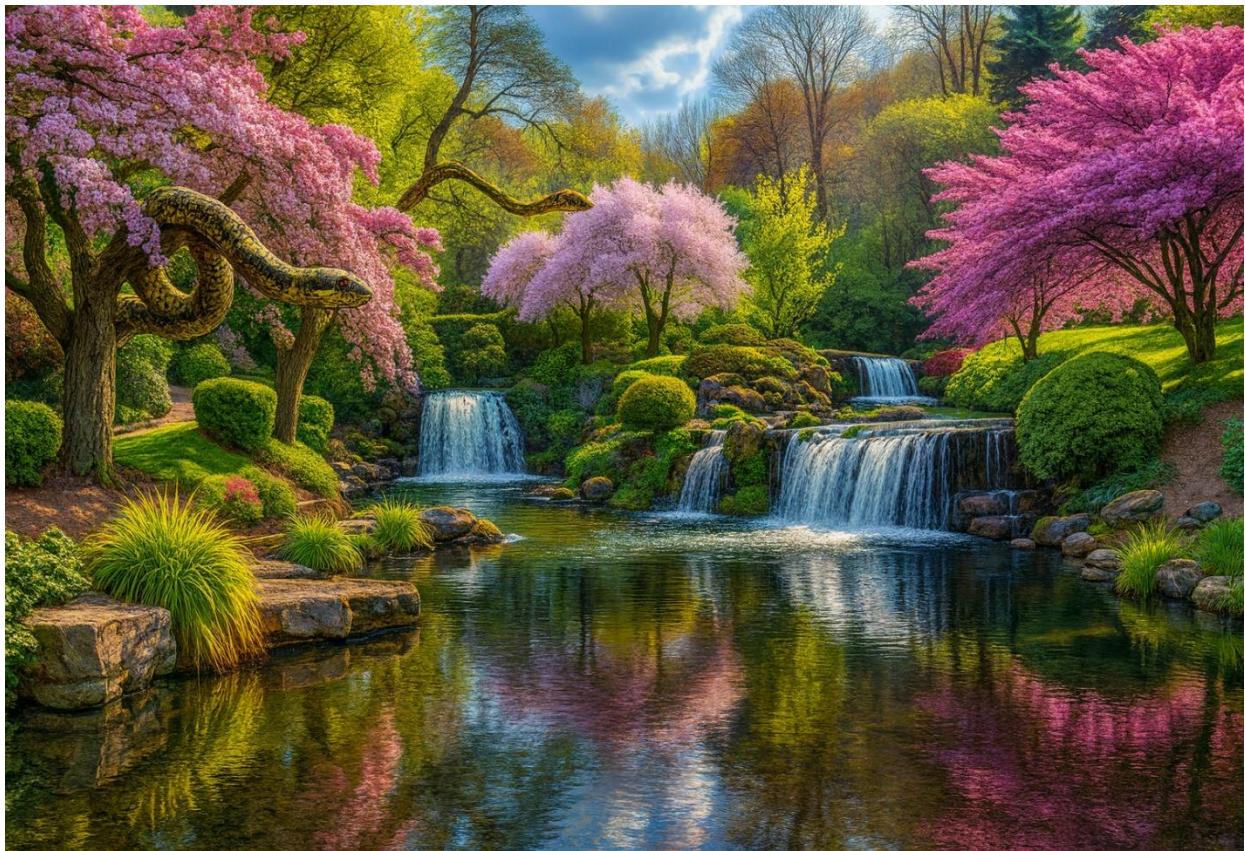


The Trees and the river in the Garden of Eden

by Jorge Guedes



1. The garden of Eden

1.1 The Garden and God's presence

In [Genesis 2:5-17](#) God creates a garden eastward in Eden where many trees are made to grow out the ground that are good for food, and in the midst of the garden was the Tree of Life from which they could eat, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil from which they could not eat otherwise they would die. Notice that God did not give reasons as to why they would die, signifying that reasoning would open up a can of worms—negative thinking, such as self-awareness, pride, and judgement—that could cause intrigue and a desire for knowledge, and knowledge can bring forth pride as we become self-dependent, and thus start to doubt, especially when it is God that we doubt. This is exactly what the serpent achieved by creating doubt in what God said, and then instilling pride in Eve by saying they could be like God. As we know, humanity generally loves to investigate the unknown with a sense of achievement, recognition, and reward, and get themselves into more trouble than they hoped for.

