

# THE TREES OF EDEN

## Introduction

- 1) **Trees** are an amazing part of God's creation (Gen. 1:9-13; Psa. 104:16-17)
  - a) Longest living organisms on earth, one dates to ca. 5062 years (cf. Job 14:7-10)
  - b) Over 60,000 species of trees; three trillion trees exist today
  - c) A tree absorbs as much as 48 lbs of carbon dioxide each year
  - d) Provide food, oxygen, medicine, raw materials, shade, windbreaks, water control, and safety
- 2) Man's first home was a garden filled with trees prepared by God (Gen. 2:8-9)
- 3) Consider the following lessons we can learn from man and the trees of Eden

## I) **TREES OF PHYSICAL BLESSINGS**

- A) Trees provide esthetic beauty and food to live (Gen. 2:9; cf. Isa. 60:13; Lev. 26:4)
  - 1) Part of God's abundance of physical blessings provided for mankind (Acts 14:17)
- B) Adam and Eve had physical blessings all around them, yet became focused on what they were not allowed to have (Gen. 3:1-6)
  - 1) This is the method of evil temptation – getting us to focus on wanting what we cannot have instead of finding contentment/happiness in the abundance of the blessings God has given us (Jas. 1:14-15)

## II) **TREE OF LIFE**

- A) Life is always available in the realm of God's fellowship and blessings
  - 1) Never-ending, eternal life is something only God can provide
  - 2) Man was made in God's image and was given the gift of life (Gen. 2:7)
- B) After sin, man lost access to the tree of life (Gen. 3:22-24)
  - 1) Death is the consequence of sin (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 6:23)
  - 2) Can man find his way back to the tree of [eternal] life again? Yes! (Titus 3:7)
- C) The description of a future new heaven and new earth includes the tree of life (Rev. 22:2)

## III) **TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL**

- A) Adam and Eve were created with free will – capable of choosing their own way
  - 1) Free will is an ability given by God that we must use soberly and carefully
  - 2) Free will involves free choice, and accepting whatever consequences will follow
- B) Eating of forbidden tree opened their eyes to the reality of evil and its consequences (Gen. 3:7f)
  - 1) They became like God [knowing good and evil] and became nothing like God [choosing evil] at the same time (Gen. 3:5, 22)

## IV) **TREES OF HIDING**

- A) Adam and Eve attempted to use fig leaves to cover their nakedness (Gen. 3:7)
- B) They then tried to hide from the Lord among the trees of the garden (v. 8)
  - 1) Changed the trees from a blessing of God to a means of concealing sin
  - 2) Sin always misuses what God has created and distorts what He has commanded
- C) All human attempts to hide [cover] sin are inadequate and vain (Heb. 4:13; Psa. 90:8)

## Conclusion

The righteous who seek God are pictured as strong, healthy trees (Psa. 1:3; Jer. 17:7-8). It was upon a tree that our Savior gave His life to redeem us from sin (1 Pet. 2:24). The saved of God will find the tree of life in the midst of God's future eternal paradise (Rev. 22:2). **Will you be there?**