



TREE OF LIFE

Gen 2:9 *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

The "tree of Life" as well as the "tree of intellect" is in our midst today as it was back in the garden. We will choose to eat from either. Only one tree has a fruit that will nourish, the other is as indigestible as a synthetic chemicals. From one we have a heart healthy fruit and the other heartburn! We, just as the Adam's family, have a choice. Every one of us has eaten from the tree of intellect, and most of us have eaten from both. However, just as combining hot and cold air produce a tornado so does the combining the fruit from both trees. To be a sampler of both makes a damaging whirlwind.

The promise of a Savior is written many times as a tree in the Bible for example:

Isa 55:13 *Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

The thorn we know from Jesus' parable (Mk 4:18-19) are the cares of life, while the fir represents patience. It takes our patience to overcome the cares and cast them off. Jesus paid for our cares by taking the thorns upon His head. The brier is a dense tangle of thorny vines; an area containing prickly plants of pain and

confusion:

Mic 7:4 *Even the best of them is like a brier; the straightest is more crooked than a hedge of thorns. But your judgment day is coming swiftly now. Your time of punishment is here. NLT*

The myrtle tree symbolizes Jesus taking the New Testament message to the Gentiles. This symbol is drawn from Zech 1:8, where a man (representing Jesus) on a red horse (salvation's blood) is seen standing among the myrtle trees (Gentiles).

Evergreens, such as the fir and myrtle, is a symbol of eternal life. A symbol of God's everlasting love. This is representative in the Chrismon tree. This is especially true when the tree is decorated with chrismons. A **chrismon** is a Christian symbol representing Jesus the Christ. The term *chrismon* comes from the Latin phrase "*Christi monogramma*", meaning "monogram of Christ", which we see again in the Scripture of **Is 53: 13 ...and it shall be for a name...**

At this season when seeing all the trees we remember that they are for an everlasting sign of the Lord. It was a tree Zacchaeus climbed to get a better view of the Savior, yet it was a fig tree (symbol of man's intellect) that was bearing no fruit in season that Jesus withered. That is why we are told to be instant in and out of season having the Word in us at all times to bare good fruit.

The Tree of Life is part of our

covenant promise Found in the end of time:

Rev 2:7 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

Rev 22:2-4 *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

Rev 22:14 *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

In this month and season it is good to remember that the evergreen is a symbol of our **everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

The world may not regard the significance of the Chrismon tree, but God's children do. Pagans tried their level best to take what was good and turn it to evil, but the hearts of God's children remain in pure thought of His sign and promise. However, if God has a Chrismon tree in Paradise then it must be kosher!

Chrismon Tree



Chrismon:
from Latin *Christi + monogramma* meaning monogram of Christ

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SURVIVING THE STORM

Luke 8:23 *But as they sailed he (Jesus) fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.*

Many times the storms of life are all around us. The turmoil is in allowing the storm to come into us. Just like a boat on the seas, the storm comes up, but the boat is floating on the top of the water. As time and fear of the storm comes so does the water seeping into the boat until it is full and begins to sink. You cannot think a storm will never come up...they do throughout life. Do not allow the storm to come into you.

The disciples rocked the boat in fear and took on the fearful sinking water so that they were in jeopardy. Then, they called out to the Lord and He saved them. The

storm was calmed, but they still had to bail out the sinking water in the boat themselves in order to float again. In other words, the Lord can handle the storm, but we are responsible to keep the sinking water out of the boat.

I do not know what the storm is trying to sink your boat, whether financial, health or family, if you allow the storm on the inside of you, you will sink. Call out to the Lord, and let Him handle the storm. It is for you to get the sinking water out of the boat and depend upon the washing of the water by the Word. Sinking waters are the negative thoughts and words of fear, while the washing of the water by the Word will bail out the fearful waters so that we remain afloat.

The Lord took care of Noah during the

greatest storm ever recorded. Noah followed the washing of the water by the Word and no sinking water entered his boat. Peter was surrounded by waves and the waves of fear entered him so that he began to sink. When he called out to the Lord, the Lord saved him out of the waters.

Do not take on the fearful waters but be saturated by the washing of God's Word and bail out any fearful waters trying to seep into your heart. If you have been in a sinking boat...get to bailing and let the Lord handle the storm.

Ps 18:16

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

BACKWARD PREACHING

(You might want to read the above article before tackling this one.)