[Genesis 2:5-17](#)

5And 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.

6But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

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7And 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.
8And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.
9And 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.
10And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.
11The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;
12And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.
13And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.
14And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.
15And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
16And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
17But 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 garden was eastward in Eden and was thus part of the wider area of Eden, which included parts of Northern Africa and the Middle East.

The garden is where God met with Adam (mankind) and Eve (mother of all life) on a regular basis, to lead them in paths of righteousness, with no turning to the left or the right. This means that God only focused them in the positive aspects of righteous living going forward, which is why the Word of God tells us to think on things above (God/Heaven) and not on things of the earth, which include laws that are earthly as they trigger self-awareness, pride, competitiveness, and judgement in people. We see this in [Colossians 3:2](#), indicating that even today God wants us to set our minds on things of God, not on things of the earth, because what we meditate on is what we start to believe, desire, and focus on, giving rise to our character and destiny. The soul adapts to situations, which is why people can be at sixes and sevens when in the learning process, and then suddenly find direction when they become confident in their beliefs and desires, whether good or evil.

[Colossians 3:2](#)

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

To focus and teach people in any manner or way of living will entrench them in the path that the teacher directs them in, and they will not depart from it once they are schooled ([Proverbs 22:6](#)), however, it is much easier to do so when the student or learner has no knowledge or preconceived ideas, which was the case in point with God's guidance of Adam and Eve.

[Proverbs 22:6](#)

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

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Therefore, God's presence in Eden was one of guidance, teaching, and companionship, where God frequently appeared to them to fellowship and guide, but obviously, left them alone to develop together as a couple.

1.2 The river in the garden of Eden

There was a river that came from Eden to water the garden, and after leaving the garden, it parted to become four other rivers ([Genesis 2:10-14](#)), signifying God's provision coming out of Eden—symbolic of the Kingdom of Heaven—to the four corners of the land, to provide for the population that would later live outside the garden of Eden. God sometimes uses the number 4 in scripture to represent all directions, such as, north, east, south, and west, meaning that God would provide to the four corners of the earth (everywhere). In other words, the rivers are symbolic of the Holy Spirit, where the one river goes out from the garden of Eden (Kingdom of Heaven/God) to provide to the 4 corners of the earth, and the trees are symbolic of those that would be taught by God in the garden to provide knowledge to future generations. The rivers were:

1. Pishon: Encircles the land of Havilah (known for gold, bdellium, onyx). It means "overflowing," "spreading," or "increase" symbolising that God prospers His people with what they need to live.
2. Gihon: Surrounds the land of Cush. It means "bursting forth," "gushing," or "rapid stream", symbolising God's continuous power to give life.
3. Hiddekel (Tigris): Flows east of Assyria. swift flowing, potentially symbolising quick divine action and judgement.
4. Perath (Euphrates in Greek): Flows east of Assyria. Means to "break forth," "rushing," or "fruitful," symbolizing ability to create abundant provision and vitality.

10And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.
11The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;
12And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.
13And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.
14And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

The geographical location that God created in Eden is physically genuine and real, but God paints this picture to give us understanding from a spiritual perspective, as He does with many events in scripture, as we shall see later in similar allegorical events with trees and a river described a few times in scripture. We can tell they are allegorical or metaphorical by the fact that certain inanimate objects are animated, or the events do not make sense from material world's perspective. Though God can do anything, what He does out of the ordinary in the material world, will normally be for the sake of mankind, such as healing, speaking to storms, parting the sea, delivering people, or raising the dead, however, outside of that God does not generally work outside the laws He set for nature.

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1.3 Marriage and righteous living

We therefore see the physical environment that God created where mankind would live and be taught by God to live in righteousness, and then to extend that teaching and righteous living to future generations. The family life based on marriage is all about passing on our godly heritage to our children so that they can go forth and maintain godly principles to make the world a better place ([Genesis 2:24](#)), however, when we live outside of marriage and without being led by the spirit, all God's principles are ignored as mankind independently takes on the responsibility of defining good and evil to become self-righteous through laws, instead of following God who alone is righteous and is the power/ability behind mankind's righteousness ([Galatians 5:4](#)). Without following the spirit and the Word (God), no person can walk in righteousness, even if they are considered righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, because it is the spirit that gives knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and the power to walk in righteousness, [Zechariah 4:6](#).

