

Lesson No. 142 - The Trees of ELOHIM, Which Will We Become
(Version Two)

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This lesson is presented as many of us have just participated in YAHSHUA's Passover, during which we recommitted to our baptismal covenant and received remission of the sins committed during the past year. We followed this up by eating unleavened bread for seven days, while at the same time removing all leaven from our homes as we observed the Feast (Appointed Time) of Unleavened Bread.

More importantly, as we have grown in our understanding, we also put forth an effort to spiritually flush out the known sins and weaknesses, all of which could direct us towards a wrong path during this phase two of our training camps, which is post-Unleavened Bread.

I believe that all who partook in this commanded Appointed Time are showing a measure of spiritual joy, and yet this specific year brings a physical and emotional sadness because of the universal pandemic occurring at this time in the world. However, as we reflect on the Appointed Time we just observed, for some of us, our joy sometimes seems to be because we approached these days as a festival, concentrating on the physical food, rather than the spiritual food, both the leavened food to toss out and the unleavened food to ingest and digest. Why is that? I think we sometimes forget the following:

- Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God,** *which is* your spiritual service of worship. Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

These verses should put this time in perspective for us. This is how ELOHIM expects us to present ourselves once we have concluded this 8-day Feast period. This Appointed Time provides an opportunity each year for us to refresh ourselves in these words after we have renewed our covenant as we observed YAHSHUA's Passover.

We now know that this spiritual element was not clearly understood by the Children of Yisrael (COY). When the priests failed to walk in the manner in which they were called to walk, look what YAHWEH's response was to them.

- Mal 2:1 And now, O ye priests, this commandment *is* for you. Mal 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart. Mal 2:3 **Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.**

In verse 3 HE said HE would corrupt their seed. What happens in the land when the priests seed becomes corrupted?

- Amo 8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Amo 8:5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? Amo 8:6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat? Amo 8:7 The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. Amo 8:8 Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt.

- Amo 8:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: Amo 8:10 And **I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation;** and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only *son*, and the end thereof as a bitter day. Amo 8:11 **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:**

We who partake of the solemn Feast days under the New Covenant have every reason to be extra careful in how we approach the solemn ways of the MOST HIGH. Our spiritual salvation depends on how we use these special times given to us to frame the walk expected of us after the hype dies down. And this is where the real fruit is born as we once again discuss Lesson No. 142 – The Trees of ELOHIM, Which Will We Become (Version Two).

We now know how that the MOST HIGH chose to use metaphors in HIS WORD to present HIS vision for HIS creation. Well, it is our growth in the understanding of these metaphors that helps us to continually have a clearer eyesight into the mind of our CREATOR. In the beginning, HE said this.

- Gen 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* **the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself,** upon the earth: and it was so. Gen 1:12 And **the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind:** and God saw that *it was* good.
- Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; **to you it shall be for meat.**

We see that in the beginning, trees were created to bear fruit of their kind to be meat for mankind. However, we all know that in nature, the fruit of some trees are not good for our physical consumption. Yet, obviously there are many, if not most, that are good for us. Our task is to discern the good from the bad.

We also know that the word of the gospel is a seed that is planted and given to those called by the MOST HIGH to bear the fruit of the gospel. But the metaphor didn't just stop with the creation of fruit bearing trees and the planting of the seed of the gospel.

As the seed is planted in the ground, the result becomes a tree. Likewise, when the seed of the gospel, which is the WORD of ELOHIM, is planted in us, we are supposed to become trees yielding the fruit of the WORD. The problem is that life presents obstacles that potentially corrupts the seed that we bear. This is what happened to the COY. There are not only trees that have been planted with the seed of the gospel, but also trees that appear to bear good fruit that are counterfeits, bearing fruit that is in fact bad fruit. The COY ate of this fruit.

- Hos 10:13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; **ye have eaten the fruit of lies**: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men. Hos 10:14 Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon *her* children. Hos 10:15 So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

We see that the COY ate the fruit of lies and that the reward for consuming bad fruit can be a terrible case of physical and spiritual indigestion. In doing this Yisrael allowed itself to become like a tree born out of due season.

The Apostle Paul was led to provide some understanding in this metaphor as it relates to the COY. Notice the following.

