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THE GARDEN OF EDEN



The glory of God permeated the first Heavenly man, male and female created in God's image. The Garden was also filled with Glory creating a perfect atmosphere for the perfect man (Gen.1:31). God, is the All and in All, in Spirit as well as in all created manifested forms.

It was all perfect until, a Usurper corrupted God's perfect man and perfect garden. Man fell from his exalted first estate, a little lower than Elohim (Psa.8:5-6), and lost his crown of Glory. The glory that first permeated his body, mind and spirit left him wretched, sinful and naked. He lost his glory.

Now, the All and in All is separated from man. Man's lush environment was changed into a dry and thorny ground, and for the first time, his body experienced both hot and cold, and pain and suffering. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom.3:23). The only hope is for fallen man to die and be recreated. The remedy for Glory's return in man is through Jesus, "the seed of the woman" who would crush "the head of the serpent." The "Lord of Glory" did that at the Cross. The Gospel says, "Christ in you is the only hope of Glory" (Col.1:27). He is the final redeeming hope of the return of the lost Glory, both in man and in man's earth.

In the beginning, God is all and in all of the created realms (Gen.1:1), and at the end of time when all evil and death will be swallowed up in life, God's glorious All is again fully manifested in all of the redeemed. Mortality is swallowed up in immortality (II Cor.5:4; I Cor.15:28), and the earth will

return to its first lush garden without the flaming swords to keep man out (1 Cor.15:22-28). For God promises us, "Truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Num.14:21). Finally the way back to the Tree of Life is opened and all who come will surely live forever.

- **Gen.2:7** God's perfect man
- **Gen.1:26** First Creation, God made man, male and female, a spirit being
- **Gen.2:7** Second creation, God blew the Spirit man into an earthly body and gave him a form
- **Gen.2:23** Man was made androgynous, both male and female, until Eve was taken out of him
- **Gen.2:8** God's perfect garden. The perfect environment didn't cover the whole earth, Adam was meant to have dominion over the whole earth
- **Gen.3:1** God's serpent. Satan appeared as an angel of light, or presented to them what seemed reasonable
- **Gen.2:17** All yeses, and only one no, or should I say only one Law in the whole discourse
- **Gen.3:19** Discourse between Eve and the devil
- **Gen.3:6** Sin is broken law
- **Gen.3:14-17** God condemned Satan, but gave man "merciful consequences" that would drive him back home again

The Fall

"It is impossible, that this world, in the state and condition it is now in, should have been an immediate and original creation of God: this is as impossible, as that God should author evil, either natural or moral. That this world hath evil in all its parts; that its matter is in a corrupt, disordered state, full of grossness, disease, impurity, wrath, death and darkness, is as evident, as that there is light, beauty, order and harmony everywhere to be found in it. Therefore it is as impossible, that this outward state and condition of things, should be a first and immediate work of God, as that there should be good and evil in God himself. All storms and tempests, every fierceness of heat, every wrath of cold proves with the same certainty, that outward nature **is not a first work of God**, as the selfishness, envy, pride, wrath, and malice of devils, and men proves, that they are not in the first state of their creation. As no kind or degree of moral evil could possibly have its cause in, or from God, so there cannot be the least shadow of imperfection and disorder in outward nature, but what must have sprung up in the same manner, and from the same causes, as sickness and corrupt flesh is come into the human body, namely, from the sin of the creature. Storms, tempests, gravel, stone, sour and dead earth are the same things, the same diseases, the same effects of sin, produced in the same manner in the outward body of nature, as corrupt flesh, fevers, dropsies, plagues, gravel, stone, and gout, are produced in the outward body of man. For that, and that only which produces stone in the body of man, did produce stone in the outward nature, as shall plainly appear by and by. For nature within, and without man, is one and the same, and has but one and the same way of working; a stone in the body, and a stone out of the body of man, proceeds from one and the same disorder of nature.

