

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PART 4)

Why the Blood and Why the Cross? (Couldn't God have devised another way?)

Why does the Plan of Salvation found **ONLY** in Jesus Christ “work?”

1. In part 3 we saw that the first outward, physical manifestation of sin was **MURDER** (Cain killed his brother, Abel) and, as a result, **BLOOD** was spilled upon the **GROUND**. This was a graphic, **PHYSICAL** illustration that **SIN** brings **DEATH**--the ultimate “death” being **SPIRITUAL DEATH, i.e., SEPARATION FROM GOD**. The Bible tells us that “**ALL**” of us, the humanity to come, were **IN ADAM**. Whereas Adam was created in the **LIKENESS AND IMAGE OF GOD** as stated in Genesis 5...
 - “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that **God created man**, in the **LIKENESS OF GOD** made **He** him; **Male and female created He them**; and blessed them, and **called THEIR name Adam**, in the day when they were created.” (Genesis 5:1-2)

...after The Fall, the Bible **NO LONGER** says that **ADAM** is reproducing in the **LIKENESS of GOD, BUT IN THE LIKENESS OF FALLEN ADAM**...

- “And **ADAM** lived an hundred and thirty years, and **begat a son IN HIS OWN LIKENESS**, after **HIS IMAGE**; and called his name Seth:” (Genesis 5:3)

The above scripture shows us that **ALL of humanity** have been “**INFECTED**” with the sin nature, “**born in sin**,”—born **SEPARATED** from God—an “**INHERITED CONDITION**” from our forefather, **ADAM**. God had set forth a **Divine Principle** from the **beginning** that each would **REPRODUCE “AFTER ITS OWN KIND”** and that is just what the human race has been doing and will continue to do—we are reproducing after our own kind, in the **LIKENESS OF FALLEN ADAM**.

2. God placed His Divine Fingerprint upon the Plan of Salvation through the consistent use of “types,” “shadows,” and “patterns” throughout the scriptures. This was quite a feat that could only be achieved through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon the writers of the scriptures. The “inter-connectedness” of the scriptures could not be achieved any other way, given that the Bible was written over a period of 1600 years, by 40 authors, in 3 languages, over 3 continents, and yet the “patterns” remain intact. The **Bible VALIDATES** itself! No other so-called **RELIGIOUS** book has these features. The Bible makes a **BOLD CLAIM**:
 - “For the prophecy came **NOT** in old time **by the will of MAN**: but **holy men of God SPAKE** as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost**.” (2 Peter 1:21)

- “**ALL SCRIPTURE** is given by **INSPIRATION OF GOD**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” (2 Timothy 3:16)

3. One of the **PATTERNS** God used was **THE TREE**.

QUESTION: What was God’s **ONLY TEST** of obedience, of His authority (Lordship) in the lives of Adam and Eve?

ANSWER: (Genesis 2:16-17)_____

QUESTION: What was the object of Satan’s temptation of Eve?

ANSWER: (Genesis 3:1)_____

TEST YOUR BIBLE I.Q. WITH THIS QUESTION:

DOES THE BIBLE STATE THAT THE SERPENT, SATAN, WAS LOCATED IN AND AMONGST THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL?

By God’s Holy Design and in His Wisdom, He used a **TREE** for the supreme test of man’s will at the beginning. The scene of **FIRST ADAM’S DISOBEDIENCE** would involve a **TREE** and the scene of **SECOND ADAM’S (JESUS’) OBEDIENCE** would also involve a **TREE**—**Calvary’s TREE!**

Many scholars have thought that the 2 trees named in the Garden of Eden—“**The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**” and “**The Tree of Life**”—represented the **two covenants**. “**The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**” would symbolize the **OLD COVENANT of THE LAW** and “**The Tree of Life**” would symbolize the **NEW TESTAMENT COVENANT of GRACE and ETERNAL LIFE** through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice upon **Calvary’s TREE**.

Why would **The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** be associated with **THE COVENANT OF THE LAW**? The following scripture gives us insight:

- “...for by **THE LAW** is the **KNOWLEDGE of SIN**.” (Romans 3:20)

When God gave the Law on Mt. Sinai to the Hebrew nation, the Hebrews claimed that “all God said, they would **DO**.” However, **no one** could **PERFECTLY keep/do the Law**. The Law served to show them their **HELPLESSNESS**, that they were **TRAPPED in SIN**—under a **CURSE**.

In associating the **LAW** with showing the people that they were **under the CURSE God had originally pronounced at the FALL of Adam** (which started with **A TREE**), God initiated a special regulation with the Hebrew nation under the leadership of Moses which involved a **TREE**:

- “And if a man have committed a sin worthy of **DEATH**, and he be to be put to death, and thou **HANG HIM ON A TREE**: His body shall not remain all night upon the **TREE**, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is **hanged** is **ACCURSED** of God;” (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

The New Testament gives us the understanding and purpose of why the Old Covenant,(i.e., The Law), was given; it’s association with the Fall of Adam; and how God used the **THEME** of the Tree associated with the Fall to validate the Bible and the Plan of Redemption found in Jesus Christ. It is noteworthy that Jesus entered human history during the time that the **DEATH SENTENCE** was accomplished by **execution upon a CROSS—A TREE!!!** This **TREE** is the **TRUE, ETERNAL TREE OF LIFE!!!**

- “For as many as are of the **works of the LAW** are **UNDER THE CURSE**: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth NOT** in all things which are written **in the book of the LAW to DO them**. But that **NO MAN** is **JUSTIFIED** by the **LAW** in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The **JUST** shall **LIVE BY FAITH**. And **THE LAW** is **NOT of FAITH**: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. **CHRIST hath REDEEMED US from the CURSE OF THE LAW**, being **MADE A CURSE FOR US**: for it is written, **CURSED is EVERY ONE that hangeth on a TREE**: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that **we might receive the PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT through FAITH.**” (Galatians 3:10-14)

The **THEME of THE TREE** was also demonstrated after the Hebrews were delivered from Egyptian bondage.

- “So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and **FOUND NO WATER**. And when they came to Marah, they could **NOT DRINK of the WATERS of Marah**, for they were **BITTER**: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, **What shall we drink?** And he cried unto the Lord; and the **LORD SHEWED HIM A TREE**, which when he had **CAST INTO THE WATERS**, the **WATERS WERE MADE SWEET**: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.” (Exodus 15:22-25)

God has carefully woven a **THEME** throughout the scriptures that no amount of human intervention or manipulation could achieve. He placed His Fingerprint upon the **use of THE TREE** in His Plan of Redemption and sent His Son into the world at the precise moment that execution would be accomplished **UPON A TREE**. Whereas **ALL** of humanity **IN ADAM** were subject to **THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL** (under a **CURSE**); **ANYONE** can **NOW** come to **THE TREE OF LIFE (CALVARY'S CROSS)** and be **IN SECOND ADAM, JESUS!**—No longer under the **CURSE**, but under the **BLESSING!**

What a thought!!! We are **IN** Jesus!

- “For as **IN** Adam **ALL DIE**, even so **IN** CHRIST shall **ALL BE MADE ALIVE.**” (I Corinthians 15:22)