[Genesis 2:24](#)

24Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

[Galatians 5:4](#)

4Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.
5For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

[Zechariah 4:6](#)

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

It is only through marriage as one flesh, which comes with God's blessing, and by following God by the spirit, that we are able to produce godly children. In other words, when God made Adam and Eve He gave them different physical and spiritual qualities or attributes, and it's the combination of male and female qualities or attributes that makes them in the image and likeness of God, as they become one entity (whole) in the flesh through marriage, just as Adam was as an individual, before God took a part of him to make a woman. Marriage therefore gives us a broader or more complete foundation or spectrum of the aspects of life, including male and female traits, to render a broader teaching platform for our children.

Individually, we have a narrower spectrum of the aspects of life, and thus teaching or leading children is not always done to its full capacity. God blesses marriages because they include God's full spectrum of qualities or attributes to educate and pass on godly principles to our children. This does not mean that a single parent cannot raise up children well, especially if they are true believers, however, it is always best to have both parents involved as the children get the full benefit of what God created in His image and likeness, assuming the parents are godly. The fact that we have single parenting today, is not because God planned it so, but because mankind sinned and the world became a dark place where the knowledge of God is mostly absent, confirmed by Jesus when he said that mankind prefers darkness to light ([John 3:19](#)) and why many people feel condemnation in the world today, even Christians because they do not know the Word of God.

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[John 3:19](#)

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

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2. The trees in the garden

In the middle of the garden was the Tree of Life, which was good for food, just like all the other trees that God grew from the ground, with exception of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Notice that the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil were not grown out of the ground like the other trees, but were in the midst of the garden, implying that they were already there with Adam.

8And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.
9And 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.

Did God not finish making the trees on day three? So, is God making more trees because He forgot about Adam's dietary needs? If Adam was meant to tend the garden, then surely Adam should be planting the trees. That's because they are not trees as we see in [Genesis 1:11-12](#) how the seed was **upon** the earth on day three of creation, which brought forth fruit trees, herb seed, and grass, however, in the garden the trees are grown out of the ground (dust) which is the same ground (dust) that mankind was made from. The word "out" in Hebrew can be both "out of" and "from", but I believe that it means taking the ground and making something from the ground. We can also make something (trees) out of something (ground) to mean exactly the same thing when using "from". In this case it is more difficult to confirm that "out of" can mean "from", because it could be that the trees grew as they came out of the ground from beneath the surface, however, on it says that day three the seeds were **upon** the ground, so it is not very clear. If it was about making food for nourishment or pleasure, then why only make fruit trees, and not herbs as well. Obviously, this does not adequately prove what trees really are, so we have to dive deeper.

[Genesis 1:11-12](#)

11And 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.

12And 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.

To understand that they were not fruit trees we need to ask, "Why was the food/fruit of the one tree good or evil, giving us a sense of morality which is a spiritual issue, as opposed to a sense of physical nourishment or pleasure through taste, which is a physical issue?". Did God create anything on earth that is evil or bad, when He said that all things He created were good, as per [Genesis 1:31](#)? Surely God does not contradict Himself. Therefore, if they were physical trees with real fruit, there could be no evil/bad fruit because everything God created was good, and besides, trees are not good or evil in the sense of morality, but they can be good or bad to eat from a taste and nourishment perspective. Therefore, the trees were not physical trees, but symbolised people/beings in the garden that were good to listen to for righteousness's sake where peace, love, and joy was the fruit of the spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))

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& [Romans 14:17](#)) in the Kingdom of Heaven/God on earth, however, there was a tree that would be deceiving them into becoming independent or separated from God through unbelief in what God said, which would bring death. This is the death referred to in [1 John 5:16-17](#) where it says that all sin is unrighteous, but we can pray for that type of sin, however, there is a sin unto death, referring to the sin that started in Eden when they became independent/separated from God because of unbelief in God or His Word.

