



THE TREE OF LIFE

A story as old as time itself.
A story so new that the end is yet to come.

Tree 1: The Tree of Life

At the start of time, God planted a garden with beautiful trees and delicious fruit. God invited Adam and Eve to eat freely of the fruits in the garden.

The Tree of Life was one of two trees in the centre of the garden. It was good, and anyone who ate of the fruit would live forever.

Tree 2: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

The other tree in the centre of the garden was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and it was the only tree that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from, for if they ate of it, they would die.

Yet the serpent made it seem like they would become wise like God if they ate of it. And so they were deceived, and ate, and gained the knowledge of evil in their own lives, not wisdom or goodness.

And so death entered the world, along with pain, brokenness, hurt, grief, loss, damage, pride and rebellion.

Tree 3: The Tree of Life - The Cross

The fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil led humans to a desperate place where not even Noah's flood could wash away evil.

And so in time came Jesus, the Promised One, the Messiah. He would overturn the power of the curse of death by dying on a cross made from a tree. In doing this, he defeated the power of sin and death to bring life, forgiveness, wholeness, mercy, grace and hope.

Tree 4: The Tree of Life

We have access to the Tree of Life again because of Jesus' triumph over sin, death and hell through his resurrection. He invites us to take, eat and live forever.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die." (Jesus)

'Blessed are they who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.'

'They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.'

The River of Life

Water was there before the world was formed. Rivers flowed in the garden of Eden, watering the surface of the earth including the trees in the garden.

King David sang of the blessing of the one who delights in God's word, that they are like a tree planted by streams of water, producing fruit in season and keeping its leaves green.

The prophet Ezekiel saw a vision of water flowing from the temple of God, bringing life and making salt water fresh so that wherever the water flows, everything will live. Fruit trees will grow on both banks of the river and their leaves will bring healing.

Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman at the well, and promised that streams of living water would flow from anyone who believes in him.

And the apostle John saw a vision where, at the end of time, the River of Life will flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb, with the Tree of Life on both banks of the river, producing fruit each month and providing leaves for the healing of the nations.

To all who are thirsty, come and drink.

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