When therefore you see a diseased, gouty, leprous, asthmatical, scorbutic man, you can with the utmost certainty say, this is not that human body which God first created in paradise; so, when you see the disorders of heat and cold, the poisonous earth, unfruitful seasons, and malignant qualities of outward nature, you can with the same certainty affirm, this state of nature is not a first creation of God, but that same must have happened to it, which has happened to the body of man. For dark, sour, hard, dead earth, can no more be a first, immediate creation of God, than a wrathful devil, as such, can be created by him. For dark, sour, dead earth is as

disordered in its kind, as the devils are, and has as certainly lost its first heavenly condition and nature, as the devils have lost theirs. But now, as in man, the little world, there is excellency and perfection enough to prove, that human nature is the work of an all-perfect being, yet, so much impurity and disease of corrupt flesh and blood, as undeniably shows, that sin has almost quite spoiled the work of God. So, in the great world, the footsteps of an infinite wisdom in the order and harmony of the whole, sufficiently appears; yet, the disorders, tumults, and evils of nature, plainly demonstrate, that the present condition of this world is only the remains or ruins, first, of a heaven spoiled by the fall of angels, and then of a paradise lost by the sin of man. So that man, and the world in which he lives, lie both in the same state of disorder and impurity, have both the same marks of life and death in them, both bring forth the same sort of evils, both want a redeemer, and have need of the same kind of death and resurrection, before they can come to their first state of purity and perfection.”¹

Why The Fall In The First Place?

Why Did God subject the whole of His creation to corruption and vanity (Romans 8:20-21)? How can the Wisdom of God risk so much by having her glorious heavenly children lost in the vanity of time? Isn't Satan laughing at and mocking God's plan to have a family of glorified sons? Or does he know it? I Corinthians 2:8 says that if Satan had known it, he would not have crucified Jesus, "The Lord of Glory".

The question remains, "Was God blindsided?" Almighty, All Knowing God, Blindsided? How absurd! Did God in His infinite Wisdom subjected us to the fall? Yes, God handed us innocent babes, right into the hands of subtle Satan. But God's Wisdom knows that a son, in order to know what it means to be a valid choosing son of God, has to be confronted with opposites. We are not fully persons until we exercise our royal capacity of choice. And, choice must mean choosing between two opposites. Wisdom also knows that the babe must take vanity as a false reality, develop it as a false independent identity and suffer the full consequences of unbelief. Then man can be conditioned to receive the opposite kingdom of God and know his true identity as Christ with full experiential knowledge as a mature son of God. Our first parent's fatal choice of disobedience brought into being God's 'curses of mercy' which brought them suffering, satanic bondages and negative consequences.

God meant these consequences to come into full manifestation in us. Suffering conditions us and breaks us down so that we might see and receive the one provision for all evil, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus that we might be fully delivered from the bondage of corruption unto the glorious liberty of the children of God.

There were two trees in the garden, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life. Although, some say it was only one tree manifesting two dimensions at the same time. However you may want to look at it, there were two choices to consider.

What did they represent? Life is not a tree, for the Bible says that "He that hath the Son hath life" So life is a person. The tree of life represents the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The tree of death also represents a person. It represents Satan, the author of death. Why then did God call the evil tree, the tree of knowledge? A tree isn't knowledge either. Yet if Adam and Eve partook of that tree they would acquire "another knowledge" different from what they already had. Since the "Tree of Death," represented Satan, then the knowledge they would acquire was Satan's very own consciousness or "MIND".

¹ [An Appeal to the Clergy](#) by William Law

What is this knowledge? It is the knowledge of rebellion and independence, separate from God; it is the knowledge of faith in one's own created self; it is the knowledge that the creation has its own life or power source; it is the knowledge of prideful and puffed-up with arrogance; it is the knowledge of glorifying my own self; it is the knowledge of self-sufficiency. But ironically, it is the knowledge of being ashamed and overcome with self-hatred; and it is the knowledge of excusing and justifying ourselves and blaming others for our own foolishness and sins. It is the Wisdom of this world and it is the knowledge of perpetual death.

What is the knowledge in the "Tree of Life?" The Tree of Life represented Christ's own consciousness or mind. What is this knowledge? It is the knowledge of oneness with the Father as our life source; it is the knowledge of the Cross; it is the knowledge of harmony and peace; it is the knowledge of self-less other-love; it is the knowledge of unceasing joy; and it is the knowledge of God Himself, because it is "the Wisdom of God" and "the Mind of Christ".