There is so much off balance preaching and teaching today, whether in the churches or by the tele-evangelists as well as lay people repeating it in counsel or witness. Backwards preaching has backward effects as well. Mankind never likes to own up to his failures if he can blame God. How many times have you heard ministers say that they do not know why God allows certain things into our lives. They are usually talking about the difficulties in life. This is "BASS ACKWARDS"! Yes, you heard me. To be more accurate we should ask why man will allow these things into his life. To say that it is God allowing this is totally backwards as if man is innocently walking along in life and BAM, out of the blue, and for no apparent reason God inserts difficulty to teach us to grow. Now, how many good parents put their child's hand into the fire to teach him that fire burns?! Yet we accept this misguided fact that God uses this technique. We teach our children by telling them it is hot, and they learn either by trusting what we say or by touching the fire and learning the hard way. God teaches us by His Word telling us that fire is hot. We will either trust His Word and learn or learn the hard way by putting our hand to the fire. Something I heard recently being said was that if God did not allow difficulties in our

lives, we would become self sufficient...BASS ACKWARDS!!! It is because we believe we are self sufficient that difficulties come into our lives.

Look here, we have the greatest Parent, who was willing to come down to earth from His perfect throne and die for us. He walked and talked His Word so we might recognize all Truth and be saved. We were not just saved from our sin but from our reasoning by trading sin for righteousness and reasoning for Truth.

Man has the hardest time owning his own error by placing the blame of his circumstance upon God. When man chooses to learn the hard way, he believes God taught him the lesson, yet the lesson was already written to learn without taking a harder road. Man is taught by man that God gives permission to Satan for our lessons. RE-AAAALLY? (Silly me, I thought the lessons were in the Scriptures.) They use Job as a prime example.

1. God did not point Job out to Satan as we see in Satan's response that he was seeking to sift Job. (Job 1:10)
2. God did not commission Satan nor did He allow an attack from Satan. There are two kingdoms at odds and Satan has kingdoms upon the earth through man's choice of forfeiting dominion.

God's Word tells us that the devil is a roaring lion seeking (looking for the opportu-

nity) whom he may devour. That was exactly what he was doing when God ask if he had considered His servant Job. God told Satan a Truth, that everything that Job had was within the power of his kingdom the same as everything Job had was in the power of God's Kingdom. Two kingdoms at odds on this earth. Man must choose to serve in one or the other. Satan sought for a way to inflict Job. The Bible does not say just how long this took before the floods of fear reached Job, but by the story we see that they did. Those flood waters of fear began to sink Job's boat as he let Satan's storm enter into him. Fear reacted and difficulties came.

Satan's plan was to make Job believe that he had no hedge of protection and succeeded. However, in the end Satan loses the battle since in the process Job never cursed God, which Satan bet against God would happen (Job 1:11). Job learned the hard way that fear produces results, and in the end found his restoration in trusting the God of a better Kingdom.

I put the question to you: Do you want to learn Truth by trusting the Word of God or do you want to learn the hard way. Either way, it is entirely up to you. God has shown us the manner of life and death and set it before us to choose from either kingdom. In the end there **is** a lesson to learn if you do not walk BASS ACKWARDS!



MIRROR IMAGE

Jesus is the mirror image of God. If you look at Jesus you see God, but there is more to see. Without seeing Jesus, we do not see or fathom God, but there is more: **2 Cor 3:18** *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

“With open face” is anakaluptō prosōpon which is *the unveiling of the fashion, countenance and condition of a person*. This Scripture is not actually talking about getting ready in front of a mirror, but beholding the image of the Lord. Until we behold the image of the Lord we cannot see God, but one inclusive fact is that we cannot really see ourselves. We are strangers in the Kingdom of God until we can comprehend and adjust by becoming a part. We get ready in front of a mirror and some days it looks good and others it does not by the comparison of our im-

age to our image. Our image comparison changes nothing but a hairstyle. Until we can see the Lord with an open face, unveiling our condition, we cannot be like Him.

Jesus did nothing of Himself but only what He saw Himself doing by God’s Spirit. Therefore Jesus was God on earth. **Phil 2:5-8** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

This Scripture tells us to have the same mind as in Christ and goes on to describe that image:

-)& Make no self reputation, which is to become empty of self

2. Servant, which is **doulos** or slave meaning that we are not self masters but slave to One Master Greater or in other words, we do not run the plantation/Kingdom we serve it
3. Humble, which is **tapeinoō** meaning to lower self (not of low self esteem but of low self pride)
4. Obedient to the very end of ourselves

Just as Jesus went to the cross to die for us, we go to the cross to die to the flesh and become like Him.