- Rom 11:17 And **if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them,** and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Rom 11:18 **Boast not against the branches.** But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Rom 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Rom 11:20 Well; **because of unbelief they were broken off,** and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: Rom 11:21 For **if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.** Rom 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.**

The Gentiles were presented as a wild olive tree, whom he instructed to not boast not against the natural branches (the COY) that were broken off. Note he didn't say the tree but the branches. Why? Because the Apostle understood that the establishment of Yisrael was meant to be a symbol of the MOST HIGH's WORD. Yet it went astray as a nation.

- Rom 11:23 And they also, **if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in:** for God is able to graff them in again. Rom 11:24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Paul understood that it would be reestablished, based on individuals/branches that together make up a good olive tree. In understanding the metaphor, we need to recognize that the New Yisrael will be like a forest of good olive trees inside its own protected garden. Who will make up the trees inside this garden?

Let's look at how this metaphor unfolded when YAHSHUA came to these broken off branches.

- Mar 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and **they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.** Mar 8:23 And **he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.** Mar 8:24 And **he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.** Mar 8:25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

As this blind man began to regain his eyesight, the first thing he saw was men walking as trees. Should we take this lesson personally? We should recognize that the MOST HIGH sees all men and women as trees? In doing so, we need to discern the fruit that all men and women bear as we encounter the many trees that cross our paths of life.

- Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Mat 7:14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Mat 7:15 **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.** Mat 7:16 **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Mat 7:17 Even so **every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.** Mat 7:18 A **good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.** Mat 7:19 **Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.** Mat 7:20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

False prophets are presented as corrupt trees that bring forth evil fruit, i.e., “the fruit of lies”.

It appears obvious that it is the trees bearing the good fruit that will inhabit the garden, the Kingdom of heaven. So, the question for each of us, whether we have partaken in the solemn commanded Feast days, or, are seeking the appropriate direction in which to walk in our lives, is this. How do we discern the good fruit from the bad fruit?

Well to do this, we once again must return and understand the metaphor as the MOST HIGH set it up from the beginning. And, we must remember that the good fruit will always be associated with “the knowledge of the truth”, ELOHIM’s WORD. The bad fruit will always be associated with “the fruit of lies” about ELOHIM’s WORD.

- Gen 2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was* not a man to till the ground. Gen 2:6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Gen 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Gen 2:9 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.**
- Gen 2:15 And the **LORD God took the man,** and **put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**

Just like the Passover sanctifies the “called out one’s” annual walk with the MOST HIGH at the beginning of each year, these verses establish the very beginning of man’s walk with the MOST HIGH during the week of creation. Here is where HE began to use an important metaphor in HIS WORD to direct man’s walk. HE had already given man fruit bearing trees as physical food for meat.

- Gen 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

This was on the third day of creation.

- Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Here ELOHIM reminds Adam of the trees HE created for him on the third day. ELOHIM simply referenced that these trees and their fruit were good and they were to be meat for Adam.

Now, we read in this second chapter of trees that were in this garden that man was placed in. They were pleasant to the eyes and good for food. And in verse 9, there are two trees that are singled out; the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life. Were these the same type trees we read of created on the third day, and why were they also pleasant to the eyes? Some believe that they were. Could it be that they opened the eyes to something other than mere physical meat? HE then used this concept to instruct man spiritually in what tree he should not eat of.

- Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: Gen 2:17 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.**

Now, here is where a mystery begins. Man has yet to clearly understand this simple commandment. With all of our increased knowledge we have not fully understood the duality of this first commandment, that is still applicable today. There is a far greater understanding of this metaphor for us to grasp. The metaphor is that all manner of trees were created on this earth by ELOHIM. Some were physical and some were spiritual.

Our task in life is to discern both the physical and the spiritual. There are physical trees that impact our physical walk that are necessary for physical well-being and healing. Yet, there are also those that bring on physical sickness and disease and more quickly, the first death, which is physical.

Then there are the spiritual trees that bring on spiritual well-being and healing. And yet, there are also those spiritual trees that bring on spiritual sickness and disease and more quickly, the second death, which is spiritual. And so it was in the beginning.

Now remember that this commandment was first given to the man Adam, the first human tree. We need to understand that this establishes a protocol, that as much as we try and thwart it, remains until this day. The seed, the WORD of ELOHIM, was first given to the man to give to his woman and his seed after him, after his kind. What happened next in the garden?

- Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Gen 2:25 And **they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**

And so, Adam's "help meet for him", Eve, was given to him from his own rib. Now as his rib, this also establishes the protocol that the man was also his "help meet for him's" covering. There are times when man and woman decide to ignore the MOST HIGH's protocols, establishing their own ways, and suffering dire consequences for it.

