

THE TREE OF LIFE

Inductive Bible Study

In the beginning God created man in His image, male and female He created them, mankind (Adam and Eve) enjoying fellowship with God as they walked with Him in the garden where He had placed them.

BANISHED FROM THE GARDEN

READ Genesis 2:9,15-17 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

- put a triangle beside every reference to the *LORD God*.
- circle every reference to *tree (including pronouns)*.

2:9 – What two trees were in the middle of the garden?

2:15-17 – What command did the LORD God give the man?

Why was the man not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

READ Genesis 3:1-7:

- put an **X** symbol beside every reference to the *serpent* (including pronouns)
- circle every reference to *tree / trees* (including pronouns).

3:1,4-5 – What tactics does the serpent (Satan) use to tempt Adam and Eve to disobey God's command?

3:6 – How do they respond to the temptation?

3:7a – What results from disobeying God's command?

3:7b – How do they try and cover their nakedness?

READ Genesis 3:8-13:

- put a triangle beside every reference to the *LORD God* (including pronouns).
- circle every *question* the LORD God asks.

3:8 – What did the man and his wife try and do?

3:9 – Why does the LORD God, who knows all things, ask the man where he is?

3:10 – What reason does the man give for hiding from the LORD?

3:11,13a – What response is the LORD seeking to draw from them with His questions?

3:12,13b – How do they respond?

READ Genesis 3:22-24:

- put a triangle beside every reference to the *LORD God* (including pronouns).
- circle every reference to the *tree of life*.

3:22-23 – Why does the LORD God banish the man from the garden?

3:24 – What does the LORD block access to?

The consequences of Adam's failure to obey God's command as our *representative* was catastrophic. Sin now enters the world and death through sin, both physical and spiritual (Romans 5:12). Mankind now alienated from God, by nature rebellious to Him, destined for eternal punishment and a life on earth riddled with sickness, sadness, and pain.

However, whilst in Genesis 3:14-24 we see the LORD's judgment of sin, we also see His mercy. The LORD banishing Adam and Eve from the garden whilst also in His mercy preventing them eating from the tree of life and providing a sacrifice to cover their sin.

In addition, we are given in these verses the first glimpse of the Good News that the LORD will raise up a Son from Adam's line who will triumph over the Serpent (Satan) – a promised Saviour, a new *representative*, through whom we can be reconciled to God and know Him.

ACCESS RESTORED

So, who is this Promised Saviour?

READ John 1:29:

1:29 – Who does John declare that Jesus is?

READ 1 Peter 2:24-25:

2:24 – Why did Jesus bear our sins in His body on the tree?

2:25 – What were we like before turning to Jesus to save us?

To whom have we returned?

READ Matthew 27:50-51:

27:50-51 – What happened in the temple as Jesus yielded up His spirit as He hung upon the tree?

LIFE IN THE GARDEN CITY OF GOD

READ Revelation 22:1-5:

22:1-2 – What will be in the middle of the holy garden city?

What do we learn about the tree of life?

22:3-5 – What will life we be like in the garden city of God?

READ Revelation 22:14:

22:14 – Who are the blessed ones? Why?

REFLECTION

Jesus came that we might have life and life in all its fullness. The life-giving Saviour in whom is the grace we need to draw near to God, to know Him, and to bear fruit unto eternal life. A salvation begun by God in His people here on earth completed on the day of Christ Jesus. When for endless ages to come God will dwell with His people and we will behold Him face-to-face, worshipping the Lamb who was slain to ransom a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, a kingdom of priests to their God who shall reign on the earth for ever.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

GENESIS 2:9,15-17

⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

GENESIS 3:1-7

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

GENESIS 3:8-13

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

GENESIS 3:22-24

²² Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live for ever—"
"²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

JOHN 1:29

²⁹ The next day he [John] saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 PETER 2:24-25

²⁴ He himself [Jesus] bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

MATTHEW 27:50-51

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

REVELATION 22:1-5

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

REVELATION 22:14

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.