**Christians allowed to partake of the tree of life in *that day* will, by *partaking* of this tree, be *properly* equipped for carrying on the Lord’s business *following His return when He is revealed as* “King of kings and Lord of lords”; and Christians carrying on His business *then* will do so *through reigning as co-heirs with Him*.**

**Wisdom and Knowledge for Overcomers**

*Acquired from the fruit of The Tree of Life*

**By Arlen L. Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

*Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding;*

*For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver and her gain than fine gold.*

*She is more precious than rubies and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.*

*Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor.*

*Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.*

*She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.* ([Proverbs 3:13-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+3.13-18&t=NKJV))

Following the introduction to the “tree of life” in the opening chapters of Genesis, there are *only four references* to this tree throughout Scripture until one arrives at [Revelation 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.7&t=NKJV). Solomon used the expression, “a tree of life,” *four times* in the book of Proverbs ([Proverbs 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+3.18&t=NKJV); [11:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+11.30&t=NKJV); [13:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+13.12&t=NKJV); [15:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+15.4&t=NKJV)); and it is within this *revelation given through Solomon* that one finds the *connection between* the tree of life in the books of Genesis and Revelation. And by putting all of this together, the *reason then becomes apparent why this tree, with its fruit, was among the trees provided for Adam and Eve to eat in their unfallen state, and why fruit from this tree is being reserved for overcoming Christians to partake of during the Messianic Era.*

(Then, there is also a connection between this tree and the complete restoration of the nations of the earth beyond the Messianic Era, with all of mankind realizing the purpose for man’s creation in the beginning [[Revelation 22:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.2&t=NKJV)]. For additional information on this subject, refer to [The Eternal Ages](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The%20Eternal%20Ages) in this site.)

In the first of these four passages, *wisdom* and *understanding* are said to be “a tree of life." Viewing this in the light of the wisdom and understanding possessed by Solomon as he ruled over Israel *is* the *association provided by Scripture* to correctly understand *one facet of the tree of life*. Solomon possessed *wisdom* and *understanding* as he *ruled*; and Christians must, *in like manner*, possess *wisdom* and *understanding* as they *rule*, as would have been necessary forAdam *had he ruled*.

1) Solomon Properly Equipped

Shortly after Solomon ascended the throne following the death of David, the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Ask! What shall I give you?” Solomon, recognizing that he was but as a “little child” in understanding the affairs of state within the kingdom over which he ruled asked for *wisdom* and *knowledge*. Solomon asked God for the *ability to judge the people of Israel in equity, justice, and righteousness*.

Such a request *pleased* the Lord, and Solomon was *granted* not only “wisdom and knowledge” but also “riches and honor.” His ability to rule, his material wealth, and the respect which he commanded — all coming from the hand of the Lord — would later be shown to *exceed that of any king upon the face of the earth* ([1 Kings 3:5-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+3.5-15&t=NKJV); [2 Chronicles 1:7-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+1.7-17&t=NKJV)).

Solomon’s ability to judge among his people in a unique manner through the wisdom and knowledge that the Lord had bestowed began to be displayed through a decision which he rendered concerning two women and a child. These two women dwelled alone in the same house, and both had given birth to sons, one three days before the other. The son born last died one night because his mother lay upon him; and as the other mother slept with her son at her side, the mother of the dead child took the living child from his mother’s side and placed the dead child in its stead. However, upon awakening, the mother now in possession of the dead child realized that the child was not hers and found that her child was still alive and being claimed by the other mother. Not being able to resolve the matter between themselves, their case was brought before Solomon.

Solomon was told what had allegedly occurred; and as he listened to both women claiming the living child, he was unable to ascertain which one was the true mother. He then called for a sword and commanded that the child be divided into two parts, giving half to each woman. Solomon, in his wisdom, knew that the true mother would be revealed by the actions that each woman would take when they heard his decision.

And that is exactly what occurred. The true mother pleaded for the child’s life, telling Solomon to not harm the child but to give him to the other woman. The other woman, whose child had died, on the other hand, insisted that the child be divided. Solomon then knew which of the two women was telling the truth, and the child was returned to his true mother ([1 Kings 3:16-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+3.16-27&t=NKJV)).

Solomon’s *wisdom* in this matter spread throughout all Israel, and the people “feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.” Not only did God give Solomon *wisdom to judge in all matters*, but Solomon possessed *wisdom of such a nature that it spread throughout the entire known world*. His wisdom “excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt . . . and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men . . . and his fame was in all the surrounding nations . . . And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon” ([1 Kings 3:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+3.28&t=NKJV); [4:29-34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+4.29-34&t=NKJV)). The queen of Sheba came “to test him with hard questions” ([1 Kings 10:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+10.1ff&t=NKJV)), and in the end stated,

*It was a true report that I heard in my own land of your acts and of your wisdom.*

*Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and my eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: your wisdom and prosperity exceeds the fame of which I heard.* ([1 Kings 10:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Kings+10.6-7&t=NKJV) [6b])

2) Christians Properly Equipped

The wisdom and understanding that Solomon possessed as he ruled in the kingdom of Israel (associated with “a tree of life”) *provides the central reason why the tree of life is found in association with Adam’s rule in Genesis and with the Christians’ rule yet future*.

