

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
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Christian Soldier 83, Doctrine Of The Rapture, 10.

Point 10. The place of the Tree of life related to the Rapture.

We began in PRO 3.

PRO 3:13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding.

- PRO 3:14 For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold.

- PRO 3:15 She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

- PRO 3:16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

- PRO 3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace.

- PRO 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.

So,

The tree of life is located in the perfect environment of the garden of Eden which is also known as the paradise of God and is a reward for winner believers only.

The Tree of Life represented the fantastic place of happiness.

Notice what it says in;

GEN 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

GEN 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

However,

When it says “He placed the man in the garden.” who was the man?”

The man refers to both Adam the woman whose souls were created at the same time before their physical body; Gen 1:27.

GEN 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Later on, the man’s body was formed first according to;

GEN 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

This was followed by the GEN 2:18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

So,

The souls of the man and woman were created at the same time but their bodies were created later.

Why,

Believe it or not because of what the apostle Paul said in;

1CO 11:3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

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1CO 11:4 Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head.

1CO 11:5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved.

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1CO 11:6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.

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1CO 11:7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

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1CO 11:8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;

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1CO 11:9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

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1CO 11:10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

1CO 11:11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

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1CO 11:12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

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Now, notice back in;

GEN 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

If you look at verse nine, we have the first mention of the tree of life;

The Bible says in GEN 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden and out of the ground, the Lord God cause to grow every tree

that is pleasing to the sight, and good for food, and the tree of life, also in the middle of the garden.

There were three categories of trees that Adam and the woman (Ishshah) could have eaten in the garden of Eden.

We call her the woman because the name Eve was not given to her until she became a mother.

For in GEN 3:20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

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GEN 3:21 And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

GEN 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

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GEN 3:23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

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GEN 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.

First of all;

1. There is that category called every tree being desirable to the site.

This is designed for prosperity and happiness in the soul of mankind.

And, as we have seen, happiness is something that must take place in the soul.

2. A second category of trees are good for food, and that's physical happiness or happiness in the body.

Not only did man have mental happiness, and need mental happiness to be happy, but he also had to have physical happiness or happiness in the body.

3. The third category of trees that are mentioned is the tree of life.

So, we've had three categories of trees, each corresponding to the needs of man.

It's interesting how the number 3 is used in the book of Genesis.

We have the Trinity, the creation of man is divided into body, soul and spirit and the three trees of life(s).

So.....

God provided trees in the garden, to give His body happiness, his soul happiness, and his spirit happiness.

So;

The Tree of Life was originally designed for both the capacity for perfect happiness and blessing and total appreciation of God's grace.

The Tree of Life gave you a capacity to appreciate soul prosperity, physical prosperity, and then it gave you a capacity to appreciate the grace of God.

And this was the tree which gave fantastic spiritual happiness.

And by the way, if you do not have spiritual happiness in life, which is the ultimate happiness....

then you'll never really have soul happiness or physical happiness as well.

Both Adam and the woman had opportunities to stay with spiritual happiness but instead, they lost it when they sinned and turned over to Satan.

Now, what does the Bible say about the tree of life and how the tree of life is related to the Rapture?

Let me summarize what we have so far:

1. The tree of life is associated with perfect life and environment in the Garden, as well as the perpetuation of right relationship with God in the Garden, Gen 2:9, 3:22.

GEN 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GEN 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

2. When man sinned and was driven out of the Garden, he was cut off from the tree of life, Gen 3:24.

GEN 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.

3. The tree of life is not seen again by man until the eternal state, Rev 2:7, 22:1-2.

REV 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

REV 22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

REV 22:2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

4. The tree of life is related to doctrine; PRO 3:18.

PRO 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.

5. Positive volition is related to the tree of life in Pro 13:12.

PRO 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

6. The tree of life will be located forever in the eternal state; Rev 22:14.

REV 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Now, because those of you who are faithful to study this message live, either face to face or non-face to face, I am going to show you something that I've never heard anyone say before.

Do you know the last time the tree of life is mentioned?

Remember the Tree of life began in the book of Genesis, but do you know the last time it was mentioned?

7. The tree of life is forever and ever.

For when it says in REV 22:14.

REV 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Do you realize that?

The tree of life is mentioned in the last chapter of the Bible which is in the Eternal state and the place of the New Heaven and New earth.

In other words,

It is mentioned outside of time after God destroyed the old heaven and the old earth.

So that;

When we enter the eternal state forever, one of the very few things carried over from the old heaven and the old earth is the Tree of Life.

So, there are three categories of trees in the garden of Eden.

GEN 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

Then we read in GEN 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

“Every tree being desirable to the sight, and those good for food, and the tree of life in the middle of the Garden.”

Therefore, some principles:

1. The first category is designed for the prosperity of the soul.

All happiness must be related to the soul, to what you think.

Happiness is not a set of circumstances.

If you have capacity from doctrine in the soul, then you can express happiness regardless of circumstances.

Category one was designed for man’s pleasure of soul, for his capacity for happiness.

As created from God, man had perfect capacity for happiness.

Therefore, the state in the Garden was the epitome of grace happiness.

After man sinned the principle didn't change: misery and happiness are both a state of the soul.

Man was created to be perfectly happy.

Any happiness you have is based on capacity.

2. The second category. Man had happiness of body where food was designed to express happiness, to stimulate, to perpetuate health.

