

# Wisdom from the Tree of Life

## THE STABILITY OF WALKING IN WISDOM

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.



**T**he mind of God knows all things. He has created all that is and ever has been. There are infinite fathoms of knowledge that are still only known by him. Secret mysteries of the universe, prophetic knowledge of the ages to come, and intricate truths that are an enigma to man belong only to God.

Yet while God knows all and sees all, thankfully, he is quite generous with his wisdom. Wisdom we first see as fruit in the Garden of Eden, fruit that originated from a tree mentioned in Genesis 3: the Tree of Life. Solomon said it well: “[Wisdom] is a tree of life to those who grasp her, and whosoever holds on to her is blessed” (Proverbs 3:18, TNK). This is the tree that produces the “fruit of the righteous,” which also is a “tree of life” that makes wise believers so that they may “win souls” (Proverbs 11:30, JPS).

### KNOWLEDGE

In the Garden of Eden, however, there was another tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Fruit from the Tree of Knowledge was off-limits to Adam and Eve. This tree and its fruit represented the illegitimate acquisition of knowledge that was obtained through pride, the pride that caused the fall of Lucifer the archangel from heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Luke 10:18) and prompted the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden (Genesis 3:24). Just as the Tree of Life represented abundant and eternal life, so this tree represented death and separation from God. In fact, God was explicit when he demanded Adam and Eve must not eat from that tree, for if they did, they would surely die (Genesis 2:17).

So, why was having knowledge to discern between good and evil forbidden? Because *knowledge* must be governed by perfect judgment, and good judgment must be executed in perfect justice, wisdom, accuracy, and omniscience. God knew that humanity could not judge in perfect exactitude. Only he knew the hidden things—the motives, biases, fabrications, and future repercussions that accompanied perfect acuity.

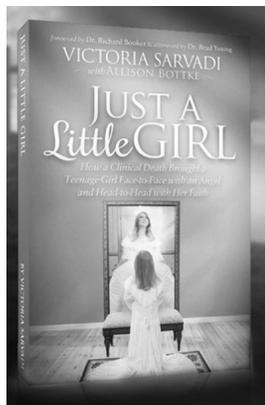
The command that Adam and Eve were not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was for the good and well-being of humanity. Nonetheless, they blatantly disregarded God's instructions and warnings and, at a high cost, deferred to another voice. We all know that even after many thousands of years, man's attempt to judge right and wrong, or good and evil outside of God has proven disastrous.

### THE VOICE OF THE CORRUPTED ANGEL

God created an extraordinary archangel—an anointed cherub beautifully described by Ezekiel in this manner: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God” (Ezekiel 28:12–13). This cherub, who would come to be known as Satan, misappropriated the gift of perfection and privilege of wisdom and exploited it for his designs. This treacherous subversion was a purposeful strategy to divert humankind away from God and, through intrigue and lies, captivate them (with his “trade” of wealth, power, position, and beauty). God said of this cherub, “Your heart was exalted because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. I threw you down to the earth” (Ezekiel 28:17, TLV).

Now mankind (the seed of Adam) must contend with this “wise” entity who acquired the “spoils” that once belonged to man before he dishonored God by yielding to the corrupted one as his ruler and commander. Because of Adam's choice to ignore God's instruction, the gift of the earth was forfeited to the deceiver, along with the endowment of ruling over it with the title of *ruler* or *prince* of this world (John 12:31). But thanks be to God, for in his mercy and foresight, he had a plan for redemption, power, and restoration.

In the proper time, God sent the second Adam, his Anointed One (1 Corinthians 15:45). This time, when confronted by Satan with the temptation to bow down and obey him as the first Adam did, Yeshua refused. “The devil brought Him up to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. Then he said to Him, “All of it, I will give You, if You will just fall down and worship me,” But Yeshua answered him, “Go Satan! It stands written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God and Him only shall you serve’” (Matthew 4:8–10, TNT).



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Yeshua's ultimate defeat of Satan was triumphing over death, hell, and the grave (Revelation 1:18). And by doing this, our Messiah exposed Satan's deception that began in the Garden concerning the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. “He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned” (John 16:11, CEB).

### WISDOM OF CHRIST

The first Adam was deceived, but the second Adam, Yeshua, prevailed! Holy Scripture calls the Messiah “Wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1:24). We also understand this wisdom to be the Mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

The Bible says when we are born into the Messiah, we are regenerated, being made into his likeness by His Spirit. He enters into us, our spirit is quickened, and we are made alive in him (Ephesians 2:5). This experience, however, is not understood by those who have not been born again. “A worldly-minded individual does not embrace the teachings from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and such an individual cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The one who is led by the Spirit, however, discerns all spiritual matters but is not judged by anyone. After all, “Who has known the mind of the LORD, so that a mere mortal would teach Him? We, however, have the mind of the Anointed One” (1 Corinthians 2:14–16, TNT).

This takes us back to the juxtaposition of the two trees in the garden: the Tree of Knowledge (or *Judgment*) and the Tree of

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the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed (Proverbs 3:13–18 ESV).

Wisdom from the Tree of Life is guarded and only made available for those who repent and are refined by the sword that cuts between soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:12). Anyone can ask for this blessing of wisdom, and God gives it freely. What is so beautiful is that he also promises the very things selfish man seeks with their own knowledge and Satan's intrigue: riches, honor, and long life. But there is one more thing God adds that Satan can never provide—peace.

### CHOOSE LIFE

God set before Adam and Eve life and death, blessings and curses, and, sadly, they chose death. Much later, God offered the descendants of Adam and Eve the same choice: “See, I set before you this day life and prosperity, death and adversity” (Deuteronomy 30:15, TNK). And the same choice continues today. “Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). “This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Yeshua Ha-Mashiach, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). “Jesus Christ . . . is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

### PEACE THAT PASSES UNDERSTANDING

This is the difference between the two trees in the Garden of Eden. One is the knowledge and flawed judgment of man convinced by the deceiver to be “good,” not needing to rely on God. The other is a new life in Messiah, which is living an abundant life now, and in the world to come, to escape death through the resurrection.

God's plan for us is good and far surpasses anything Satan can offer through his vain promises. Which tree will you cling to for sustenance? Be wise. Choose the Tree of Life. 

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Life. No one (including Satan) who lives by the Tree of Knowledge can judge those who are in Christ. Their lives are “hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).

Adam (and subsequently his seed) are still under submission to Satan and his world order, but when one is born again from the *Holy Seed* of Christ, he lives *in* the world but is not *of* it (John 17:15–16). He operates in a different kingdom, submitted to God (James 4:7) and having his mind continually renewed (Romans 12:2). This is what having the mind of Christ and his wisdom means.

James 1:5 says, “If anyone lacks wisdom, however, let that one ask from God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly” (TNT). Wisdom and Messiah are one and the same. When we ask for Messiah to come into our hearts and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, he places within us his supernatural wisdom. This gift of spiritual discernment and God's gift of knowledge are far better than any promise of the evil one who exploits “wisdom” with the promises of worldly things through deception, lies, theft, lust, seduction, indulgence, and witchcraft.

Wisdom in Hebrew is *bokmah* which is spiritually imparted from God. Understanding in Hebrew is *binah*, which is discernment that is given by the Holy Spirit. Those in Messiah understand this *remez* (prophetic hint) from Proverbs. In order to fully comprehend what this means, you must read the following with intent and sincerity, spiritually discerning His promise.

### THE TREE OF LIFE

“Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, (*bokmah*), and the one who gets understanding (*binah*) for

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