Didn't Adam and Eve already have the Mind of God? Yes, at first, although they had not experienced knowledge of what that meant. They had nothing to compare it to. So, therefore their divine mind was not mature, it was infantile, and childlike. They were inexperienced, unchallenged and without awareness and consciousness of themselves. Their self-awareness was so limited that they didn't even know that they were naked (Gen. 2:25). Although the bigger question is, "Why were they naked in the first place?" Weren't they supposed to be clothed in glory (II Cor. 5:2-3)? And why was Eve taken out of Adam, what was "not good?" Something hidden happened which God has kept secret. Maybe He will reveal it to us some day.

But now the question is: "Would Adam and Eve walk by faith not trusting their own wisdom, or would they function separate from God trusting in their own understanding and sufficiency's?" If they chose to function apart from God, relying on their own understanding, although, stimulated and beguiled by Satan, they inherit Satan's devilish fallen wisdom of wrathful warring opposites.

Let us look at this evil tree. The tree of death is the tree of Satanic understanding. Satan's fallen knowledge divides itself into two opposites, a good and an evil. What most don't understand is that these two opposites are both evil. The good in this knowledge is pharisaical or religious good. It looks good, it self-justifies, and is even religious, but at its root, it is really very evil. Doesn't the Bible say that Satan disguises himself as "an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14)? Wasn't Jesus hardest on the religious leaders? Didn't He say that the Pharisees' real father was the devil (John 8:44)? This pharisaical evil is cleverly and deceptively hidden because it subtly appears so religiously good. The good in this tree can put on a nice three piece suit, go to church, sing in the choir, donate money to good causes, and still be a disguised devil at heart.

The evil side in this tree is obvious evil. That is not hard to see as evil: Drug dealers, prostitutes, murders, child abusers all are "obvious evil." Ironically, didn't Jesus hang around with these kinds of people? Curious don't you think? His questionable friends were not trying to hide their sins and call themselves good, and were not like the folks who say, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that they are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). Jesus' friends knew their wretchedness, and followed Jesus hoping for healing and transformation, while the religious folks were always ready to accuse him and eventually crucified him.

On the other hand, obvious evil knows that it is wrong. Jesus actually blessed the "poor in spirit" in the "Sermon on the Mount." While he cursed those who thought that they were good, and had no need of a Savior.

So now you see that both good and evil exist in this tree of death. These opposites are warring opposites never becoming friends or seeking resolution. The good wars against the evil, and the evil wars against the good. But in truth, they are both evil in nature...Evil against evil, raging war

and never satisfied or content. When the Bible talks about the world system, of fallen flesh, it has this kind of mentality: nation against nation; race against race; religions against religions; and these people against those people. Who is really good, and who is really evil? In this context, both are self-centered and self-justifying, therefore both are evil, which the wrath of God cries out from Heaven against all ungodly unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

This Satanic divided knowledge produces wrath in the world as well as inside the unbeliever. Actually Romans 9:22 calls all unbelievers, "vessels of wrath." And speaking to the same unbelievers in Romans 1:27 (NAS), Paul says that they "receive in their own persons the due penalty of their error". Wrath and condemnation are already in every man who doesn't cry out for mercy and resolve his sins through the Cross of Christ (John 3:18). That is why mankind apart from God has no peace (Romans 3:17). Since the word "peace" means, the cessation of war, then non-peace means war in action or wrath. Jesus says, that if we only come to the Light our sins will be forgiven, but men love darkness greater than Light, and pitifully, "how great is that darkness."

The most remarkable consequence of eating from this tree would be a false perception of separation or independence. Satan, himself thinks that he is *a separate god* with super self-powers of his own. Yet is Satan really separate from God? The Bible says to the unsaved Athenian in Acts 17:28, "In Him we live and move and have our being." Nothing is outside of God. Even Evil has its place in the *no-side* of God, that is, all that God is not. (See my booklet, "God Only" also refer to Programs 2-3)

God Himself says of himself, "I am the Lord and there is none else (Isaiah 45:6). Only God is self-sufficient, only God is independent, and only God is self-generating. Yet Satan, in his deception, thinks that he is another independent god, *he* is self-sufficient, and self-generating. That is the big lie that premeditates his mentality and was passed on to fallen mankind.