Let's understand these trees of the garden.

- Gen 3:1 Now **the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.** And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Here, for the first time we read of someone other than YAHWEH of ELOHIM speaking to mankind. The serpent is presented as a beast that was more subtle than the other beasts of the field that ELOHIM had also made. Remember, ELOHIM had made the sea and land creatures on the fourth and fifth days of creation week. Now we are presented the concept of beasts of the field. This field is the garden in which Adam had been placed. If we can see this, we have trees in the garden that were pleasant to the eyes and good for food. We now have these beasts, of which this serpent was more subtle.

- Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Here we find the serpent approaching the woman and convincing her that her husband lied to her, because the MOST HIGH lied to him. Why did he approach only the woman here? And, did we notice how the serpent used a bit of truth to entice the woman?

Remember, the tree the serpent spoke of was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now here is another metaphor given to us. The woman ate of this tree and then fed her husband, who did eat.

What type of fruit did she feed him? The protocol was for the man to properly eat of the trees of the garden and then feed his woman and his seed after him. As such, he was to be her covering. It is when we break the protocols of the MOST HIGH that we no longer function as smoothly as it was intended. Let's continue.

- Gen 3:7 And **the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

Here is where we all must open our eyes. After Eve talked to the serpent, she had some new knowledge. It appeared to be good to her. It was “good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise”. At this point, the “called-out one” should clearly understand that this not referring to a physical tree given as meat for mankind.

She then fed it to Adam. Now they both had some new knowledge. However, there is something more profound here. Verse 7 reads their eyes were opened, and they now knew they were naked. There are too many who believe this to be a physical tree. Here we learn that up until Adam and Eve ate of this tree, their eyes had not been opened. They did not know that they were naked in the garden. Which of the physical trees YAHWEH created on the third day does one believe was capable of providing the type of fruit that could open the eyes of the man and the women so that they could now know that they were naked?

The fact is that there wasn't one. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a different type of tree.

If we can accept the understanding that all men represent trees of their kind that produce fruit, why is it so vain that we cannot accept that the trees of the Garden of Eden represent all types of trees, presented as something physical, that however bear spiritual fruit? We know that the creation included plants, trees, animals and mankind. However, there were other created beings not specifically mentioned.

- Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
- Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The MOST HIGH also created angels as well. Most were good, yet some were bad.

- Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. Rev 12:9 And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

This war occurred prior to the recreation of the earth as told in Genesis. We also learn here that the dragon and the serpent are none other than Satan, the devil himself, who spoke to Eve in the garden, who also deceived the whole world. He also had some angels, which the ELOHIM's WORD calls evil spirits and demons. Not only did he deceive the whole world but we need to understand the subtle manner in which he did it, and continues to do it.

- 2Co 11:13 **For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** 2Co 11:15 **Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;** whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan has from the beginning presented himself as something transformed into an angel of light, something good for the body, pleasant to the eyes and the mind. He was presented as a tree that bore fruit that would give Adam and Eve eternal life. Let's continue with our story.

- Gen 3:11 And he said, **Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?** Gen 3:12 And **the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.** Gen 3:13 And **the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this *that* thou hast done?** And **the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

Here, we are informed that through their response, the MOST HIGH knew someone had told them something. The MOST HIGH knew that eating of the forbidden tree meant listening to the words of the tree, that tree's seed. And notice how telling the woman's response was to YAHWEH. She said first. "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat". The woman now knew that in listening to the deception of the serpent's words, she was in fact eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Remember, before eating of the tree, her eyes were closed. She was easy picking for the serpent.

Today, how are we instructed that the seed of the word of the gospel is planted?

- Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher? Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Rom 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? Rom 10:17 **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

So, we see the seed is first planted through our hearing from a preacher, one who proclaims. Proclamations can be given by good men via holy angels, or evil men via evil angels. If an evil man tells me a lie, is it too farfetched to recognize that a bad tree simply fed me untruths that I ate through the hearing of his lies?

And so, it was in the garden. They ate, and in doing so, they heard. Who did they hear from? How did Eve give it to Adam? Obviously, she told him and he listened.

