



## Genesis Part 6: Genesis 3:22-24

### The Tale of Two Trees

Corbett Robertson – Sierra Community Church July 11th 2021

<sup>22</sup> And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

<sup>23</sup> So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

<sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

[The Holy Bible: New International Version](#). (1984)

#### **The Garden of Eden is the place where the fullness of life is experienced in the presence of God**

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:8-9

#### **1. The choice between two trees**

Abram/Sarai – “After Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband.”  
Genesis 16:3

King David – “One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful to look upon. . . So David sent messengers and took her.”  
2 Sam 11:2,4

Solomon – “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil.”  
1 Kings 3:9

#### **What are the key similarities/differences here?**

#### **2. Finding our way back to the garden**

“The tree of life also reappears as a symbol in Israel’s worship—first with the tabernacle and later with the temple in Jerusalem. The symbolism incorporated into the design of these sacred spaces portrays them as miniature gardens of Edens. Adorning both of these gardens was a golden lampstand, which took the form of a stylized tree.”  
Andy Dvoracek

#### **How do the tabernacle and temple represent mini Edens?**

Notes:

#### **3. The new garden**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.  
John 15:5

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.  
Revelation 2:7

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.  
Revelation 22:1-3

“These bookends not only nicely frame the entire biblical story, but they also highlight the completion of God’s redemptive plan. For us, the new tree of life serves as a reminder that God’s purposes will not be thwarted. The tree that was lost will be replanted; the creation that was lost will be restored. Therefore, we can look to the future with great confidence and hope.”  
Andy Dvoracek

#### Community Group Questions:

1. How does the woven thread of the tree of life from Genesis to Revelation help you trust v God is doing in your life right now?
2. How is Proverbs 3:18 related to this story? Galatians 3:13-14?
3. Where are you most tempted to “take” for yourself instead of “receiving” from God?

