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Godly Trees

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A tree + A tree equals The tree of life

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Genesis 2:8-9 Genesis 3:1-24

This time of year, people are in search of the perfect Christmas tree. The first Christmas tree, however, is the most important and perfect of all—the family tree of Jesus and if you are one of his own you have access to that perfect tree.

Coming to the spiritual realm, have you ever contemplated of how greatly our Sovereign wise God used objects or situation which initially were a “curse” to become a “blessing” later? In this study today, I aim to focus on those Biblical events using words beginning with the letter “T” where one clearly discern how the good Lord “turned the tables” as it were to foster blessings upon His chosen people.

Trees...

Hmmm...the tree of knowledge appeared quite pleasing to the eye of our first parents (Gen 3:6) though they were commanded by their loving Creator to stay away from it, leave it alone, admire its beauty from a distance. Genesis 2:8-9⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

⁹ And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And God gave Adam a command in Genesis 2:15-17 concerning the trees ¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

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.

The result of their “adulterous advance”, so to say, towards it is now history. Oh yes, they ate of its fruit at the behest of the crafty tempter bringing curse upon themselves and all mankind (Gen 3:1-19). The fruit from the Tree of knowledge brought in its wake spiritual darkness to all of mankind, This darkness can be dispelled only when one comes near yet another Tree which by its appearance ironically is at once ugly. I will get to that tree a little later. Yes, yes, yes children

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Listen children to know evil is not good. It is not good to know evil.

Before we get to the ugly tree I want to focus for a few minutes on the Christmas tree. Jerimiah 10:3-4 King James version says ³For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

⁴They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

And from the message version it reads as:

10 ¹⁻⁵ Listen to the Message that GOD is sending your way, House of Israel. Listen most carefully:

“Don’t take the godless nations as your models.

Don’t be impressed by their glamour and glitz,
no matter how much they’re impressed.

The religion of these peoples
is nothing but smoke.

An idol is nothing but a tree chopped down,
then shaped by a woodsman’s ax.

They trim it with tinsel and balls,
use hammer and nails to keep it upright.

It’s like a scarecrow in a cabbage patch—can’t talk!

Deadwood that has to be carried—can’t walk!

Don’t be impressed by such stuff.

It’s useless for either good or evil.”

I am not condemning the celebration of Jesus’s birth by erecting a Christmas tree.
It is more than Christmas it is Christ Must.

Most of us love Christmas trees do we not? And we could hardly imagine the Christmas season without them. And for Christians, Christmas trees can help us in our remembrance of Christ’s birth.

Lots of ornaments are of angels and the baby Jesus in the manger. Many Christmas trees have a star placed on top which reminds us of the star which guided the Magi to Christ.

Even the tree itself can remind us that Jesus died on a tree, and the green pine needles can remind us that death did not and does not have the final word!

So, Christmas trees can be awesome as long as they point beyond themselves to Christ Jesus.

The TRUTH about the CHRISTMAS TREE is that it reminds us about another tree. It was on a Tree that God hung His greatest gift to humankind.

- The Christmas tree is symbolic of a broken curse,

- its evergreen branches representing everlasting life. Peter 2:24-25 records:

²⁴ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Jesus Christ gave His life on a tree known as the cross for you and me. We place lights all around our Christmas Tree.

Lights that remind us of the "Light of the world".

1. John 8:12 (NIV)

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

YOU and I are not the light, but those that have said YES to Jesus possess the light and are to allow His light to shine through us – a REFLECTION OF THE LIGHT FROM THE SON!

2. Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Beloved let's travel to the ugly "Tree" at Calvary...