Remember this, very carefully. **When we listen to others, we are eating their fruit.**

- Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: Gen 3:15 And **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;** it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Very interesting here. Did you notice that the serpent also has seed? What could that be? Well, we know that he led evil angels astray. We know he lied to the woman. So then, his seed must be the fruit of lies, and all those who listen to them and feed these untruths to others.

- Joh 8:38 **I speak that which I have seen with my Father:** and **ye do that which ye have seen with your father.** Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. Joh 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Joh 8:41 **Ye do the deeds of your father.** Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God. Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. Joh 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

The MESSIAH here clearly identifies who is Satan's seed amongst mankind. Notice in verse 38 how Satan's seed, those who reject the knowledge of the truth, hears his words. And so, for not accepting the MOST HIGH's protocol, man was punished.

- Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Notice that the MOST HIGH first punished the serpent because he lied to the woman and fed her the forbidden fruit. There are some who teach that Satan will bear the sins of those he deceived. Verse 14 teaches that his punish was based on what he himself had done. Next, HE punished the woman for eating the fruit and lying to her husband, whether knowingly or unknowingly. She was punished for her own actions. She was responsible for ignoring what her husband clearly had told her about YAHWEH's commandment.

- Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

And finally, he punished the man for listening to his woman and eating from the tree. Hopefully, by now we clearly see that this tree of the knowledge of good and evil was none other than Satan. Also, verse 17 should make it clear now to those who believed that the man was with the woman when Satan lied to her. He was not. Remember, according to the word of truth, knowledge is first received by the hearing. The woman ate of the tree by hearing the fruit of lies from the serpent and then fed them to her husband.

Now, there was another even more severe punishment for Adam and Eve. This involved the other tree in the garden we need to understand.

- Gen 3:22 And **the LORD God said**, Behold, **the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil**: and now, lest he put forth his hand, **and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever**: Gen 3:23 Therefore **the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken**. Gen 3:24 **So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life**.

First, YAHWEH said that by eating of the forbidden tree, the man had become “as one of us”. Who is this “us” that man had become?

Let’s revisit a verse we read earlier.

- Gen 3:5 For God doth know that **in the day ye eat thereof**, then **your eyes shall be opened**, **and ye shall be as gods**, **knowing good and evil**

Satan told the woman that once she ate of this tree, her eyes would be opened and she would as gods, knowing good from evil. YAHWEH said “**the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil**”. So, it was those who also had the knowledge of good and evil. It would appear that this included all of the trees in the garden.

Now we see man being driven out from the Garden of Eden so that he could not eat of the Tree of Life or till the garden. According to verse 22, had he eaten of this tree he would have lived forever. What is so important to know more about this tree of life? First, we note that cherubim were placed around this tree to limit man’s access. What are cherubim?

- Eze 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Eze 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Again, we see a metaphor, the king of Tyrus. By the description, we must know this is not talking about this king because Adam and Eve were the only humans in the Garden of Eden.

- Eze 28:14 **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

This anointed cherub was a covering in heaven before the MOST HIGH.

- Eze 28:15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Eze 28:16 **By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned:** therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Eze 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

This covering cherub sinned and became evil and was cast out, as we read in Rev 12:7-9. This is Satan. Satan was an angel, a chief angel who was once a covering angel before the throne of the MOST HIGH. We know of at least two other cherubs; Michael and Gabriel. Remember what Gabriel said to Zechariah, John the Baptist's father.

- Luk 1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. Luk 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, **I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God;** and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

So, we now know who the cherubim are who were placed before the TREE OF LIFE. Let's look a little further into what ELOHIM's WORD teaches us about these cherubs.

- Psa 80:1 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; **thou that dwellest between the cheribims, shine forth.**
- Psa 99:1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: **he sitteth between the cheribims;** let the earth be moved.

- Isa 37:16 O **LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cheribims**, thou *art* the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

We see from these scriptures that it is the Shepherd of Yisrael, YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Yisrael, that dwells between the cherubims. Those who study these things should also know that the ELOHIM of Yisrael is YAHWEH, who came in the flesh as YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. So, this TREE OF LIFE, the ultimate tree, is none other than YAHWEH/YAHSHUA, whom the world calls Jesus Christ. Turn back to the creation week for a moment.

- Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

We see that had Adam and Eve ate of the TREE OF LIFE rather than the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they could have lived forever. However, for sinning and breaking the protocols, their access was cut off. Let's follow up on this and confirm who this TREE OF LIFE was and is.

