Tree Of Life

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 1st, 2020

Text: Rev. 22:1-2

# Intro

1. **Rev. 22:1-5 (vss. 1-2):** The tree of life: lost at Eden, found in Heaven!
	1. **The tree of life:** In that future Paradise, the tree will abound, and all may freely partake of it; the emblem and pledge of immortal life will be constantly before the eyes and the heavenly inhabitants may constantly partake of it! *Different than in Eden – Gen. 3:22-23*
	2. **Bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit:** The tree bore fruit every month in the year, so that there were twelve fruit-harvests. The idea is that of abundance, not variety!
	3. **Yielding its fruit every month:** It was not like a tree that bears but once a year, or in one season only, but it constantly bore fruit – It bore every month. The supply never fails; the tree is never barren!
	4. **Were for the healing:** Not a healing process in heaven, for that idea is expressly excluded in Rev. 21:4; but the meaning is, that the life and health of the heavenly inhabitants will have been imparted by partaking of that tree and made to live forever!
2. How was it lost and how do we find it?

# Eden Sustained Man in Fellowship with God

1. Man was created for fellowship with God
	1. ***Gen. 1:27:*** Only man is made in God’s image! (Gen. 2:19-20)
2. God made man to live, not to die (Despite physical body, man equipped with immortal soul)
	1. ***Gen. 2:8-9:* M**an blessed by 3 kinds of trees: delicious food, tree of life (immortality – Gen. 3:22-23), and the tree of knowledge of good and evil
3. Eden *(H5731, from H5730)* means delight, bliss, pleasure, paradise!
	1. **Gen. 2:10-14:** River divided into 4 rivers & land filled with precious metals & minerals
	2. **Gen. 2:18-25:** Adam & Eve shared Eden’s bliss & fellowship with God
4. The Garden of Eden with its trees, rivers, and precious metals was meant to sustain life!

### Sin Separated Man from God & the Tree of Life

* 1. Man has free will to love & obey or reject God
		1. ***Gen. 2:16-17:*** God warned sin brings death
	2. Satan presented sin as a blessing
		1. ***Gen. 3:4-6:*** Eve & Adam chose the lie of Satan!
	3. Adam & Eve died spiritually
		1. ***Gen. 3:8-10:*** The beautiful blissful fellowship was replaced with guilt, shame, & fear
	4. Adam & Eve lost the right to the Tree of Life
		1. **Gen. 3:19:** The sentence of death pronounced (Rom. 5:12-14; I Cor. 15:21-22)
		2. **Gen. 3:22-24:** Man could not return to the tree of life
	5. Sin resulted in spiritual death, and with the loss of the Tree of Life brought forth physical death!

# God Revealed a Plan to Renew Our Fellowship

1. In the Patriarchal Age God promised a Savior
	1. ***Gen. 3:15:*** Seed of woman will defeat Satan
	2. ***Gen. 12:1-3:*** Seed of Abraham will bless men of all nations
	3. Promise repeated to Abraham’s descendants: Isaac, Jacob, Judah, etc. *(Deut. 1:8; 7:12; Gen. 49:8-10)*
2. In the Mosaic Age God prepared to send a Savior
	1. Israel’s family went to Egypt 400+ years, then Moses led the Israelites to Canaan
	2. ***Ex. 20:1-17:*** God gave Moses His covenant law for the nation of Israel, beginning with The Ten Commandments
	3. ***Jer. 31:31-34:*** Moses’ Law was temporary, preparing the people for the New Law of Christ *(Heb. 8:7-13: Quotes Jer. 31:31-34 to show 1st law gave way to the 2nd!).*
3. God gave Israel kings: Saul, David, Solomon
	1. ***II Sam. 7:12-16:* David was promised a descendant to sit his throne forever!**
	2. ***Is. 9:6:*** Israel’s kings were temporary, preparing for Christ the new perfect divine King (“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”)
4. God made Israel a great kingdom
	1. ***Dan. 2:44:*** The kingdom of Israel was temporary, preparing for the new kingdom (which is the church of Christ) – “In the days of those kings…”
5. God taught Israel to offer animal sacrifices
	1. ***Is. 53:5-6:*** Animal sacrifices were temporary, preparing them for Christ the perfect sacrifice for sin
6. God taught Israel to worship at the temple
	1. ***Ezek. 47:12:*** Israel’s temple was temporary *(Ezek. 40:1-5),* preparing for the new temple (members of the church – I Cor. 6:19) with the river of life & the tree of life (Rev. 22:1-2)
7. In the Gospel Age our Savior is here!
	1. **Mt. 1:21-23**; **Lk. 2:10-11:** Angels said Jesus Christ is the Savior (Immanuel = God with us)
	2. In Christ & His church, we find:
		1. The seed of woman who defeats Satan (Rom. 16:20; Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 2:14-15)
		2. The seed of Abraham who blesses all men (Gal. 3:8-16)
		3. Christ’s new covenant, testament, or law (Lk. 22:20: New Covenant bought by Jesus’ blood)
		4. Our new King (Mt. 1:1-17; I Tim. 6:13-16; Acts 2:30-32: In line of David)
		5. The new kingdom (spiritual, without borders!) of God (Mt. 21:43; Col. 1:13)
		6. The perfect sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 9:24-28; 10:10-12, 14)
		7. The new temple with the river of life & the tree of life (Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5)
	3. **Mk. 16:15-16:** The Savior built His church by sending His Apostles to proclaim salvation
	4. **Mt. 28:18-20:** The Savior calls all men to submit to the gospel & receive salvation
8. God perfectly fulfilled His plan to save mankind: The Gospel Age began in Acts 2!

# **We Find Eternal Fellowship with God in Heaven: The Tree of Life Awaits Us There!**

1. Fellowship with God makes Heaven an eternity of bliss (Paradise, a new Eden)
	1. **Rev. 2:7: To Ephesus: “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”**
	2. **Rev. 22:1-4, 14, 17:** The water of life & the tree of life – Saints have the right to both!
2. Those who overcome and inherit Heaven have the right to the water and tree of life!

# Conclusion

1. **Rev. 22:1-2:** The tree of life: lost at Eden, found in Heaven!
2. How was it lost and how do we find it?
	1. Eden, with the tree of life in its midst, sustained man in fellowship with God
	2. Sin separated man from God & the tree of life
	3. God revealed a plan to renew our fellowship
	4. We find eternal fellowship with God in heaven: the tree of life awaits us there
3. We must choose: Satan offers lies, sin, & death **VS.** Christ offers salvation & tree of life!
	1. **II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 22:18-19: Those disobedient lose their right to the tree of life and their souls enter eternal punishment! (Matthew 25:41, 46)**
	2. **Mt. 28:19:** Salvation for souls outside Christ (II Cor. 5:10-11)
	3. **Js. 5:16:** Salvation for saints who fall into sin (I Jn. 1:9)
4. The Tree of Life was once lost to men but can now be found! ***Have you found it?***
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be to have the right to the Tree of Life – Believe, repent, be baptized, and live!
6. If a Christian struggling with sin in your life, repent and be renewed! You can be forgiven!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!