[1 John 5:16-17](#)

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.
17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

[Genesis 1:31](#)

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

[Romans 14:17](#)

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Did Jesus not say in [Matthew 7:18-20](#) that a good tree cannot produce evil fruit, and an evil tree cannot produce good fruit. Jesus was not speaking of bananas, apples, oranges, or pears, was He? No, He was referring to the fruit of mankind's works as a result of our beliefs and character. Jesus uses the same language as in the garden of Eden that gives us a sense of spiritual morality (good and evil) instead of a sense of physical desire (nourishment or pleasure through taste). This language therefore points back to the trees in the garden of Eden because it was a sense of morality that God was referring to. This means that God already knew that there was a serpent (created divine spirit being/son of God/light bringer or lucifer) that had already turned to evil in heaven by wanting to reign over mankind due to pride, [Isaiah 14:12-14](#) & [Ezekiel 28:13-15](#). This divine spirit being (light bringer, lucifer) planned to deceive mankind into depending on themselves instead of God, which reflects lack of faith in God, so that he could reign over mankind as god.

[Matthew 7:18-20](#)

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

[Isaiah 14:12-14](#)

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

[Ezekiel 28:13-15](#)

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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.

14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

We see from the above scriptures that this divine spirit being/angel, who was behind the kings of Tyre and Babylon, was in the **garden** of Eden as a cherub who wanted to be like God over the stars of God—stars are symbolic of God’s people/messengers—and thus inequity was found in him. This cherub (light bringer/lucifer) was potentially the one in the garden that convinced Eve to depend on her own ability to know good and evil (moral laws). Do we see the correlation between this cherub and the serpent that awakened Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in Eve? This cherub was amongst the fiery stones—symbolic of other divine spirit beings or angels because God makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire ([Hebrews 1:7](#))—but God would eventually throw him out of heaven.

[Hebrews 1:7](#)

7 In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.”

Similarly, in [1 Peter 2:1-7](#), believers are seen as living stones instead of fiery stones, symbolic of believers that God is bringing into salvation to build His spiritual house, **for we are that living house**, i.e. Peter is not talking about a physical building, but rather believers that come together as God’s house, which is why Peter uses the word “living” stones. In [Revelation 2:17](#), God gives a white stone to believers that overcome trials and tribulations, i.e. white represents righteousness, as proven by the person’s desire to maintain the faith during the trial and tribulation, and the stone represents God’s son. Giving a white stone to a believer is symbolic of God changing their name, which I believe defines their purpose in Heaven, like He did with Abraham when He changed his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (Father of many nations) when he was in the flesh because of his faith in God. Then “living stones” are symbolic of human beings used by God to build the spiritual kingdom on earth, and “fiery stones” are angels or divine beings who are flames of fire that assist mankind in building this heavenly kingdom on earth according to God’s will.

[1 Peter 2:1-7](#)

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

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[Revelation 2:17](#)

17He 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 hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

This cherub and his shenanigans in the garden of Eden, tells us that evil spirits have a way of influencing people, especially rich people with power, such as Nebuchadnezzar who was proud and controlling, even though they may never know the spirit that is behind their beliefs, desires, feelings and emotions. The same applies to all religions outside the true gospel, including Christians who live by the letter of the law, even though they may be saved, as long as they hold onto the faith in Jesus Christ. We become what we believe, and what we believe has a spirit behind it, therefore, those that follow God's Word will walk in the light, because it is God (Jesus) that upholds all things by the word of his power, however, if it is not God's Word (Jesus) upholding things, then which spirit is upholding that thing or person by their word? The answer is simple, it is either based on God's knowledge (light) or some other spirit's knowledge (dark), there is nothing in-between. Therefore what we learn is extremely important. It all depends on where we put our faith, either in God's ways or other ways, which is why God says that He is only pleased by faith, [Hebrews 11:6](#). Anything that is not of faith based on God's Word, cannot have God's stamp of approval because it belongs to another spirit. Faith is what directs us in life, whether into righteousness or unrighteousness, and God wants us directed in righteousness through the spirit indwelling us, and the Holy Spirit in assistance. Wealthy people in power are easier to influence or deceive because they have strong desires to maintain their wealth and power, where comforts of life, greed, lust, and control over others become endemic in their lives, thus attracting the wrong spirits which are extremely difficult to overcome, unless they turn to Jesus Christ.