- Joh 6:48 **I am that bread of life**. Joh 6:49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. Joh 6:50 **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die**. Joh 6:51 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. Joh 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? Joh 6:53 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. Joh 6:54 **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day**.

Notice how the MESSIAH says clearly that HE is the BREAD OF LIFE. The one who eats HIS flesh and drinks HIS blood will have eternal life. Remember the Passover.

- Luk 22:15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: Luk 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Luk 22:17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves: Luk 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.** Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.**

This is why we do this each and every year. This is why we continue to feast on HIS words each and every day of our lives.

Now we know clearly who the TREE OF LIFE was in the Garden of Eden. Eve listened to the wrong tree and then fed her husband the fruit of lies of that tree. Look at what the TREE OF LIFE said to HIS disciples.

- Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. Joh 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. Joh 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. Joh 6:58 **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.**

We saw these words in Luke 22, right? But as we continue in John 6, YAHSHUA provides the detail that takes us right back to the beginning in the garden.

- Joh 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? Joh 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? Joh 6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? Joh 6:63 **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

HIS words are spirit and they are life. It was and is HIS spoken words that were and are spirit that give life that man can live forever. This is what YAHWEH spoke about the TREE OF LIFE, HIMSELF.

We now know who the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the garden. We also now know who the TREE OF LIFE was in the garden. We also now know that the MOST HIGH established this metaphor that pictures mankind as trees.

Now, physically or spiritually speaking, a tree is born based upon the type of seed it sprang from. We saw earlier where the gentiles were pictured as a wild olive tree in Romans 11:24. Why was that?

- Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: Eph 2:13 But **now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.** Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

They were a wild olive tree because they were without HAMASHIAC and as such, were without hope. Now let's bring this discussion home. Paul was not talking to all the gentiles at Ephesus.

- Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **to the saints which are at Ephesus**, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

The Apostle was only talking to the Church at Ephesus, the “called out ones” at Ephesus, who were now under the blood of the MESSIAH, the TREE OF LIFE. In other lessons, we learn how the Apostle taught all the same thing; the WORD of the MESSIAH, or as we have previously read, the word of the gospel of the kingdom. We know that the MESSIAH is our Passover.

Now that we have accepted HIM as such, it is up to us to pattern our lives after HIM. To do this we must commit to what kind of tree we desire to be. We must decide whether we are being fed, and subsequently, whether we are feeding others, from the seed of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or the seed of the TREE OF LIFE. The process is mentioned several times in scripture; each developing different concepts to guide us along the way.

- Pro 3:13 **Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.** Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. Pro 3:15 **She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.** Pro 3:16 Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour. Pro 3:17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace. Pro 3:18 **She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.** Pro 3:19 **The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.** Pro 3:20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. Pro 3:21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: Pro 3:22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Pro 3:23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

So, wisdom is a tree of life which YAHWEH equates to knowledge, which HE used to found the earth. So, in order for us to grow into a replica of the TREE OF LIFE, we must seek wisdom and knowledge, and grow and mature in them.

- Pro 11:30 **The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life**; and he that winneth souls *is* wise. Pro 11:31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life. We know that righteousness is all YAHWEH's commandments. The Prophet Isaiah follows up on this with the wisdom from above.

- Isa 1:1 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.** Psa 1:2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.** Psa 1:3 And **he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

Does it begin to be clear. We, as “called-out ones”, must walk not in the counsel (fruit) of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. Our delight must be in the law of YAHWEH, to meditate in it day and night. **If we do this, we shall be like a tree of life planted by the rivers of water that brings forth our fruit in our season. Our leaves will not wither and what we do shall prosper.** These words should bring clarity to those who doubt that YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC is the TREE OF LIFE. Man has the ability to “be like a tree of life”.

- Psa 1:4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Psa 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

- Psa 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Just for the sake of understanding verse four about the unrighteous, let's read how that the MOST HIGH used the dietary laws given to man to establish a type of metaphor for the unrighteous.

- Isa 66:17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

Let's understand what we are truly reading in ELOHIM's WORD. When we are "called-out", we either accept it or reject it. When we accept it, we repent and are baptized into YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC. We are now metaphorically and spiritually returned to the garden where the TREE OF LIFE exists, though physically existing in the world. We are once again tillers of the garden.

