

The Tree

December 16, 2012

The Tale of Two Trees

The Place of Decision, the Place of Justice

The Tree in the Garden

The Law of Sin and Death

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eat thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:17

- If you eat, you die
- If you believe the lie, you fall from grace
- If you disobey, you come under the just punishment of the law
- If you don't heed God's Word, you will be cut off from intimacy with God

The Tree at Golgotha

The Law of Believe and Live

Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believes on me hath everlasting life** . . . Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat** the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, **ye have no life in you.**

John 6:47,53

For **the law of the Spirit of Life** in Christ Jesus has set you free from **the law of sin and death.**

Romans 8:2

- If you eat, you live
- If you believe the Truth, you enter grace
- If you obey, you come under the Work of Righteousness
- If you do heed God's Word, then you will be brought into right relationship and intimacy with God

The Garden

The Place of Two Trees

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 . . . 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 eats thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:9,16-17

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 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. 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. 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 . . .

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 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 for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 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.

Genesis 3:1-7;21-24

The Right to the Tree

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat . . .**

Genesis 2:16

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 for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 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.**

Genesis 3:22-24

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God . . . Blessed are they that do his commandments, that **they may have right to the tree of life**, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Revelation 2:7; 22:14

The Law of the Tree

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 accursed of**

God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcass down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remains unto this day.

Joshua 8:29

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 hangs on a tree:

Galatians 3:13

The Tree in the Wilderness

And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spoke against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loathes this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that **every one that is bitten, when he looks upon it, shall live.**

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Numbers 21:4-9

The Accursed of God

Death, while hung up on a pole or tree, to the Hebrew, was a death that carried with it the highest degree of disrepute, indignity, and reproach that can attach to a man - the foulest stench of degradation. For it denoted both the carrying of the just penalty for sin and the unmitigated exposure to scandal, shame, and infamy. Those that beheld the “hanging” man, recognized his pitiful and disgraceful state, for he was lifted into a strata of unsurpassed contempt between heaven and earth, thusly declaring that he has been abandoned of both, and was heretofore unworthy of either.

But God made it clear to His people that when such a man hangs upon a pole or tree, he mustn't hang there through the night, but ought to be taken down at sunset and then subsequently buried in the ground. This was a symbol that the justice was settled, the law satisfied, the guilt now removed, and no more was demanded. Then he, and those that are his, ceased to be a curse. And, now that his body was buried, the land of Israel was purified and cleansed of his crimes.

The Cursed Nehushtan

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that **every one that is bitten, when he looks upon it, shall live.**
And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it

came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, **when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.**

Numbers 21:4-9

Our Jesus Became the Nehushtan (the cursed thing)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:14-21

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 hangs on a tree:

Galatians 3:13

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.

2 Corinthians 5:21

The Tree in the Promised Land

The Tree is for more than Forgiveness

The Necks of the 5 Kings

And all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace: none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel. Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me out of the cave. And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight. And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening. And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Joshua 10:21-27

The Tree, the Tomb, and the Titanic Stone

And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcass down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remains unto this day.

Joshua 8:29

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 accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

The Sting

The moment when a con artist finishes the "play" and takes the mark's money. If a con game is successful, the mark does not realize he has been "taken" (cheated), at least not until the con men are long gone.

The Serpent - *Nachash*

The Con Artist - The Cheat, The Cursed, The Condemned

Conning the Con and Crushing his Head

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Esther 7:10

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

1 Corinthians 2:8

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 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:**

Romans 8:2-3

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them** in it.

Colossians 2:15

Jesus Hasn't Merely Become Accursed For Us

He has become our Triumph

Reckoning their Defeat

Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:6

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ
were **baptized into His death?**

Romans 6:3

I am crucified with Christ.

Galatians 2:20a

Likewise **reckon** ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, . . .

Romans 6:11a

Reckoning His Triumph

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like
as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,
even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**
For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death,
we shall be also in the likeness of His
resurrection . . .

Romans 6:4-5

I am crucified with Christ: **nevertheless I live**; yet not I,
but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by
the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for
me.

Galatians 2:20

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but
alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:11

The Five Kings are Dead and Buried

Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight. And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening. And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Joshua 10:21-27

The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath.

Psalms 110:5

The Tale of Two Trees

The Place of Decision, the Place of Justice

Sin and Death	Believe and Live
If you eat, you die	If you eat, you live
If you believe the lie, you fall from grace	If you believe the truth, you enter into grace
If you disobey, you come under the just punishment of the law	If you obey, you come under the Work of Righteousness
If you don't heed God's Word, you will be cut off from intimacy with God	If you do heed God's Word, then you will be brought into right-relationship and intimacy with God

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that **they may**
have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through
the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:14