**The Tree of Life**

***In Genesis, Proverbs, and Revelation***

By Arlen Chitwood

The “*tree of life*” is mentioned nine times in Scripture, in three different books — three times in Genesis 2:9; 3:22, 24, four times in Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12; 15:4, and twice in the book of Revelation 2:7; 22:2. But what was *the original purpose* for the tree of life (seen in Genesis), which will be realized yet future (seen in the book of Revelation)?

The *tree of life* was one of the numerous trees in the garden in Eden. And Adam, with Eve, was commanded to eat of all these trees, with the exception of one — the “*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*” (Genesis 2:9, 16-17). Adam, the first man, had been created for the specific purpose of assuming *the rulership over the earth*, and the fruit of the tree of life was singled out as *a specific provision* for man as he exercised this rule.

An evident connection *between* man’s rule and his partaking of the tree of life can be seen by noting *the appearance of this tree* *in the beginning when man was in a position to rule*, *the absence of this tree* *during the entire period when man is not in a position to rule* (aside from the tree being referenced in Proverbs), and *the reappearance of this tree* *in the book of Revelation when man will be brought back into a position to rule* (cf. Genesis 1:26-28; Revelation 2:26-27).

The period during which man has been barred from eating of the tree of life *began* following Adam’s fall, resulting in his disqualification to rule; and this period will *end* following the issues of the judgment seat, at which time man will once again find himself in a position to rule.

Adam, following the fall, was driven from the garden to prevent his partaking of the tree of life. Adam could not be permitted to eat of this tree in a fallen condition, for had such occurred, Adam, in a fallen state, would have realized that which fruit from this tree was meant to provide. Thus, not only did God remove Adam from the garden, but He placed a “*cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden*, *and a flaming sword which turned every way*,”[to prevent fallen man from reentering the garden and partaking of this tree]” (Genesis 3:22-24).

Studying Genesis 3:22-24 apart from the context and related Scripture could lead one to believe that the purpose for the tree of life in the beginning, in Genesis, was to provide perpetuity of life for Adam in his unfallen state. However, such could not have been the case at all. “Death” *did not* enter into the picture until *after* Adam’s sin (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6ff; cf. Romans 6:23), at which time he was barred from the tree of life.

Adam had lived in an *undying state* prior to his sin, as he continued to live in an antithetical *dying state* following his sin; and to say that the tree of life was given to Adam in his unfallen state to provide perpetuity of life, preventing death, cannot possibly be correct. Nor could it possibly be correct to say that the tree of life would have had anything to do with providing *physical life* (keeping Adam alive physically) following the fall. A tree can produce *only* “*after its kind*” (Genesis 1:11-12). In this respect, *fruit* from the tree of life simply *could not have produced one result before man*’*s fall and another following man*’*s fall*.

In Revelation 2:7, partaking of the tree of life has been promised to the overcomers from among those *already possessing* *eternal life*. Consequently, in this passage, the tree of life can have nothing whatsoever to do with perpetuity of life; and it is the same in the Genesis account when man was first brought upon the scene to rule and to reign.

The tree of life in both Genesis chapters two and three and Revelation chapter two appears in a different setting entirely. The tree of life reserved for Christians in Revelation 2:7 is associated peculiarly with a provision *for those who will rule and reign as co-heirs with Christ*; and viewing Adam’s position in the Genesis account — created *to rule and reign*, in possession of an unending life, with the fruit of the tree of life at his disposal — the same thought concerning *regality in connection with the tree of life* would hold true. Thus, Adam in a fallen state, *no longer in a position to rule*, could not be allowed to eat of the tree of life, for fruit from this tree would provide “life” in relation to *regality*.

This whole overall thought concerning the tree of life in Scripture *would have to hold true*, for that which is seen relative to this tree *in* Revelationchaptertwo is drawn from that which was *first* seen relative to this treein Genesis chapters two and three. The fruit of the tree of life *was in the past* (seen in the book of Genesis) and *will be in the future* (seen in the book of Revelation) *a provision for the rulers in the kingdom*. *This is an evident fact that must be recognized*.

And, in that coming day following the Millennium, the tree of life will be for “*the healing of the nations*” (Revelation 22:2). The Greek word translated “*healing*” is *therapeia*, from which the English word “therapy” is derived. This is a medical term that has to do with *restorative healing*. In that day, God will *restore all of saved mankind to the original place that man occupied at the time of his creation*. And, consequently, *the whole of saved mankind*, *with regality in view*, *will have access to the tree of life*.

During the preceding Messianic Era, the tree of life will have been made available to overcoming Christians (Revelation 2:7), those ruling and reigning as co-heirs with Christ. And this tree will probably be made available to certain others at this time as well, others occupying regal positions with Christ in His reign from the heavens over the earth (e.g.,certain Old Testament saints, Tribulation martyrs [Matthew 8:11, 12; Revelation 20:4-6]).

But following the Messianic Era, in the eternal ages, this tree is seen being made available to the nations of the earth, something that would have been completely out of place during the Millennium. And this will be an apparent end result of Israel’s evangelistic endeavors during the Millennium, along with Christ’s rule with a rod of iron during this time.

Man was created in the beginning to *rule and to reign*. And though only a part of saved mankind will have been brought back into a position to occupy the throne *at the beginning of the Millennium* (with the *tree of life made available to them at this time*), at the end of the Millennium the whole of saved mankind will be brought back into this position (with the *tree of life made available to them at this time*).

[Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's The Bride in Genesis, Appendix, Excerpt](http://bibleone.net/BiG_A.htm)

[The Bride in Genesis, Appendix Two Excerpt, by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/TBG.pdf)

Also see: [The Out-Resurrection and The Tree of Life](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-also.php#The Out-Resurrection and The Tree of Life) and [The Tree of Life](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-also.php# The Tree of Life).