The next time you are getting ready in the morning, know *whom* you are readying and for what you are making ready.

Mark 10:15 *Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*



FAIRY TALE???

Once upon a time there was an evil Enchanter who took over the world fair and beautifully made by a Great King. He seduced people into believing that a new kingdom was in order, and the people blindly followed because his words were smoother than most. The first thing the Enchanter did was change the times by making people work in the night and sleep through the day. This is because he worked much better in the dark and told the people the same. The Enchanter said the light was much too bright for most people thus affecting their sight. He would show them a new vision through the darkness. The second thing he did was to have any sign indicating the Great King taken down from open display. As time went by the young, taught in the Enchanter’s schools, thought the King was a legend of old, but many of the older citizens remembered yet became silent for fear or reprisal. Then there were a few dissidents who walked during the daylight unafraid to speak. They were branded as trouble makers and renegades, but be-

cause they were not silent, the Enchanter trained heralds to proclaim all news of the day. They were called town criers, for they stood on tall columns calling out the news. The three heralds were: **Doubletalk**, **Triple Tongue** and **They Say**. One of their most important jobs was to call out the time so everyone would know when to wake and when to sleep etc. The biggest problem with time is that none of the three ever really agreed on what time it was. So the people remained **in the dark** not knowing the time or season.

These heralds made contradictory news statements all the time, for example one might call: “Melons on sale in the marketplace; first come, first serve,” while another would call out: “No melons today; try rutabagas in your fruit salad.”

Doubletalk, could not tell the difference between good or bad so when he spoke out of the right side of his mouth his tongue might proclaim, “A hurricane is on the way, tighten up,” while in the next breath out of the left side, “It is fair to

nice weather for picnicking.” The people were left in a quandary of whether to board up the windows or go to the beach for a swim. **Doubletalk** worked up such a lather talking out of both sides of his mouth that his tongue split right in two! **Triple Tongue** faltered each word by repeating it thrice, “Th-th-the Ench-ch-chanter i-i-is c-c-c-coming.” After a while he rushed the words so his tongue would not triple as badly, which would sound like this: “Thenchtiscomm.” The people could never understand a thing he said and figured he must be more intelligent than they could comprehend.

They Say, hearing the criticism directed at the other two heralds, decided to take no credit for the news himself. His report would be, “*They say* the Enchanter is coming,” or “*They say* that melons are on sale.” Therefore he was never to blame since he was only repeating what *they said*.

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FAIRY TALE???

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The people grew restless of the darkness and weary of the news. What was wrong with light, and why can we not hear Truth clearly? The Enchanter accused the dissidents of stirring the pot and causing grief to the people who had been quite vulnerable in their satisfaction to follow his words before.

The world was not well and even the people could see that through the darkness. Because they had listened to Doubletalk, Triple Tongue and They Say, they no longer knew truth in its clearest form. Even if one of the dissidents who walked in the light spoke, the heralds would follow by retranslating the words back to the people in their own way, which was doubletalk, triple tongue or they say! It became the worst famine ever recorded and the people were famished for Truth, but what was it? Who spoke it? Where could they find it?

Discontentment broke into riots under the columns of the heralds and columns shook. Out of the darkness rose a new group who made a religion of hate. They fought against the Enchanter's kingdom, yet hated those who believed in The Great King. They made a god who was by all means deaf and dumb, so they spoke for him and proclaimed that all not holding their words would perish. They infiltrated the lands of the King's Kingdom which suffered violence (Mt 11:12), and in Enchanted cities leaders were overthrown as they went. Like a band of locusts they devoured until the lands were made bar-

ren by reason of them. **Joel 2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness...**

Truth might have saved the people, but it had been lost.

A fairytale is just that...or is it?

Amos 8:11-13 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that there will be a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. RRV

How do we survive this famine? Listen to the words of a dissident who walks in the light to tell you:

1. Do not listen to Doubletalk, Triple Tongue or They Say.
2. There is a Great Book containing all Truth. It holds the history as well as future of every person and all nations including and up to the heavens. It gives Truth and instruction of a Kingdom and how to become a part.
3. Those who eat of the pages of the Great Book will teach it to their children and children's children.

For this to happen, you may be pegged as a dissident by the Enchanter. Many may grow silent by these threats from proclaiming Truth, yet without Truth we all perish.

LAST TRUMP

believe on me through their word;

This is inclusive of everyone receiving the Word throughout the generations. Do we agree so far?