So you see the fruit of this tree was loaded with deadly consequences, yet God planted this evil tree right in His lovely garden. Why would He do that? Didn't God know that these little children would be tempted to eat, and eventually give in to the temptation, and eat of this evil tree? The scriptures says that Jesus was "slain before the foundation of the world" (Rev.13:8). An all wise God foreknew the Fall and prepared a savior for His disobedient children long before it even happened in history. God had a plan...What was it? We will explore God's awesome plan for mankind later in these programs.

What Adam and Eve didn't know was that humanity is a simple weak vessel without power, and therefore **powerless to resist** Satan's call. Ironically, this same unlearned lesson is still today's enigma. Adam and Eve could have called out to God for help and he would have led them to the Tree of Life. But no, instead they trusted in themselves to solve their own problems, thus ignorantly falling right into Satan's hands.

In a sense, *they had to fall*. What am I saying? Adam and Eve had to fall in order to gain awareness and sensibility of themselves, "Who told thee that thou was naked?"(Gen. 3:11). Even if their fall gave them a wrong self-consciousness, at least they were very much aware of themselves which was not true before their fall.

The creature has to be aware of the difference between himself and the Creator and how he, the creature fits together in oneness with the Creator. Not as master, but as slave; not as the vine, but as the branch; and not as the content, but as the cup. Just consider how long self-discovery takes...Sometimes it takes a life time to attain the full knowledge of the creature's rightful submissive place as the slave, and not the Master. The Bible tells us that it took centuries of painful self-discovery for God to prepare Himself a people that would be conditioned to receive a Savior.

But for now, what happened to Adam and Eve? Adam and Eve fell right into the hands of the one who would lie to them and then take dominion over them by indwelling their spirits, minds and bodies. If they had known, from the beginning, who they really were, they would have said to Satan, "God has already given us His wisdom, so we will wait on Him. And as for you, get behind me Satan." But they didn't know who they were, therefore they ate of the forbidden fruit and fell from their first estate experiencing the tree of death as a conscious reality. But wait, how does their satanic fall fit right into the purposes of God's plan for mankind? We will soon see.

For now though, let us think about the other tree, "The Tree of Life." If the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a knowledge and expression of evil, then why isn't the Tree of Life called the tree of good? The answer is: All manifestation of goodness or righteousness is only found in the *life of Christ*. So, therefore it was called "The Tree of Life."

The "Tree of Life" represents the person of Christ, Himself. Christ, by His death and resurrection has reconciled opposites into one reality. "The Tree of Life" represent Christ's own Mind, full of wisdom, truth and grace. It also has knowledge of unified opposites, but these opposites are friendly, resolved, unified, and forever linked together as one by the Cross, making peace instead of war.

The Cross is the centerfold or fulcrum to the manifested Life of Christ. So there is a hidden Cross right in the center of the tree. Christ, the Tree of Life and the Cross are synonymous with each other. Actually, the gospel says, Christ hung on a tree. The Cross represents death and resurrection united together as one reality. The Cross is two occurrences becoming one powerful transforming historical event. God's mind is forever fixed on saying "NO", or death to all sin and death that came into being, at the fall, and "YES," to the life that is ours in Christ, Jesus. The Cross of Christ forever swallows up "death", yet ironically, resurrected life wouldn't have its known reality without its opposite death experience.

From eternity, God, Himself chose to be a sacrificial lamb, for He lays down his life for His creation. That decision fixed in Him His self-for-others love nature. If Adam and Eve had eaten of the tree of Life they too would have received the nature of the Cross. It would have fixed them as safe sons, and brought harmony and peace and eternal life into their beings. Their minds would have been unified, and oneness would have been their reality.



The Dark Mirror, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a mirror image of the Tree of Life, but it is a dark image, and a divided image, one that looked like the Tree of Life, but was not. It is secretly the "Tree of Death". If they ate from this dark mirror, they would surely die.

