

THE TREE OF LIFE

Request: Would you do a study on the Tree of Life so that I could understand its meaning to my life?

There were four categories of trees in the Garden of Eden according to Gen.2:9 [Circle each of the four trees]. Write the tree that man was commanded not to eat? _____ (Gen.2:17)

“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.”

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the TREE OF LIFE (ets chayyim).
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1. The Tree of Life is associated with three types of biblical garden.

- **Garden of Eden** (Gen.2:9) – [period of innocent man] – unique period of human history when man was neither saved or lost, neither moral nor immoral, neither subject to time nor age, and neither sinful nor spiritual death.
- **Garden of Wisdom** (Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4) – [personification of God’s wisdom] – “She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.” (3:18) [Note the four blessings of God’s wisdom that comes from the tree of life?]
- **Garden of Revelation** (Rev.2:7; 22:2,14,19) – [paradise of God] (eternity) – “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.2:7) [Smyrna]

2. The Tree of Life produced immortality of the body in the Garden of Eden period (Gen.2:8-9, 17).

- Don’t eat of the Tree of Knowledge Dying you shall die. (Gen.2:17).
- Do eat of the Tree of Life (chayyim) plural Tree of Lives. (Gen.3:22)

Immortality is perfect life in the body. Immortality is to the body what eternal life is to the soul.

3. In the fall of Adam (AOS), immortality and eternal life were lost from the innocence of man.

- After Adam Sinned (AOS), he was forbidden to eat from the Tree of Life (Gen.3:22).
- After AOS, God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and away from the Tree of Life (Gen.3:22-23).
- After God drove them out, He stationed a cherubim and a flaming sword (rhomphaia) to guard the way to the Tree of life (Gen.3:24).

“The sword of God’s judgment stood between fallen man and God’s garden. The reason is given in v.22. Only through God’s redemption in Christ does man have access again to the tree of life (Rev.2:7; 22:2, 14, 19).” (NIV, Gen.3:24; John 14:6)

4. Therefore, unregenerate man is denied access to the Tree of Life apart from faith in Christ (Gen.3:15, 21-24).

“And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.” (Gen.3:21) These garments of skin were robes of righteousness to cover the shame of the nakedness of AOS (Gen.2:25; 3:7-11; Rev.22:14).

The garment of the skin of sacrificial animals was a visual aid of the death requirement of atonement necessary to clothe unregenerate man so that he could stand unashamed in the presence of a holy God (1 John 2:2; 4:9-10; 1 Tim.2:3-6; Heb.9:13-15; 1 Pet.1:19-21; 1 Cor.5:7; John 1:29).

God could not allow an unregenerate soul to reside in an immortal body so he was driven away from the Tree of Life.

5. As a result of AOS, God in grace provided another tree, the tree of Golgotha, or the Cross).

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross (xulon/ wooden cross).” (Acts 5:30; 10:39-40; 13:28-30)

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

The cross of Jesus Christ removes the transgression of AOS (Rom.5:12-21). “That, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through **righteousness to eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom.5:21)

6. The spiritual death of Jesus Christ provides eternal life and His resurrection provides immortality (spiritual body) (Rom.3:23-25).

“But now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (1 Tim.1:10)

“But for our sake also, to whom it will be reckoned, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who **was delivered up** because of our transgressions, and **was raised** because of our justification.” (Rom.4:24-25)

HOMEWORK: Paul Gave five comparisons of our fleshly body under AOS and the resurrection body under salvation (1 Cor.15:42-50). [Write the correct comparisons under the two headings.]

SOWN	RAISED

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” (Rev.22:14, NIV)