

V

The Tree of Life, the Tree of
the Knowledge of Good and Evil

1. Adam and the Tree of Life

God gave Adam and Eve the Garden of Eden which was an ideal world of love and freedom. The beauty of the vegetable kingdom, and loveliness of the animal kingdom and the mysteries of the mineral kingdom in the great world of nature were all made for them. After creation of the male and female God gave them the dominion over all creatures. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them, and God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'" (Gen. 1:27)

God's ideal of creation is that Adam made by means of the Word should be made perfect and become

the Tree of Life. This is the perfection and incarnation of the Word. There was actually no Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden in reality but this expression was the symbol of the perfect Adam. He fell before he reached the standard of perfection and so the way to the Tree of Life was denied to him and guarded by the cherubim and a flaming sword, and Adam could never become the Tree of Life. (Gen. 3:24) Thus the tree of life, the ideal pattern of perfect man has never been realized owing to the fall of Adam and Eve.

Therefore God's ideal of the creation of man remained as an ideal, namely Logos remained as Logos and the purpose of Logos was never fulfilled. "He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1) Therefore the greatest hope for the fallen man is to go back to the Garden of Eden and become the tree of life which is the ideal pattern of perfect man. Jesus Christ was the Word which was with God in the beginning and descended as the perfection of the Word, the Incarnation of the Word after four thousand years since Adam.

Hence Jesus is called the Last Adam. (I Cor. 15:45, Rom. 5:14) He was the pattern of the perfect man who was not depraved. Being united with Jesus one can be perfect. Assuming humanity he came to this world and so he became a man. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (I Tim. 2:1) By one man's obedience many will be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19) "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." (I Cor. 22:23) From these verses it is evident

that Jesus was a man. He called himself the Son of man. He is the true vine and we are the branches of it. We are the temple and He is the head of it. He is the olive and we are wild olives united to him by grafting. So he called us his friends. "You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:14) "We know that when he appears we shall be like him." (I John 3:2) He was the perfect Adam who bore the intrinsic beauty of the original nature of creation without original sin. We could have been restored to our original perfection by being grafted both spirits and bodies into Jesus if He had not died on Cross but had completed the Word of Atonement as originally intended.

But owing to Christ's death on cross, only spiritual grafting into Jesus became possible and spiritual salvation alone was achieved. In other words, the way to the tree of life was spiritually opened and it took place at Pentecost soon after the ascension of Jesus. On the day of Pentecost his disciples gathered together in one place. "And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:3) Having been filled with the Holy Spirit they were spiritually grafted into the resurrected Jesus. The tongues as of fire represented the opening of the way to the tree of life in the garden of Eden which had been guarded by the cherubim and a flaming sword. Thus spiritual salvation was accomplished. It is still the hope and desire of Christians to put off hereditary sin and to approach to the tree of life in spirit and body. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and

the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates." (Rev. 23:23) The history of sin started in Alpha will end in Omega, and mankind will become the tree of life and the garden of Eden will be restored. Therefore the history of mankind is that of restoration to fulfil God's ideal of creation.

2. Eve and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

"The tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (Gen. 2:9) There were two trees besides other trees and two persons in the garden of Eden. If the tree of life represents the perfect Adam, what will the tree of knowledge of good and evil be? It should represent the perfect Eve. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'" (Gen. 2:16-) Then the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil signifies love, and to eat of it signifies to have unlawful sexual relationship.

3. Two Characteristics of the Essentiality of Logos

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) This means that the Word was with God communicating

with Him constantly. Logos was in the objective position to God consequently the Logos has also two characteristics of its essentiality. If the Logos had not these essentials all creatures made through it could not have two essentials. Since Jesus was the incarnation of the Logos there must also be an objective being to Jesus according to the principle of creation. That objective Being is the Holy Spirit.

In the beginnings of God's creation the universe was created gradually, namely the first day, the second day, the third day, and so forth. On the first day God started by creating light. So was the creation of man. God created one man Adam from whom He made a woman Eve. Since the creation started from one man, the new-creation must also start from one man. Therefore the restoration of all mankind is not accomplished at once. By the fall ^{the} first Adam was lost and it is the Divine Providence to set up another Adam for salvation. Jesus was the restored Adam and the father of mankind. Therefore he was called Eternal Father. (Is. 9:2) "For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done." (Math. 16:27) The fall was brought about by Adam and Eve, so the restoration must be made by the Second Adam and Eve, because God's providence is blotting sins out. Jesus came as the perfect Adam. Who is the perfect Eve?

Because of the fall the true parents were lost and Jesus came to restore the true parents to mankind. If he came as the true father who would be the true mother? It should be the Holy Spirit. It is now being revealed to many saints

that the Holy Spirit is a Mother Spirit. This would not be understood without knowing the principle of these two essentials. Since the Holy Spirit is a true Mother, she moves man's hearts, washes away sins, regenerates sinners in place of Eve. Therefore no one can stand before Jesus as a bride unless he receives the Holy Spirit.

4. The Meaning of Regeneration

Every descendant from the fallen parents, is a fallen man. As the Holy Spirit descends upon them (men believe in Jesus as the true father. Thus we are born again by receiving new life through the love of the true parents, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The power of life and action is brought forth when a correlative standard between a subject and an object is formed and the action of give-and-take comes into being. Jesus cannot work alone. The new life starts in a person when the action of give-and-take is formed between Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The creation of a new life through Jesus and the Holy Spirit is Regeneration. Thus Jesus the subject of Logos is in heaven, and the Holy Spirit His object is on earth helping us. "Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven,....either in this age or in the age to come." (Math.12:31) Any one who speaks against God Jesus will intercede for him, and any one who speaks against Jesus the Holy Spirit will plead for him, but when any one speaks against the Holy Spirit there is no one to intercede for him, but satan can claim him. So to speak against the Holy Spirit is a sin for which there is no forgiveness.