

You Choose!

PLANTING SEEDS OF LIFE OR DEATH

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

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” (Genesis 2:9, CJB).

This passage of Scripture begins with the words **And out of the ground.** Have you ever thought about the assiduous world that lies beneath our feet? The intricate system of life and death; seeds dying, breaking, new life growing, root systems sprawling, the coursing of water, insects and animals burrowing, organic matter decomposing, bacteria and gasses being released, pressurizing of rocks, mineralization, fossilization—the list goes on and on. As human beings our perspective and

worldview start at the surface. Make no mistake, just because you can’t see it doesn’t mean that what is hidden isn’t there.

God’s creation underground is a stunning mechanism of networks employing a perfectly governed ecosystem. It’s a complex realm of existence, a system on which we rely for our very breath. We don’t see it happening but what lies beneath our feet affects our very lives. Just as God created the plant life from the ground, so is it that man was created from the same substance.

Consider the perfect balance of exchange. Man breathes in oxygen that is produced by trees. The trees absorb man’s carbon dioxide and, along with photosynthesis, sustains its life to produce food and medicine for man. When man’s life is over, his body becomes the dust that the seeds grow in to produce the trees. This is an unadulterated plan that only the Creator could accomplish. But beware, among the life-giving vegetation of the earth, poisonous trees and plants that produce death exist.

There is another realm of trees that we see in the Bible, trees that bring about life and death as well, in a dimension in which man absolutely exists though he may not know it. The dimension is that of the spirit. And just like we can’t see the complex system beneath the earth, the constitution of the unseen spirit world exists and impacts us in a different but similar way.

In Hebrew, *Etz Chaim*, translated “Tree of Life,” is championed as God’s gift to man for life—that is *eternal spiritual life*. This Tree of Life also bears fruit, and like the physical trees that give breath and sustenance to man in the earth, this powerful spiritual tree provides life and safety in



the spiritual atmosphere that is called *high places*. In this realm there is also a poisonous tree. We know it as the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The difference of these two trees first lies in their seed.

Unlike the terrestrial earth where seeds are hidden underground, these seeds are in the air but also hidden from our physical eyes. They are released spiritually and are spiritually discerned. The spiritual world consists of the angelic—that of good seed and that of evil seed.

In Hebrew, the word for knowledge is *da'at*. *Da'at* is *learned behavior*. It is through *da'at* that one can tie their shoes. It is *da'at* that causes one to know math and science through study or observation. *Da'at* is the reason of man, man's ideas, calculations, determinations, and conclusions. *Da'at* (man's knowledge) is not evil in and of itself, but it can be used for good or evil as man chooses. The fruit of *da'at* has within it good and bad seed. This seed can also be called motive.

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

This Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was problematic and was forbidden by God as he ordered Adam and Eve not to eat from it, for it is certain that man is tempted to use knowledge for selfish gain.

Adonai, God, gave his creatures this order: “You may freely eat from every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You are not to eat from it, because on the day that you eat from it, it will become certain that you will die” (Genesis 2: 16, CJB).

Mankind tends to boast in knowledge. We see man relishing in the advancement of medical science, technology, space exploration, food modification, automation, and robotics- even fashion and beauty. We work hard on education. Elevating certifications, degrees, and position, we strive to become wealthier, ministering to our need to acquire “things.” For many humans, this becomes a constant pursuit in making life more comfortable while creating a showcase for others to recognize us.

Even though much has been gained through the knowledge (*da'at*) of man, we have also created endangerment to our ecological system, air, and water quality. We have become sick through artificial food. We have created a serious arms race and the threat of world war. The list goes on: good seed and bad seed.

Because Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they became sowers of this seed, seed that now allows man to independently determine what is good and evil, what is right and wrong. Their dependence was no longer on God guiding them in

the ways of righteousness. They had no need of him. The charmer told them they would be just like God as they would be ruler and judge of their own lives. It is inherent in man to please himself. Man desires the “good life” which most often includes riches and the ability to live a long and healthy life. “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death (Proverbs 14:12, NIV).