Stimulation of the taste buds was a reminder of God's grace before man sinned, just as eating the bread of communion is a reminder of God's grace after man sins.

3. The third category: the Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life was both the capacity for perfect happiness and blessing, and total appreciation of God's grace.

The tree of life is the total happiness of man when created.

Man had a perfect soul in a perfect body, therefore the perfect origin of God's perfect happiness and the perfect expression of God's perfect happiness. Adam was happy in the garden.

Therefore, it was the woman whom Satan tempted.

She wasn't unhappy but she was not content and she listened to the voice of the serpent who convinced her that God was afraid that she was going to be as smart as Him; Gen 3:1-9.

Man was designed for happiness, blessing, capacity, and pleasure unless he went negative to God's plan.

The same thing is still true today.

Only disobedience destroys happiness.

The first sin involved no morality or immorality at all, but rejecting perfect happiness provided by God. The tree of life was useless to man in the status of spiritual death.

Man as ruler ought to be happy.

The tree of life combined immortality with perfect happiness to give man perfect environment plus perfect happiness so he could do a good job ruling the world.

Man had everything that would stimulate perfect happiness.

The tree of life is useless to man as a sinner because sin destroys happiness.

The tree of life was God's grace provision for man as the ruler of this world.

The tree of life was man's expression of positive volition to God's provision, Gen 3:24.

Man was cut off from the tree of life because of his positive volition to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life represents God's perfect happiness, and God's perfect happiness perpetuated, and both Ish and Ishshah were cut off so that they cannot exist in the human race.

The closest we can come today is to reach spiritual maturity.

And even then, we can destroy the happiness of maturity by negative volition to God's plan.

If man, in spiritual death, had eaten from the tree of life, his free will would no longer be the means of resolving the angelic conflict.

Immortality, in the status of spiritual death, would condemn the human race totally to the lake of fire.

You cannot have God's perfect happiness and sin.

You can't choose both the plan of God and the cosmic system of Satan.

Man would have no free will after the fall, if he had been permitted to eat of the tree of life.

Therefore;

The tree of life was put out of his reach, so that his free will would determine where he would spend eternity and whether he would be happy or miserable.

It's all up to you---that is you alone!

The tree of life was provided by God's grace to be associated with man's positive volition, which was to be expressed in his free will toward the plan of God.

A new tree had to be selected in order for happiness to exist.

By expelling man from the garden, man now could choose to eat from the tree of the cross; 1PE 2:24-25.

1PE 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1PE 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Only winners in the Christian life have the privilege of eating from the tree of life in the Garden of God in eternity.

The tree of life perpetuates happiness and prosperity in both the human soul and body in perfect environment.

The first three categories are designed for man in innocence, and for the believer in resurrection body.

Once man ate of the forbidden tree, immortality must be attained by partaking of another tree: the tree of eternal life, the cross.

When it comes to the tree of life look at PRO 11:30.

PRO 11:30 The fruit of the righteous (mature believer) is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.

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PRO 13:12 “Hope deferred makes the right lobe sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”

PRO 15:4 “A healing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it is the crushing of the spirit.”

The point is that one of the first sins that Adam and the woman committed was when they chose each other over doctrine.

They chose each other over doctrine when they rejected the tree of life.

They chose each other over the word of God.

It wasn't any form of immorality, but it was a person choosing a relationship with another individual over Bible doctrine.

That was the first sin committed in the universe.

So,

The tree of life gave fantastic spiritual happiness, which is the ultimate happiness in life.

And remember, that man lost his right to eat from the tree of life when he sinned, and also remember something else, which we already have seen, but I want to make sure you get this down inside of your skulls.

And that is;

The first sin involved no morality or immorality at all, but it simply involved rejecting the perfect happiness provided by God.

That was the first sin in the human race.

And as we have seen;

The greatest sins have never related to morality or immorality.

The greatest sins that a member of the human race can ever commit is related to the rejection of the plan of God.

Satan said, I will choose my life over God's life.

I will be like the Most High,

Satan did not say I will murder;

I will steal;

Adam and the woman did not get involved with adultery, murdering cheating

But what did they do?

They rejected the plan of God.

So again, the first sin and the greatest sin involved no immorality at all.

And that's the big thing that most of Christianity is involved with today;

You became a sinner, not because a man committed a form of immoral, immoral act, you became a sinner, because a man rejected the PPOG.

And from then one;

Adam passed down His sin nature and is responsible for imputing to you Adam's original Sin nature even today.

ROM 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

ROM 5:13 for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

ROM 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

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ROM 5:15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

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ROM 5:16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.

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ROM 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

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ROM 5:18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

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ROM 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

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ROM 5:20 And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

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What is the sin that made you a sinner?

It was because Adam was not deceived like the woman but he knew what he was doing and under the justice of God, Adam chose willfully the sin of disobedience.

And he is passed that down to all of us.

Was it a fornication?

Was it adultery?

Was it stealing?

Was it lying?

Was it drug addiction?

Was it alcoholism?

No!

The sin that made you a sinner was when one man chose against the tree of life against Bible doctrine!

So, what was Adam's original sin?

It was rejection of the tree of life provided by God, therefore, the rejection of perfect happiness provided by Him.

Now think about that.

How many people would actually want to reject perfect happiness, perfect environment and the perfect plan of God?

This leads us to Point 11.