Now, would you agree that we are disciples taught of the Word and receivers of the Word and the Savior of those Words? Would you also agree that throughout the generations there have been mass eliminations and persecutions of the Christian believers? They are continuing this day in places around the world though they touch not you and I in this country except by the beginning signs that Christianity is not favored by a secular government. We

There is a Great King who made a beautiful lush earth to live upon. He spoke Words of Truth and Life, health and prosperity. The Great King was willing to die that His people could live.

There is also an Enchanter who commands us to live in the dark and sleep away our days. He has his heralds: Doubletalk, Triple Tongue and They Say all proclaiming confusion, which is the strength of his kingdom. He commands death with the promise of reward in an after life, but this is not guaranteed them. Of course, there is no sacrifice he must make himself as other perish for his conveniences.

We know from the Great Book of all Truth that the King will win all victory in the end and the Enchanter will lose his kingdom to be bound forever. But what of you and I? The Great King wondered this as well, for He said that one day He was coming back to claim what was His and His words are echoed today:

Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Luke 18:8 KJV

That is the question. If you want to check your own faith ask your children and grandchildren about the Great King and see if they know, and see what they know for sure. Time is drawing shorter and then...

The end

are not politically correct and have had a fight just to get our voices heard, however then we are labeled dissenters.

Going back to Jesus' prayer, He petitions the Father over the believers at hand and those to come: **John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**

So far, throughout the world of generations, this has held true. No people have been raptured out of their persecutions.

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LAST TRUMP Continued

If we look in Luke 21, addressing the Gentile converts just as Matt 24 was written for the Jewish audience, we find the order of all things coming to a final climax...Jesus' return.

Luke 21:9 *But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.* Wars and commotions do not mean the end just yet. "Commotions" meaning: *akatastasia instability, that is, disorder: - commotion, confusion, tumult.* The end is not yet. Then we see the Scripture skip ahead as we read: **Luke 21:10-11** *Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*

In between the wars and commotions in verse 9 and the Nations against nation, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, fearful sights and great signs from heaven, we find: **Luke 21:12-17** *But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*

All of these things have been the affliction since the world began.

Now we come to the marker in time in this: **Luke 21:24** *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

The Jews would be persecuted and scattered among the nations with no nation to call their own until one day they would again gather back and take their nation called Israel! This began in 1948 and again in 1967. From that time Israel has been a recognized nation though

their enemies will never acknowledge it.

From that time to this we have continued to have wars, commotions, persecutions, earthquakes, famines and pestilences in the world. What is left to happen?

Luke 21:25-28

- *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;*
- *upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity;*
- *the sea and the waves roaring;*
- *Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:*
- *the powers of heaven shall be shaken.*
- *then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

I want to make particular understanding of verse 26: **Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.**

What does it mean that men's hearts will fail? **Hearts failing** in this Scripture is made up of two words:

1. Apo: separation
2. Qucw psucho: waxing cold

If you look at the translation of **powers, heaven** and **shaken** you find:

- **Powers:** *dunamis force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a *miracle* itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.
- **Heaven:** *ouranos heaven* (as the abode of God); by implication *happiness, power, eternity*; specifically the Gospel (*Christianity* also air, heaven ([-ly]), sky).
- **Shaken:** *saleuō to waver*, that is, *agitate, rock, topple* or (by implication) *destroy*; figuratively to *disturb, incite*: - move, shake (together),

which can [-not] be shaken, stir up.

Men's hearts failing for the strength and miraculous faith in the Gospel will waver and many Christians' faith will topple causing what? That causes a great apostasy. **Apostasy in Christianity** refers to the rejection of Christianity by someone who formerly was a Christian. The term apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia* meaning defection, departure, revolt or rebellion. It has been described as "a willful falling away from or rebellion against Christianity".

Paul warns of this apostasy and implores Believers not to be shaken or moved from faith: **2 Thess 2:2-3** *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (apostasia) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Many in the church world have faded in the faith to become liberal in thinking, and those who are fervent of faith believing in an early rapture will wonder why they are going through the turmoil they believed to escape.

The very worst thing that could happen before Jesus return will be an apostasy of Christians leaving their faith! What could cause this apostasy is that Christians have been taught in error. Just as in the time of Jesus' ministry, the religious world did not reconcile Jesus to their beliefs. Jesus was a heretic to them. They called Him a worker of Beelzebub!

Without living a life guided by the Spirit of the Living God, we are duped to our own religious barriers in thinking.

1 Cor 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

We who are here at the last trump will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and caught up to meet Jesus, unless we have been caught up in the great apostasy that is.