THE TREE OF LIFE

Let's now look at the other tree mentioned in Genesis. So, he drove the man out, and he placed at the east of the garden of 'Eden the k'ruvim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the **tree of life** (Genesis 3:24, CJB).

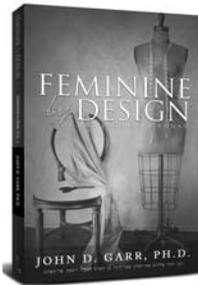
God will guard the way to his Tree of Life until a person comes to the realization that there is a need for God's guidance in life and the leadership of the Holy Spirit to direct their behavior.

The Tree of Life is not the *da'at* of man but rather the divine wisdom of

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God. In Hebrew, the word is *chokhmah*. Divine wisdom is not learned, nor does it come from the intellect of man. It is supernaturally and spiritually received when one seeks God and asks for divine wisdom. Man essentially drinks or eats this wisdom like the fruit of a tree. It is gained only by trust in God. Lack of faith and fear keep many from finding it.

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; 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 pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed” (Proverbs 3:13, NIV).

Notice the proverb is comparing this wisdom to be far better than the desire of man’s selfish desires of riches gained by his own *da’at* (knowledge). Then, as irony has it, the very goal of man’s selfish and desperate pursuit of wealth, health, and long life are integrated through *chokmah* as a blessing from God. So, the question now becomes, in what way will man obtain his wealth? “Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf” (Proverbs 11:28, NIV).

We must take an inventory of our lives. Where have we planted spiritual seeds based on our own knowledge puffed up with motives of self-exaltation? Are we gloating in our own accomplishments? Are we self-righteous? Are we self-aggrandizing? Are we self-oriented?

If so, we need to pull up the roots of the Tree

of the Knowledge of Good and Evil from which we are eating and sowing and seek instead to eat from the Tree of Life. We must approach the Holy angel guarding the tree and ask for the flaming sword of the Holy Spirit of God to cut from within us the wheat from the chaff, the pure from the stubble, what is of the Spirit from what is of the soul. We must ask for refinement and purification. We must abase ourselves (repent) and be willing to be purged of self-righteousness. We must die to ourselves and enter in the covenant through the shed blood of God’s Messiah that allows us to proceed down the path where the wisdom of God is freely given.

During the dead of the winter, the Jewish people celebrate the holiday called *Tu B’Shevat*. This ancient celebration is beautiful as it commemorates the dying and breaking of seeds underground that will soon break forth above ground for our provision of health and breath. *Yeshua* said: “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24, KJV).

We can either depend on the knowledge of man believing in what can be proven only by science, or we can trust in the unseen, having faith in the Word of God and His promises. God offers His wisdom freely to those that ask. “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” (James 1:15, NIV).

God instructs and helps those who are his, who struggle with trusting in their own *da’at* versus trusting in his *chokhmah*. Repent and ask Him to refine you. So, remember the high point from which you have fallen. Change your hearts and lives and do the things you did at first. If you don’t, I’m coming to you. I will move your lampstand from its place if you don’t change your hearts and lives. If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. I will allow those who emerge victorious to eat from the tree of life, which is in God’s paradise (Revelations 2:5,7, CJB).

He who finds wisdom (*chokhmah*) finds the Tree of Life. Eat freely! 

Dr. Victoria Sarvadi is co-founder and president of The Nathaniel Foundation in Kingwood, TX. She received her doctoral degree from Hebraic Christian College. She has faithfully served the Messianic community as both teacher and administrator, and, as an ordained minister in Hebraic Christian Global Community, she also serves as director of a vibrant Hebraic community in McKinney, Texas, where she lives with her husband Paul.



Learn more about Dr. Sarvadi’s extensive library of inspirational, informative, and challenging materials that are posted at www.victoriasarvadi.com.

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