The fruit of this tree *would have provided* (for Adam) and *will provide* (for Christians) the necessary *wisdom* and *understanding* to *govern in equity, justice, and righteousness*.

God’s bestowal of wisdom, understanding, riches, wealth, and honor upon Solomon *typifies* that which He will bestow upon *overcoming* Christians during the *coming age*.

Through the *fruit* of the tree of life, God will provide the *necessary* wisdom and understanding to *rule* in the kingdom; by *being* co-heirs with God’s Son, Christians will come into possession of unlimited riches and wealth, for all the Father’s possessions will *belong to the Son*; and *in these positions*, Christians will *realize* a status of honor and glory befitting those elevated to such *noble rank* ([Genesis 24:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24.10&t=NKJV), [36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24.36&t=NKJV), [53](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24.53&t=NKJV); [John 16:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+16.13-15&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 1:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9-11&t=NKJV); [4:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+4.12-13&t=NKJV); [Revelation 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.11&t=NKJV); [5:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+5.12&t=NKJV)).

The tree of life in Eden was a literal tree with literal fruit, as will be the tree of life in the new Jerusalem following the Millennium ([Revelation 22:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.2&t=NKJV)). However, there is a possibility that the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God, reserved for Christians during the Millennium, *may not be a literal tree as such*. There is a sense in which *Christ Himself is the Tree of Life, a Tree upon which Christians will one day feed, similar to the feeding upon Christ as is seen in* [John 6:48-56](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.48-56&t=NKJV).

But, a *feeding upon Christ in relation to the tree of life could only be at a future time alone*. Scripture associates a *present feeding* in this respect with “manna,” *not* with a “tree.” The tree of life is *located* in the paradise of God and is *connected* with regality, something from which Christians are *presently estranged*.

This is *not the day* when Christians are to rule and reign. That day lies in the *future*. Thus, any feeding upon Christ today could *not be associated* with the tree of life. Rather, it would have to be *associated with manna*.

(As previously seen, in [Genesis 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.12&t=NKJV), God introduced something concerning trees that is unchangeable. Trees that yield fruit *will always* yield their fruit “after its kind.”

The tree of life is *located* in the paradise of God and *associated* with regality; and fruit *born* by this tree must be viewed accordingly. The tree will *bear* fruit “after its kind,” *associated* with the paradise of God and *with* regality; and this fruit can be eaten by man *only after* he finds himself *exercising regality* in the paradise of God, *during the Messianic Era*.)

Insofar as a *feeding upon manna with respect to Christ*, note the *third overcomer’s promise* ([Revelation 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.17&t=NKJV)) The Israelites fed upon literal manna in the wilderness, but *Christ is the Manna upon which Christians feed*. Christ is “the bread of life”; and we “eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood.” Through this process, *we acquire that wisdom that comes from above*; or, as Scripture states, “Christ . . . became [‘has become’] for us wisdom . . .” ([John 6:48-58](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+6.48-58&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 1:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+1.30&t=NKJV); *cf.* [1 Corinthians 2:6-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.6-10&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.8&t=NKJV); [Colossians 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.9&t=NKJV), [28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.28&t=NKJV)).

Christ is the Living Word that came down from heaven; and *feeding upon the Living Word is accomplished through feeding upon the inseparable Written Word*. In Christ are “hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” ([Colossians 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+2.3&t=NKJV)); and *feeding upon Him, through the Written Word, allows us to develop and grow, becoming more and more like Him by acquiring this wisdom and knowledge*.

Wisdom and knowledge acquired during the *present* time though is *not* for the purpose of equipping Christians to *rule and reign*. We are living during the time Christ is in heaven, with the *present* existing kingdom *under* the dominion and control of Satan. Wisdom and knowledge *presently being acquired* is for the sole purpose of *equipping Christians to carry on the Lord’s business during His time of absence*.

Wisdom and knowledge of a nature that will equip Christians to rule and reign will be acquired *only* from the tree of life in the *midst* of the paradise of God. If this is a reference to Christ Himself, such a feeding upon Christ can only refer to something that is *not available today* but *reserved for the overcomers during the coming age*.

Christians allowed to partake of the tree of life in *that day* will, by *partaking* of this tree, be *properly* equipped for carrying on the Lord’s business *following His return when He is revealed as* “King of kings and Lord of lords”; and Christians carrying on His business *then* will do so *through reigning as co-heirs with Him*.