If love for God which can be exhibited only by implicit obedience to His commands (2 John 1:6) was conspicuous by its absence in the behavior of the First Adam when exposed to the lure of Tree of Knowledge, then by stark contrast the Final Adam according to 1 Cor 15:45⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." Personified obedience by willfully hanging on the Cruel Tree (Gal 3:13) 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: as per the Father's will (John 6:38/ John 14:30-31) right in the middle of the Earth (Ezekiel 5:5).⁵ Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

If the Tree of Knowledge proved to be a bane for mankind bringing in its wake spiritual ignorance, then again ironically the Tree of foolishness (so-called by the scholarly Greek peers of Apostle Paul- 1 Cor 1:18) has been a cause for manifold blessings to it ushering in spiritual emancipation and enlightenment. Stretching the comparison further, if the enticing words of the sly snake spoken even while "hanging" onto the former brought forth terrible curse to mankind, the energizing words proclaiming completion of redemption plan (John 19:30) spoken by the suffering Saviour even while "hanging" on the energy-sapping cruel Tree of execution (Gal 3:13/ Deu 22:21) have heralded from the First Good Friday onwards the free release from that curse to anyone appropriating it in his/her life (Romans 10:8-10). We who are all connected to the First Adam (genetically and spiritually) need not remain "chained" to the Former but seek our liberty by looking with saving faith (John 3:14-15/ Numbers 21:4-9) at the Latter where the Final Adam completed the onerous work of providing free salvation at a great cost (can anyone put a price tag on the Saviour's sufferings?). It was indeed a ugly tree with beauty engrafted in it from top to bottom. The fruit on the tree of knowledge contained death, destruction and separation from God. But the fruit from the tree on calvary's hill was sweet, fulfilling and restorative. From John 6:48-58 we read:

⁴⁸ I am that bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead.

⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

⁵² The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁵⁵ For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

⁵⁷ As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

⁵⁸ This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

The tree of Calvary would be a palaver only to the perishing, blinded as they are, by the arch-enemy of every human soul (2 Cor 4:4) which states “ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. but to those being redeemed by it, it is the power of God in action” (1 Cor 1:18-TLB says ¹⁸ I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost,^[a] when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved* recognize this message as the very power of God.

Trees...(Garden)

If the first death was pronounced on mankind amidst the trees then the Heavenly Father ensured that resurrection proclaiming victory over death also took place amidst the “trees” (Jesus rose victoriously from death in a “Garden” – John 19:41-42). ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

⁴² There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulcher was nigh at hand.

Today, we armed with a “Blessed hope ”as recorded in (Titus 2:13-14)¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” We can now look at our timeless foe Death seemingly as it were, on its face and taunt “O Death, where is thy sting” (1 Cor 15:55) because Jesus rose from the Garden grave on the First Easter as the “First fruits” symbolizing the future resurrection of all the Christians Thess 4:13-18-Message Bible: ¹³⁻¹⁴ And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master's word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

So now we have looked at a tree plus a tree now to the tree of life.

Once again by the fruit of one tree- The tree of the knowledge of good and evil came death, destruction and separation from God. Now we understand that by the fruit of the tree that hung on the tree on Calvary's hill, the body and blood of our saviour Jesus the Christ came our eternal salvation and the invitation to partake of the fruit from the tree of life in Revelation 2:7 WHICH READS He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat **of the tree of life**, which is in the midst **of the paradise of God.**” And from the message translations it reads as “Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches. I'm about to call each conqueror to dinner. I'm spreading a banquet of Tree-of-Life fruit, a supper plucked from God's orchard.”

Yes from the tree of destruction to the tree of Life. God has promised us eternal life through His beloved Son Jesus the Christ. Jesus came to earth as a baby. He grew into man hood and was resurrected by the Father with a glorified body, bus and very soon he will return not at a baby and not as a man but as King of King and Lord of Lords. Thank you father that you preserved that precious tree of life for us, those who love the Lord and anxiously awaiting His appearance. A tree plus another tree equals the tree of life.

And as Bishop Ferguson said on last Sunday “ In order to flourish you must be nourished.” Thank you, Jesus, for the nourishment we needed for Eternal Life