

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

13/9/26

Adam and Eve were created separately, in a fully prepared garden in Eden by God. Within the garden were a variety of fruit producing trees and bushes for their natural food needs. However, there were two specific trees in the same garden that offered specialised food for their spirit or soul alone. **GEN 2:9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow **every tree** that is pleasant to the sight, and **good for food** (natural body needs); the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil** (for spiritual needs).

The **tree of Life** offered an ongoing relationship with God. The other tree was the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil... God had clearly warned that eating this fruit would lead to inescapable spiritual and physical death. **GEN 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die**. Unlike the animal kingdom which relies upon built-in instincts, humans have almost unlimited capacity to expand that require moral and ethical boundaries. We also have self-awareness and the ability to understand God's creation and purpose. We have a creative intellect that also needs guidance and wisdom.

How could the tree of knowledge of what is 'good' and what is 'evil' cause failure and death? Knowing the differences between good and evil would surely assist us to make better choices, not evil ones. So there obviously needs to be a better way to understand what this tree was offering. The tree of knowledge produced fruit for **self-determination**, rather than of Godly inspiration. Where 'good' and 'evil' are determined by the eater rather than the creator. Rather than offering spiritual truths and directions, the tree of knowledge offered personal choices of self-rule. **GEN 3:5...** **ye shall be as gods, knowing** (0345 Strong's Hebrew... choosing and bringing forth what is) **good and evil**. Eating the forbidden fruit gives us the mind to choose what is good and what is evil outside of God's will... flexible choices that fit our current beliefs or feelings on any given day.

God rightly revealed this would prove fatal, and here we are today... a whole world full of people with varying views and beliefs that still sadly end in death. **PRO 21:2** Every way of a man is **right in his own eyes**... **Let's have another look** at the warning stated in verse **GEN 3:5...** **ye shall be as gods, knowing** (0345 Strong's... choosing and bringing forth what is) **good and evil**. There is an even greater betrayal being revealed in this verse.

Furthermore, the word '**knowing**' (0345 Strong's) is also used when humans are sexually intimate. **GEN 4:1** And Adam **knew** (0345) Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. By '**knowing**' Eve, Adam brought forth another life... Cain is a genetic combination of both parents. Likewise, **Knowing good and evil** brings forth another life... not through God, but a union with Satan... of self-rule, not of spiritual truth. **JOH 8:44** Ye are of your **father the devil** (spiritual ancestry), and the **lusts** (choices) of your **father ye will do**. A new and corrupt way is born... we become rebellious (spiritually ungodly) children like Satan.

Choices that mix truth and error are termed 'worldly' **JAM 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a **friend of the world** is the enemy of God. God reveals that worldliness is the same as unfaithfulness. **Every sin**, no matter how small, is still spiritual adultery and needs to be recovered from. **JAM 2:10** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in **one point**, he is **guilty of all**. One error is a spiritually unfaithful as breaking **all laws**... the magnitude of any sin is great. **JER 17:9** The heart is **deceitful** (corrupted) above all things, and **desperately wicked** (incurably sick): **who can know it?** Our natural thoughts, ethics and morals are the product of spiritual fornication... hence the need for the Holy Spirit (to be **born** again). **1PET 1:23** Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, **but of incorruptible**, by the word of God, which **liveth and abideth for ever**. Being born again returns us to spiritual purity, eliminating corruption and confusion. Both war against each other in our natural lives... Choosing the tree of Life (salvation... which includes the **sure mercy of David**) is our only hope.

Just like Adam and Eve, the choice is always ours. **ROM 6:16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of **sin unto death**, or of **obedience unto righteousness?** Eating from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is nothing more than choosing spiritual adultery against God... a choice that most people choose daily. Better still... Choose the tree of life!