We know that swine is unclean. Who is this tree that the unrighteous purify themselves behind in the garden? Remember how that Adam and Eve hid themselves from YAHWEH, in the garden. If we reject our callings, we metaphorically remain in another garden, where the tree of the knowledge of good and evil exists; sanctifying and purifying ourselves with the fruit of lies, eating swine's flesh (which is both physical and spiritual food). Obviously, this is a reference to the serpent, Satan the devil.

So, in the New Covenant, just like HE brought clarity to the Passover protocols, the MESSIAH brought clarity to what type of trees we should aspire to become.

- Luk 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

- Luk 6:44 **For every tree is known by his own fruit.** For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. Luk 6:45 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.** Luk 6:46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?** Luk 6:47 **Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:** Luk 6:48 **He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.** Luk 6:49 But **he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.**

How powerful are these words? Which version of a tree do we aspire to become? YAHSHUA lays it on the bottom line for each of us. Are we hearing HIS sayings and building our foundations on the ROCK? Or, are we hearing HIS sayings and not doing what HIS words say to do? This is how we discern the good fruit from the bad fruit. What does HIS words, which are spirit, instruct us to do? There are no three ways to do it. YAHSHUA spoke about those who stride the fence.

- Rev 3:15 **I know thy works,** that **thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.** Rev 3:16 So then **because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.** Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- Rev 3:18 **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.** Rev 3:19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**

YAHSHUA wants to trust us. The reward is too unworthy of anyone who is not willing to take a stand upon the ROCK of Salvation.

And finally, my Brothers and Sisters, we read of another major part of the process of deciding which tree we will become. Remember, we read how the seed is planted by the hearing of the word, right?

- Pro 15:4 **A wholesome tongue is a tree of life:** but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

What is the metaphor here of the “wholesome tongue”? It is the tongue that spreads the good seed of the gospel, yet in a wholesome manner. I.e., it is spoken in a manner to bear good fruit. The MOST HIGH is instructing us that the tongue through which HIS righteousness is planted is metaphorically a “tree of life”, walking in the spirit of YAHWEH.

Note what the Apostle James (Yacob) tells us.

- Jas 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. Jas 3:2 For in many things we offend all. **If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.** Jas 3:3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Jas 3:4 Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Jas 3:5 **Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!**

- Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. Jas 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: Jas 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Jas 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Jas 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. **My brethren, these things ought not so to be.** Jas 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter? Jas 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Jas 3:13 Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. Jas 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. Jas 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. Jas 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. Jas 3:17 But **the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.** Jas 3:18 **And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**

If we are to plant the fruit of righteousness instead of the fruit of lies, we must bridle the tongue. Verse 10 tells us how both blessings and curses come out of the mouth. Verses 11 and 12 challenge us as to what type of trees we are to become. Verses 13 thru 17 describe the meekness of wisdom from above. And finally verse 18 encourages us to eat and feed others through our speech, the fruit of righteousness, in peace; all a form of a tree of life.

ELOHIM's WORD provides the conclusion of the matter.

- Rev 2:7 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.**

When we eat of the TREE OF LIFE, we are indeed now metaphorically in the midst of the paradise of ELOHIM, the final manifestation of which will come when we have endured this world until the end.

- Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Rev 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Rev 22:14 **Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

Just as in the beginning, the Tree of Life, YAHWEH/YAHSHUA, will be in the ultimate paradise of ELOHIM. Just as in the beginning, man has the opportunity to choose what type of tree he wants to be. Just as in the beginning, the protocol is the same, obedience and overcoming. It is for this cause that the prophets foretold that the MESSIAH must come.

- Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; Isa 61:3 **To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

We now see clearly that each man metaphorically is a tree with the potential of sowing seed unto others.

The only question is what type of tree have we chosen to become. For those who have accepted a drawing and calling unto YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC, we are now trees of life, responsible for the sowing of ELOHIM's WORD in accordance with our individual callings. We bear the fruit of the Kingdom of ELOHIM.

So, Brethren, during this season of unleavening (our walks of enduring until the end), let us meditate on the road we walk to ensure that we walk not in the spirit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; but that we walk as trees of righteousness in the spirit of the TREE OF LIFE, who is YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC; walking as the salt of the earth; as trees of life of righteousness, planting the seeds bearing fruit of seed of ELOHIM.

We now have this awesome opportunity to become an even greater tree of life, if we endure in our gardens and the field all about us, to become as HE who is our guide through troubling times.

- 1Jn 3:2 Beloved, **now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

Keep the faith Brothers and Sisters!!

Shalom!