16** *"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."* What choice can a dead person make? None. But if you have Christ in you, gifted to you in the new birth, then you can choose to love, and be a disciple of, Christ. We can choose because of Christ in us, which we shall do, as seen in: **Joh 6:37** *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

We can never, in our mortality, see and understand things in an eternal perspective; but, with Christ in us, we can get a glimmering of the eternal purpose of God and salvation by grace. This world, and time, in which we live is a temporary proving ground, and will be destroyed once the full purpose of God is fulfilled. God's eternal plan is to have a chosen group of people, who believe and love God, to inhabit the new heaven and the new earth, of which Jesus Christ is the centerpiece, just as the *"the tree which is in the midst (center) of the garden."*

"and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." What of the flaming sword that keeps the way of the tree of life? This flaming sword is the word of God, defined as such in: **Eph 6:17** *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"* Seen also in: **Re 19:15** *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."* This is Jesus, at his return, which demonstrates that the tree of life was indeed eternally protected. Jesus has come from the eternal heaven, to eternally separate the saved and the lost, which shall be done by the flaming sword, the Word of God coming out of his mouth.

Before creation, God purposed to save a people to worship him eternally. In creation God manifested this purpose, and made provision, through Jesus the Christ, to fulfill this eternal purpose. At the end of time, the serpent, and all that is sinful will be cast forever into the lake of fire, which will separate us from sin and temptation forever. Wherefore, today, we live with that great hope of the resurrection of our bodies, or our change at the coming of Christ, that we may be placed in the eternal Garden of Eden, as God first placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This eternal Garden of Eden has no serpent to tempt us to turn away from God. There we shall eat of the Tree of Life freely, and we shall be eternally protected by the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen!