

## Programs 8, 9, & 10

### The Garden of Eden

The glory of God permeated the first man as well as his perfect garden (Gen. 1:31) In the beginning, God is all and in all (Gen. 1:1), and in the end of all things when all evil and death will be swallowed up in life, then God is again all and in all (I Cor. 15:28). God will be all and in all in his redeemed creation I Cor. 15:22-28.

**Gen. 2:7**—God’s perfect man.

First Creation—**1:26**-- God made man a spirit being,

Second creation—**2:7**--God blew the Spirit man into a body and gave him a form.

**Gen. 2:23**-- Man was made 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 dominion over the whole earth.

**Gen 3:1**—God’s serpent. Satan appeared as an angle of light, or presented to them what seemed reasonable.

**Gen. 2:17**—All yeses, only one no, or should I say only one Law in the whole discourse.

**Gen. 3:19**—discourse

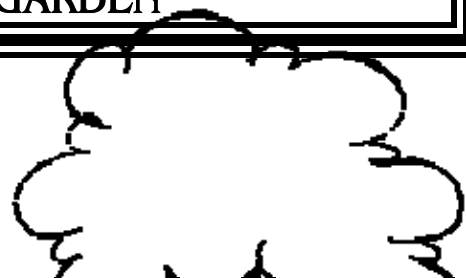
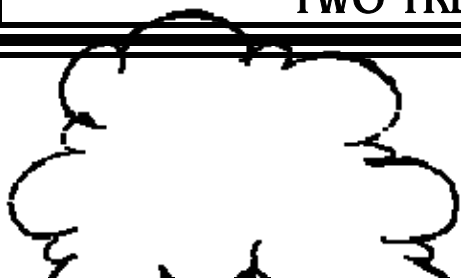
**Gen.3:14-17**—God condemned Satan, but gave man merciful consequences that would draw him back home.

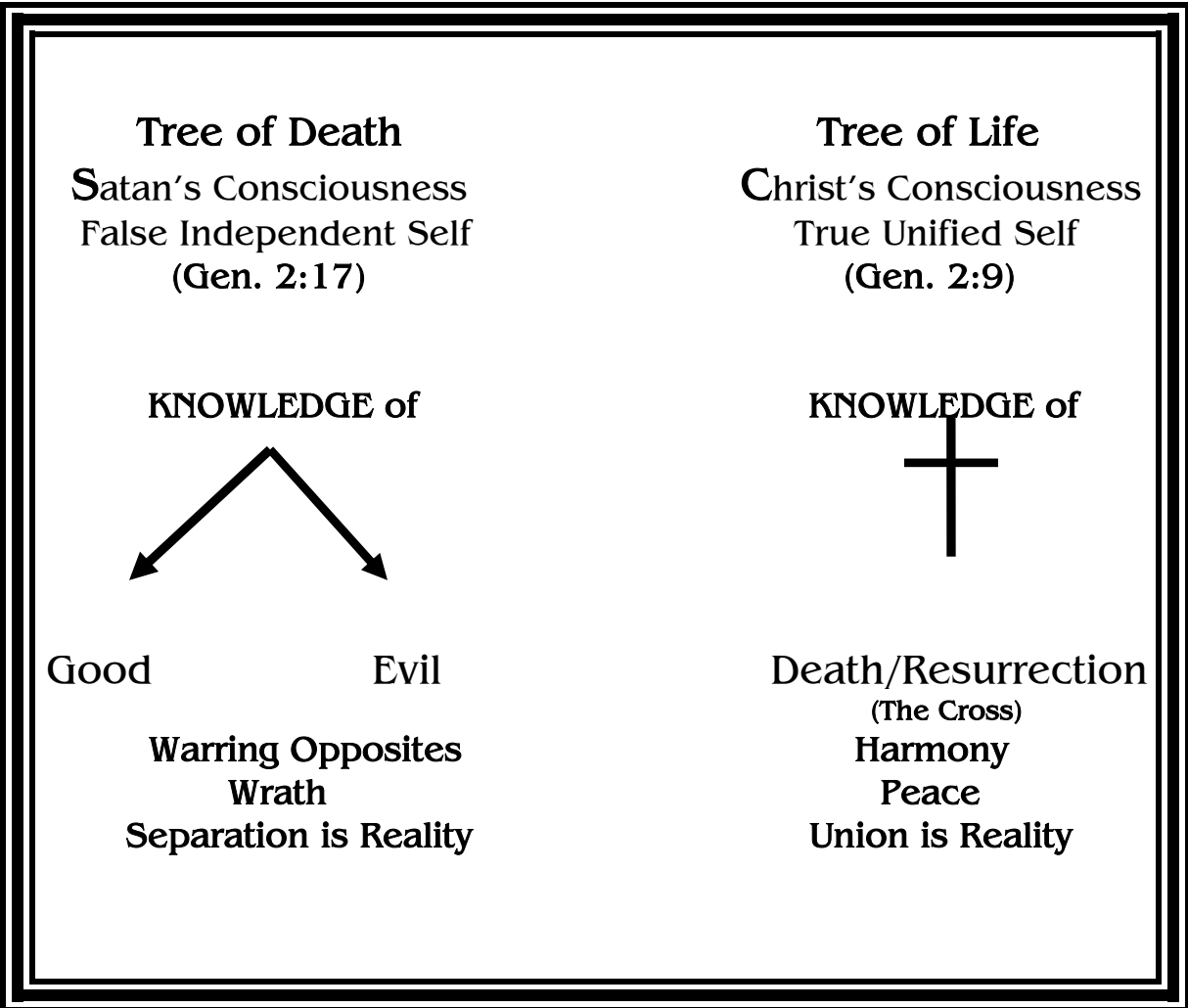
“Are you saying, God subjected us to the fall?” Yes, God handed us innocent babes, right into the hands of subtle Satan. But God’s Wisdom knows that a son, in order to know what it means to be a son of God, has to be confronted by opposites. We are not fully persons until we exercise our royal capacity 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 and only then could man be conditioned to receive the opposite kingdom of God and know his true identity as Christ with full experiential knowledge as a mature son. Our first parents fatal choice of disobedience brought into being God’s ‘curses of mercy’ which brought them suffering, satanic bondages and negative consequences. God means 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, and be fully delivered from the bondage of corruption unto the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Eden's location remains the subject of controversy and speculation among some Christians. There are hypotheses that locate Eden at the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates, in Iraq (Mesopotamia), Africa, and the Persian Gulf,



