

# The Tree of Life

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:21-24  
Revelation 22:1-2  
John 19:17-18

## Introduction

The Bible begins and ends with accounts of a tree of life the fruit of which gave everlasting life. It was in the Garden of Eden, placed there for man to eat with no restrictions. Sin placed restrictions on the tree of life.

### I. The tree of life in Eden

**Genesis 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:

- A. God desired sinless man to live forever
- B. Only man's sin exposed him to death
- C. The tree of life was provided in Eden
- D. Sin prevented man from eating of the tree of life

### II. The tree of life called the cross

**Galatians 6:14** But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

- A. The cross was designed to be a place of death
  - 1. The cruelest form of execution
  - 2. The most excruciating punishment
- B. Calvary's central cross became a tree of life
  - 1. The price of sin was paid there
  - 2. Atonement for sin was made there
  - 3. The sentence for sin was repealed there
- C. Calvary's central cross has become a symbol of life
  - 1. Symbolizes a life resurrected to righteousness
  - 2. Symbolizes a life freed from sin

- 3. Symbolizes a life of fellowship with God

### III. The tree of life in New Jerusalem

**Revelation 22:2** 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 were for the healing of the nations.

- A. The tree of life transplanted to New Jerusalem
- B. God's original plan for man to be fulfilled
- C. Redeemed men will live forever