I really don't think that Adam and Eve even saw that good tree, though. All they could see was what they were NOT supposed to have. It is just like little children to explore what is forbidden and pay no attention to that which was good for them. If I told my five year old granddaughter, Haylie, that she could have anything she wanted in my house, except for just one thing, and the one thing would be, not to eat the apple sitting on my dinner room table. Her curiosity alone would draw her to the apple. And if there were anyone influencing her to try it, she would grab it and run away and hide it. Probably she would pay no attention to everything in my house that she could have, but be curiously drawn to what she could not have. That is pretty much a given.

Just think of it...up until now, God had only said *yes* to them, "yes," you can eat from any other tree in the garden, "yes" you can name the animals; "yes" you can live in my perfect garden. There wasn't but one "no," *yet that one "no" ruled them*. In a sense, God orchestrated the whole thing. Why would God allow the serpent to be in this perfect environment in the first place? He could have barred Satan, but no, there he was right under the forbidden tree.

God couldn't leave his perfect children choice-less, they would have forever stayed little children. Our royal capacity as persons, made in the image of God, is choice. Choice is what matures us. Even wrong choices teach us to look for the right way. Interesting though, what you choose you end up in bondage to (II Peter 2:19b).

Which tree (or person) would Adam and Eve be in bondage to? Would they stay in union with God and live forever by eating of the Tree of Life? Or would they separate themselves from God and live by their own wisdom and agree with Satan that God must be lying? We know the answer. We have all reaped the consequences of that fatal choice. Through Adam's sin, we are all made sinners (Rom. 5:12). How can that be? Adam was the ruling head of a race of beings, therefore when Adam fell all who would be born after him, would be born sinners by virtue of Adam's Fall. That doesn't seem fair, yet man can only procreate a being just like himself and no higher--"every seed after its own kind" (Gen. 1:11).

Now here is what I promised--What was God's plan? Since God is nothing but unconditional love, then we will now consider some of the positive and predestined results coming from the first couple's decision, although, I'm sure these considerations are only a few of the unfathomable and infinite purposes of God.

THE PLAN

1. The Fall of sinful man, necessitates the manifested glory of Jesus, the Savior, and second person of the trinity to appear in human flesh and blood revealing God's mysterious ways of the Cross and be our conquering Lord and Savior. Without sin, the Savior would have no need to come as "the Word made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

2. Unconditional sacrificial love is the very nature of God Almighty, yet it is only through the knowledge of sin that we can experience that quality of love, grace, forgiveness, and know His mighty power to deliver. Am I justifying sin, no, sin is sin and it yields its deadly fruits of death and separation from God. However, every negative has its hidden positive resolve in God, and faith is the key that makes manifest that hidden redeeming resolve.

3. God's plan is to make known in mankind's consciousness the horror and death of subsequent separation from God which is the root of sin. Then, once the gospel of God's grace is received, lost mankind can humbly find his way back home to his Father. All this knowledge doesn't come without a few hard knocks in life. Yet, the value of this pain is that it causes man to know what it means to be a wrong-son, and then like the prodigal son, remember his true son-ship and

inheritance in his Father's house. Remember: Every action has its equal and opposite reaction hidden within its reality. The interaction of opposites bring experiential knowledge.

4. Man will not only know God's ways, but most importantly he will discover his own wretchedness separate from his Maker. He will discover his own weakness as only a "vessel of mercy." He will discover his own hopelessness in separation, and his own helplessness as only a branch in his union Vine-relationship with Christ his Savior. With his full discovery he will finally discover "The Pearl of Great Price". This Pearl was lost in the Garden, but found again, that is his "Divine Mind."

Wisdom knows that the only way for mankind to have a mature consciousness is for us to go the way of sin and swallow the lying Satanic fruit, reap its deadly consequences, experience wrath, separation, supposed independence, and fully discover in ourselves what it means to be a *wrong self*. Then by way of the provisions of the Cross of Christ find our way back to the Father, and through Christ, experience the full "liberation of the sons of God." Once man knows his liberation and deliverance from sin's dominion, he will love and worship his Creator forever. Then, and only then, would mankind be *safe sons* able to inherit the glories of God's prepared destiny. What a plan!