## TWO TREES IN THE GARDEN





Life is not a tree, for the Bible says that "He that hath *life* hath the **Son.**" 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. What is this knowledge? It is the knowledge of independence and separation from God; it is the knowledge of false faith in oneself; it is the knowledge that the creation has its own life or power source; it is the knowledge of being puffed-up and arrogant; it is the knowledge of over glorified self; it is the knowledge of self-sufficiency; 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 knowledge of 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 my 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 mind of Christ.

Didn’t Adam and Eve already have the mind of Christ? Yes, but they had no experienced knowledge of what that meant. They had nothing to compare it to. So, therefore their divine minds were not mature, they were 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).

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 choose to function apart from God, relying on their own understanding, although, stimulated by Satan, then they would inherit Satan’s fallen knowledge of Good and Evil.

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 “a angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14)? Wasn’t Jesus hardest on the religious leaders, and didn’t he say that their father was the devil (John 8:44)? This pharisaical evil is very deceptively hidden because it is subtle and not so obvious. 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 ring true to be “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 or fallen flesh, it speaks of 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.

This 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 is 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.

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.<sup>1</sup>

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, and that *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 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 this chapter.

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 fell right into Satan’s hands.

In a since, *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-

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<sup>1</sup> See chart 38

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 and experienced the tree of death as their 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. Since "death" is wrathful and warring, then "life" is at peace and has reconciled its opposites. The tree of Life represent Christ's own mind, full of wisdom, truth and grace. It also has knowledge of opposites, but these opposites are friendly, resolved, unified, and forever linked together as one.

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 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 transforming historical event. God's mind is forever fixed on saying "NO, or death to" to all the 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 it's known reality without its opposite death experience.

From eternity, God, Himself choose 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.

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...The one thing would be for her 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 do, but be curiously be drawn to what she could not do. 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 out, 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 bound 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 Adams 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 the positive and predestined results coming from the first couple's decision: 1. The fall of sinful man, necessitates the manifested glory of Jesus, the savior, and second person of the trinity to appear as our conquering Lord and Savior. Without sin, the Savior would have no need to come as God manifesting himself in human form (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 resolve.

And, 3. God's plan is to make known in mankind's consciousness the horror and death of consequential separation from God which is the deserved sequences for 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 him now 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, and the interaction of opposites bring experiential knowledge.

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 sins 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!