[Hebrews 11:6](#)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

We need to open up our spiritual eyes to see that the trees in the garden of Eden are people and not fruit trees, which is why Jesus healed a man, who saw trees walking as men. This meant that the man was healed but was still spiritually blind as he could not see men but trees. The man had to be touched again by God before he saw the truth, [Mark 8:22-26](#). We are in the same boat, as we might be born again by the spirit, where our healing and salvation comes from, but we can still be blind to the spiritual truth of the Word if we do not study the Word of God by the spirit. After his healing, Jesus tells the man not to go into the town or to tell anyone in the town. I believe this means that we should not approach those that live in carnality too soon, whilst we are in the process of opening our spiritual eyes, to avoid falling under their influence once again.

[Mark 8:22-26](#)

22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

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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.

24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

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.

26 And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

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3. The Tree of Life in the garden

All the trees in the garden were good for food, except for the Tree of Knowledge. If all other trees were good for food, then why would God single out the Tree of Life? Surely, God doesn't do or say something without a purpose. If they were all just fruit trees that were good for food, then the choice for Adam and Eve would be to simply eat from all the trees, but not from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, i.e. the Tree of Life would not need to be mentioned. The truth is that the Tree of Life is special because it gives life, as denoted by its name, whereas the other trees were merely good for food. I am confused, do fruit trees give life or sustenance, and how can they be evil? Only God is the source of life, therefore the Tree of Life is not a fruit tree, it was symbolic of Yahweh (Jesus Christ) who was the spoken Word as their guide, teacher and companion, which is why He told them to "eat the food" (receive the Word) from the Tree of Life, so that they could remain or abide in Him i.e. not to become independent of God otherwise they would surely die. God also uses "bread" as the Word that gives life in the New Testament.

We see the same concept in [John 15:10](#), where Jesus is the vine and believers are the branches, indicating God's desire to be one with mankind **via the spirit**—symbolised by branches grafted into the tree—which is why God has been breathing a spirit in all newborn creatures from the beginning of time. Jesus prunes the branches to bear more fruit—symbolic of mankind serving God in love, joy, peace, righteousness, etc—but cuts off those that do not bear fruit, i.e. when we do not abide in Jesus Christ by the spirit and the Word, we are cut-off or become independent. Trees in scripture often represent spiritual or soulish people or divine spirit beings.

[John 15:10](#)

1I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Today, we also have life by following Jesus, no different to being in the garden of Eden, since Jesus resurrected the Tree of Life (Jesus) by tearing the veil when He died on the cross. This event points back to Eden with Christ as the Tree of Life where grace was inherent in their life due to their innocence of sin, but today, grace also abounds for sinners who believe in

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Jesus Christ after He tore the veil, i.e. veil is symbolic of His body. This tearing of the veil with the two embroidered cherubim between to the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, is reflective of the two cherubim guarding the way to the Tree of Life in the garden of Eden, which was to prevent them touching the Tree of Life (Jesus) in Eden (Kingdom of Heaven) and live forever in sin. Today, our sins are washed away and the way to the Tree of Life is open, and therefore, blessed are they that can touch Jesus Christ for they will live forever.

The fruit of the Tree of Life in the garden of Eden is not physical fruit such as in oranges, apples, or bananas. It is love, joy, peace, and righteousness in the Kingdom of God (Eden) as a result of the spoken Word of God being taught to direct them in righteousness, ([Romans 14:17](#) & [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). Eating of the fruit symbolises listening to the Word of God to receive the fruit of love, joy, peace, and righteousness in the Kingdom of God (Eden). Today, we have the same situation where there is no condemnation for the believer ([Romans 8:1](#)), but love, joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit, because Jesus (last Adam) reintroduced the Tree of Life when He died on the cross (tree) to free mankind from sin, but because we were born into sin, we still have to confess sin to release our soul from the bondage of sin, and God is just to forgive ([1 John 1:9](#)).

