

Two Trees

January 6, 2018 | Pastor Barry Buzza

Big Idea: The two trees, the “Tree of Life” and the “Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil”, in the center of the Garden of Eden (Delight) represent the keys to spiritual vitality — everything comes from God, and God must always be first and center.

Text: *The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden He placed the tree of life and the tree*

*of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9
NLT*

Tree Number 1 is the “Tree of Life” It represents God’s part. He promises to be the source of Life and Purpose. Sadly, Adam and Eve rejected him and lost their place on the Path of Life.

Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like Us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and He sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And He placed a flaming sword

that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22-24 NLT

The promise of eternal life is again offered to those who follow the River of Life.

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing. Ezekiel 47:12 NLT

Ultimately, those who worship God as their source of life, will eat of the Tree of Life.

Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of

God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship Him. And they will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.
Revelation 22:1-5 NLT

Tree Number 2 is the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”.

It represents our part in the Covenant between God and humankind.

We must choose to keep God as the first and center of every aspect of our life.

Command #1 of the Ten Commands underlines our responsibility.

“I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but Me.

Exodus 20:2-3 NLT

“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NLT

Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38 NLT

Our constant temptation in life is to reverse God’s order. We are tempted to not recognize

God as the Source and Sustainer of our life, and in turn put ourselves at the center of our garden.

Seven Priority Considerations for 2019:

1. God is the Creator of everything and he owns the entire Universe.
2. God loves us and invites us to partner in the ruling of our world.
3. God gave us each a garden to manage - our personal life, family, Church, business ...
4. We are each accountable to him for the fruitfulness of our garden.
5. There are rules to maintaining a successful garden.
6. The center of the garden belongs solely to God.
7. Every day we must choose to keep God first in all we do and

say.

RED THREAD

Reading for Week #2: Genesis 19-36

Memory Verse: *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. Proverbs 18:21 ESV*