

The Tree of Knowledge

by John Joseph

In the midst of the garden was the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2.9).

Many people wonder how there can be the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in an unfallen world. Because clearly – there it is!

The problem arises because of a failure to see a distinction between the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” AND “good and evil”.

Let us look at what happens upon eating of that tree. It is that one opens a gate and is immediately ushered into a realm of knowledge – carnal knowledge, a fallen knowledge separate from God, and at the same time, therefore, there arises darkness and ignorance of God.

Now, the realm of knowledge entered into is not the tree. This realm of knowledge is another dimension – a dark, fallen world containing the fallen principle of good and evil. The tree is not this world. It is but a doorway, a gate to this world. This fallen world is not part of Eden. Good and evil, that is this fallen knowledge, is not in Eden. Only the tree, the portal is in Eden. That is why the tree of the knowledge of good and evil can be in an unfallen world. But good and evil cannot be in an unfallen world. *In* an unfallen world there is no such thing as good and evil, though there can be a gateway out (or down) to something else. This is what constitutes the Fall. There cannot be good and evil in an unfallen world. It is a contradiction.

The tree of life similarly is a doorway into the realm of the KNOWLEDGE of God (but that is another enormous subject).

We think that good and evil must always be, must always have been, but NO. This is only temporary in this fallen world in which we live, to work out God's purposes.

In the restored creation as seen in the Revelation, there is no tree of knowledge of good and evil but only the tree of life. Good and evil have ceased to exist, or rather, been swallowed up of LIFE, and the portal, the tree, the door, therefore has no existence having no longer any meaning.

“I am the DOOR ... that they might have LIFE.” The Lord Jesus in John 10. 9,10.