[Romans 14:17](#)

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

[Romans 8:1](#)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

[1 John 1:9](#)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus died on a cross, not a tree, though crosses were made from trees, therefore, if the New Testament uses the word “tree” in place of “cross”, it is logical that the Holy Spirit is pointing back to the Tree of Life (Jesus) in the garden of Eden (Kingdom of God on earth). In other words, Yahweh (Jesus) was the Tree of Life in Eden because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, [Hebrews 13:8](#). Then it is sensible to conclude, that if God (Yahweh) was the Word in the beginning in Eden ([John 1:1](#)), and Jesus is the Word made flesh ([John 1:14](#)), then Yahweh (Word) was Jesus (Word) in the garden of Eden before His incarnation.

[Hebrews 13:8](#)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

[John 1:1](#)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[John 1:14](#)

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And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

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4. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil symbolises the carnality of the soul that is awakened by the five senses due to the pride and desires of material life and its comforts. Every tree in the garden, except for the Tree of Life were potentially susceptible to the serpent, not just Eve, and I do believe that they were all affected. When Eve was awakened to these desires of the flesh (carnality) her instinct was to become like God, inferring that she no longer needed God because she could understand good and evil, and thus define her own laws. Even today, we know that it is easier to live according to the five senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound, than to seek God by the spirit, rendering mankind independent from God. This is because we cannot see the spirit, and find it difficult to hear the spirit, but it is through the spirit that we can see, hear, and feel God who has given us our purpose, and the ability and strength to walk in righteousness, and to overcome all things. We therefore struggle with death, bondage to sin, and sickness as we wander aimlessly in life.

On the other hand, mankind is proud of his own achievements or desire to achieve, and thus ignorantly detach themselves from those that would assist them in the paths of righteousness. This was the case in Eden where they thought that they could be like God by being independent from God, after being deceived by the serpent (divine spirit being/lucifer/light bringer). To decide to walk without God essentially means that we have to define our own laws of good and evil to become self-righteous, forgetting that God is the source of life, knowledge, and the power to overcome good or evil.

We also see that divine spirit beings also became independent from God through rebellion and then deceived Eve, by getting her to doubt God and instilling pride in her. From this it is clear that God tests all his creatures, whether human or divine spirit beings. Unfortunately for divine spirit beings, such as angels, they cannot be saved because they knew God in His fullness, and thus have no excuse for rebelling, theirs is the lake of fire.

Speaking from the perspective of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, we may ask, “Why does God give us the power to overcome good?”. It is obvious that evil should be overcome, but overcoming good makes no sense. To understand this we need to first realise that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, has no good in it at all, the good it does have, is feigned. When I first became a Christian God asked me, “Jorge, would you like to meet a good or an evil person?”. Naturally, I responded, “A good person!”. Then God responded, “An evil person is quickly known and can be rejected from your life immediately, but a good person can work against you for many years, and by the time you identify this, it can be too late as the damage has already been done”. I understood from this that the evil and the good of the Tree of Knowledge are two different sides of the same coin. In other words, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, represents evil from two different perspectives, where:

1. Evil people are open or overt in their ways and thus we can immediately decide to reject them.
2. A good person is covertly evil and thus feigns righteousness by the law to impress and attract people for personal recognition or reward, but works against them. This person can do more damage as they maintain the relationship until the recipient wakes up.

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This reminds me of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and many believers in the world today.

I also started to realise that many people who were overtly loud, and call a spade a spade, are people who have nothing to hide, and can be trusted more in what they say than those who appear gentle with good or kind words. Obviously, pride could be at work in them, nevertheless, they are more overt in nature and therefore more trustworthy, regardless of their character. I also started noticing that people I knew, that appeared gentle and kind, had much to hide, and thus their true motives and character are hidden until they are caught out. This happens often in families where jealousies are rife, creating inter-family feuds.

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5. The other trees in the garden

I have already mentioned that the Tree of Life and the other trees were good for food, and the Tree of Life is symbolic of Yahweh/Jesus Christ, which is why it was in the garden to provide the Word of righteousness to mankind. The other trees were also not fruit trees, as trees are not good or evil from a moral perspective, therefore, all trees reflect people or divine beings in the garden of Eden. The garden was the place from which God would lead them in paths of righteousness ([Psalm 23:3](#)), and then to be scattered into other areas as trees of life for other people outside the garden. God wanted to plant them as trees of righteousness ([Isaiah 61:3](#)) by the river of water (Holy Spirit) as referred to in [Psalm 1](#).

[Isaiah 61:3](#)

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.

