

The Kingdom of God: The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

(Understanding is taken from the book 'The Millennial Chronicles' by Douglas Hamp. Pages 254-257)

Refer to Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17; 3:1-7

This is an important and fascinating piece of scripture. It is well worth the time to meditate upon the purpose of God and why He created and placed both the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life in the garden.

It has always been God's will and desire that we should be like him in every way. This is how it was with all the angels, Lucifer, and Adam and Eve. As we know Lucifer, the most perfect angel chose to oppose God's will and was cast out of heaven.

The two trees were placed in the garden so that the man and his wife, both being given free will, had the potential to choose to align themselves with God's will, or to choose not to align themselves with God's will. Evil is only made possible by choice. Said another way, evil is really nothing more than making a choice – that is, to do something contrary to God's will.

The serpent told them the truth, that they would be like God but he included a lie suggesting that by eating the fruit they would not die. He was correct in telling them that they would indeed be like God and know the difference between good and evil. However, he did not tell them that by choosing not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would also be like God and know the difference between good and evil.

In order for us to truly love God, the option to reject Him has to be ever present. We all have to have the opportunity to choose against His will to be able to truly choose him and hence have true love for him. God has created within us the capacity of choice. Choice by its very nature and definition must be activated by the individual.

So in choosing in accordance with God's desire or contrary to his desire is how Adam and Eve were activated and how their eyes were opened. The choice they made was critical, one was to eternal life and eating of the Tree of Life, and the other was death.

Had Adam and Eve rejected the serpent's suggestion, God would have declared, "Look, Adam has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil, yet without corruption" and then say, "Now, let him stretch out his hand, take from the Tree of Life and live forever."

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