

THE TREE OF LIFE.

Genesis ii., 9, 10 - "THE TREE OF LIFE also in the midst of the garden and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a RIVER went out of Eden to water the garden."

Genesis iii., 24 - "So he drove out the man: and he placed Cherubims. . . to keep the way of the tree of life."

Revelation xxii., 1, 2 - "A PURE RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. . . . and on either side of the river was there THE TREE OF LIFE."

HOW wonderful to see the TREE OF LIFE WITHIN OUR REACH, and put there by God Himself, in precious grace, after man had turned his back on his good Creator God in eating of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil! How wonderful that after we had forfeited all right to the tree of

life, and were under the just judgment of death, God should send His Son to die for us, and open the way to the tree of life! It was even before God drove man out of the garden, the glorious promise was given that the woman's seed should bruise or crush the serpent's head! That seed was Christ. For "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman." Thus in Christ we have right to the tree of life, and that in a far better way than in an earthly paradise. But all this is at the cost of His death, for the serpent was to bruise His heel.

There is nothing so wonderful as Christianity. The light of Christ and the grace of Christ have done more for man than

anything ever heard of. CHRISTIANS ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT HAVE ANY GLAD TIDINGS TO TELL TO THIS DYING WORLD. They alone can tell them of the love of God – that instead of keeping a tree from man as if He were unkind, He has even given His Son to die for us, that we might not die, but live, and live in the knowledge of the love of God!

No glad tidings can the heathen tell us, for they worship Satan, nor the Jews, for they have rejected their Messiah and Saviour. Christians are the only evangelists with good news for the whole world. Those who turn away from Christianity – have no hopes beyond the grave. To Christians – to the church of God

alone belongs the joy of telling the world that the river of God's grace, the water of life, is flowing for all, and that the Tree of Life, a living Christ, has been put within reach of every man. Rev. xxii. describes the church in the day of glory enjoying the fruit of the Tree of Life, the leaves of which are "for the healing of the nations." Thus God has interwoven in the most striking way the Book of Revelation with the Book of Genesis written long before. THE WHOLE ARCH OF TIME IS SPANNED BY THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST, from the fall of man till the present time, and indeed till the day of glory burst, when testimony will be needed no more. Abel, Enoch, and Noah all gave their

testimony, and Adam lived to the time of Noah's father, so that Noah must have known about the fall and about God's promise that the woman's seed should crush the serpent's head. Then again, Noah lived till the days of Abraham's father, and Shem, who was also in the Ark, lived till the early days of Abraham, so that the deluge and the fall and the promise of God must have been known to Abraham. Then Abraham himself was called out as a witness against the nations around, who had already given up God for idols and the worship of Satan. The God of glory promised to make of him a great nation, and that in his seed, which is Christ, all the nations should be blessed. Thus Israel, Abraham's

children were taught to look for Christ, and Moses and all the prophets gave their testimony to Christ. AT LAST CHRIST CAME, EXACTLY AS SCRIPTURE SAID HE WOULD, and "died for our sins, according to the scriptures, and was buried, and rose again the third day, according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. xv., 3, 4), and the testimony of a living Christ has been carried on by living voices from that day to this, through the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY shows that ever since the time that God sent His Son the testimony of Christ has been maintained against all opposition till this very hour. Quite early people began to date from the

birth of Christ, and have done so ever since. In this dry world how beautiful to hear Jesus, in the close of Revelation, bid the thirsty one come and whosoever will "take the water of life freely"! In a world of death how wonderful that God should give us right to the Tree of Life! What a striking contrast between God's driving man out of paradise and His own word of grace - "Compel them to come in that my house may be filled"! Come then to Christ for the Spirit, the living water, and He will give you to eat of the Tree of Life. GOD'S GRAND ANSWER TO SATAN IS CHRIST. In Him God has come out as Saviour, that He may have man for His pleasure, and that man may live in the love of God.

The Tree of Life.

Glory to the blessed God,
And the Lamb who shed His blood!
From their throne the river flows
Bringing life where'er it goes.
On each side the Living Tree
In our reach, by faith, we see,
Tree of life for every one,
Who believes in God's own Son.
'WHOSOEVER,' glorious word!
Telling out the heart of God;
He His judgment has delayed,
Wishing all men to be saved!
'Tis for every bitten one
Just to look on God's own Son,
Live, and tell out far and wide,
That for all men Jesus died!
'WHOSOEVER' - every man,
None can limit God's own plan;
He who did the world create,
Opes for all men mercy's gate.
Now may all, who enter there,
Know that Christ their sins did bear,
Live in all the love of God,
Cleansed through Jesus' precious blood.

None but He, divinely great,
Could have opened such a gate -
God in worldwide love come down,
In the Person of His Son!
God the Serpent's work has foiled,
For the man that Satan spoiled,
Is redeemed through Jesus' blood,
Saved and brought to love his God!

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