[Psalm 23:3](#)

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

[Psalm 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.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

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.

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

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

Having said that, many people will be thinking, “The Word of God says that all humanity came from one man ([Acts 17:26](#)), therefore, creating many people in the garden would contradict the Word of God, therefore it is not true”. At first glance that appears so, but we must remember that the lineage of Adam to Noah was the only line that survived the flood and thus Adam’s descendants are still the only line from which future generations were born.

[Acts 17:26](#)

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Another scripture that supports trees in the garden as people, is when Cain killed Abel, and God excommunicated him from Eden. This frightened Cain because someone might find him and kill him. Why? Because he knew there were people outside of Eden who had been thrown out of the garden along with Adam and Eve. Some were scattered to the east outside Eden where he went to the land of Nod, and others to the wider area of Eden.

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Genesis 4:13-16

13And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

14Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

15And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

16And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

A church I attended said that Cain either had children through his mother or through one of his sisters. I tend to disagree, because although the gene pool was still strong with no inbreeding, and inbreeding was possible without any complications, I believe that God breathed (spirit) morality in every person's heart, which later, correlates to the law God gave Moses to avoid incest, meaning that this moral has always been God's intention of righteousness for mankind, and God is the same, yesterday, today and forever, i.e. He does not change His mind. All people have a spirit which guides us in paths of righteousness which is why they would never create an incestuous relationship, unless they ignore the spirit's leading.

Diving deeper, I have to rule out the mother otherwise the Word of God would indicate this in their genealogy, however, it only states Adam and Eve's genealogy regarding having other sons and daughters, not Cain and Eve's genealogy, and Cain's genealogy does not include his mother's children from him.

The truth is that it could not be Cain's sisters either, who were born after Seth, as the son that replaced Abel. If Seth replaced Abel after Cain was an outcast from Eden, but Cain was still in Eden when he said that he was afraid of being killed when God excommunicated him, then why was he afraid when no other family member was yet born? The answer is because the trees in the garden were people that were also scattered to within and outside of Eden. Cain knew that these people knew him, and loved Abel, and might take revenge for his murder. Even under these circumstances, God gave grace to Cain even though sin was already in the world. Certainly, his unborn sisters would be far removed from the situation and have no desire to kill him.

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6. Other symbolism of trees in the Word of God

6.1 Ezekiel 47 and the waters flowing from the temple

God often uses trees in the book of Ezekiel to represent kings, Israel, and cherubs, specifically between chapters 28 and 30, but [Ezekiel 47:1-12](#) is a reflection of the garden of Eden with its river and trees, symbolic of the Holy Spirit taking believers in the river that flows eastward, starting from under the right threshold of the temple. There are various stages of going deeper into the river, as follows:

- The first stage is where the person is taken to a point where the water (Holy Spirit) is ankle deep, symbolising that a believer's purification status and relationship with God is still in the beginning stages. A believer's purification can be measured by their surrendered life, which in this stage is very low, i.e. ankle deep means that we are still in complete control of our lives, symbolised by the fact that the person is still on solid ground (riverbed).
- In the next stage, the person walks further into the river where the waters become knee deep, symbolising that the person is still in control of its life but has surrendered more of their will to God, thus increasing in purification and relationship with God.
- The next stage is going even further into the river, until the person is waist deep, indicating greater surrender, purification, and relationship with God, but still has some control over their own life.
- The final stage is when the person enters waters that require one to swim where they have no control because they cannot touch the ground, symbolising complete surrender to the Holy Spirit where they become fully purified, and are in full relationship with God, where the things of the world are no longer a concern for them.

Ezekiel is taken to the brink (edge) of the river where there are many trees on both banks of the river. Wherever the river runs, it will grow food and heal, but the river does not enter areas where there are marshes, therefore no healing or abundance can take place. Marshes act as sponges, thus preventing waters from entering an area, such as a lake or a dam, symbolising that the river cannot enter areas that do not receive the Word of God, i.e. where there are unbelievers. However, those trees on the bank of the river that received the river (Holy Spirit/Word of God) will flourish and produce food and medicine for healing, reflective of Psalm 1, where people are like trees planted by the river of water that shall bear fruit (love, joy, peace, etc) in their season, and everything they do shall prosper. Food symbolises the Word of God and medicine symbolises healing which can be identified in Revelation 22. God often speaks symbolically, and it is a matter of understanding what He says by the spirit.

[Ezekiel 47:1-12](#)

- 1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.
- 2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the outer gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.
- 3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

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4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

In summary, this scenario is reflective of the stages that Jesus Christ's believers are taken through in the purification process, and wherever the river (Holy Spirit) goes, healing will take place and there will be abundance. God wants to make mankind trees of righteousness ([Isaiah 61:3](#)) but it takes surrendering to the Holy Spirit, which is why person in the river is taken by the waters (Holy Spirit) and why Paul says that it is not he that lives, but Christ in Him, [Galatians 2:20](#). The person in the river represents the believer who is completely surrendered to the Holy Spirit and is used to heal and assist the people in walking with God, which generates abundance. We have to surrender our self-will to God if we are to be used righteously and powerfully. We may be righteous through faith, but we do not always walk in righteousness, therefore, the more we walk in faith, the more trustworthy and righteous our walk will be, and the more God can use us.

The temple is symbolic of Jesus Christ which is why Jesus said "destroy this temple (referring to His body) and I will raise it up in 3 days ([John 2:19](#)), the flowing river is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and the trees are symbolic of believers who are in the process of being purified by the waters to become trees of righteousness.

[Isaiah 61:3](#)

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.

[Galatians 2:20](#)

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

[John 2:19](#)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

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In Ezekiel 47, the river (Holy Spirit) flows to the Dead Sea because En Gedi is in the west bank of the Dead Sea, however, [Zechariah 14:8](#) says that a time will come when all the waters will be purified in the west (Mediterranean Sea), and in the east (Dead Sea). I believe this refers to all that believe in Jesus Christ, whether Gentile or Jew, respectively. In other words, this is currently in progress, but God is waiting for more believers to come to Him.

[Zechariah 14:8](#)

8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

6.2 The Tree of Life and the river of Revelation 22

In [Revelation 22:1-3](#) we see a similar scene to Eden or Ezekiel 47 regarding the Tree of Life, and it is definitely not a tree in Eden. This special tree seems to move around, and that's because God is mobile, actually, He is everywhere, because it is a spiritual tree, not a physical tree. Yahweh (Jesus Christ) is the Tree of Life in the garden of Eden, and throughout the Word of God we see God wanting mankind to become trees of righteousness that will bear fruit, therefore in Revelation 22, mankind becomes the trees of righteousness to bear fruit in the Kingdom of Heaven/God.

[Revelation 22:1-3](#)

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

The Tree of Life here is described after the new Heaven and Earth has been established, once the devil and his cohorts are thrown into the lake of fire, and Jesus reappears. There is however a significant difference between the trees and river in the physical location of Eden and Israel, compared to this tree in Revelation 22 within the Kingdom of Heaven/God. We see that in the physical accounts regarding real locations, symbolising the Holy Spirit and people, there are many trees on each side of the river in Ezekiel and in Eden, however, here we have one tree on both sides of the river, which could represent two things:

- We have become one in Christ as we have been purified, symbolised by the crystal clear water of the river.
- The single tree could also represent a believer that has been purified. In other words, the single tree represents our body, with the Holy Spirit as the river of crystal clear water flowing from our belly ([John 7:38-39](#)) and out our mouth, symbolising a tongue

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that speaks no guile or lies. This means that the tree (our body) is on both sides of the river, because the river (Holy Spirit) flows through the middle of our body when we speak, either in tongues or when we are being led by the spirit.

[John 7:38-39](#)

38He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The other thing we have to understand, is that Revelation 22 does not only apply to when the new Heaven and Earth is ushered in by Jesus Christ, as we already have the Holy Spirit, therefore, we can individually follow in God's footsteps, if we truly decide to surrender completely to become purified by following the Holy Spirit in all things, and live forever.

I say this because the river (Holy Spirit) feeding the Tree of Life is for the healing of the nations, but healing is not necessary when the Kingdom of Heaven (third heaven) is established by Jesus Christ on earth, it is necessary now.

The truth is that God has already provided for our translation to become trees of righteousness, but we hold onto materialism for dear life, then we wonder why Christianity does not work. **It does!**