**‘Creation Revisited – A Different Perspective, Part TWO’**

***7then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9And out of the ground the Lord God made 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 the knowledge of good and evil….*** ***15Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”*** Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17

We would have an easier time following the words of St. Paul who wrote, ***“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith,”*** [[1]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftn1) if we’d remember our humble beginnings. Human beings weren’t created from gold or silver or rubies or diamonds or anything else we might consider “valuable.” Man wasn’t even formed from dust taken from the garden God planted in Eden. No, we were formed from dust that came from outside of the garden! Can we believe such a thing? We must, for it is true. Nevertheless, we ARE the crown of God’s creation and made in the image and according to the likeness of God. God breathed the breath of life in man, and it was then that “man became a living being.”

We owe our very existence to the fact that God’s breath is within us. When He takes His breath away from us, we die and return to the dust of the earth from which we came. Solomon adds to this, ***“…and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”*** [[2]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftn2) Everything we are came from God and it will return to Him. We are not our own selves. We learn this profound truth **“in the beginning.”** It would be a good idea for us to ponder this truth with thoughtful regularity. Such reflection might keep us from succumbing to pride, which unfortunately comes with the fallen condition of man.

In Genesis 2:8-9 we read, ***8“And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*** ***9And out of the ground the Lord God made 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 the knowledge of good and evil.*** The Garden of Eden sounds like such a lovely place doesn’t it? God had planted everything the man needed for food within it, but when we jump to verse 15 we read, ***15Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”***

Okay, so maybe the Garden of Eden wasn’t as “idyllic” as we imagine it to be. After all, within its boundaries of deliciously good food there was a tree that was off limits to the man. In fact, eating its fruit would lead to death.

If it was off limits and bring death, then why put it there in the first place? Doesn’t it seem like a dangerous thing for God to plant in His garden? Yes it does. So, why is it there? Why the prohibition? Why is it counted among the trees God planted in His garden? Why is it given such a central location? Couldn’t it have been planted somewhere less conspicuous?

Many people have tackled this question before me and many will after me. At the close of Genesis 1, we’re told that everything God had created was ‘very good.’ This tree doesn’t sound very good so why is it in the garden God planted in Eden? There are many good answers I could give to this question, (check out Rick Joyner’s *‘There Were Two Trees in the Garden’*[[3]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftn3)), but the answer I prefer is this one: **Choice.**

“Choice.” That doesn’t sound so bad. We like choices do we not? Ah but…a **command** had been given by God to the man NOT to eat of this tree, so the choice before the man was this: **Obedience or Disobedience.** Would the man obey God, not eating of the fruit of the forbidden tree, or would he disobey God and eat of the forbidden tree? The freedom to choose God or go his own way and do his own thing was before the man. What would his choice be? To choose to eat of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not without consequence. No, the consequence of eating this forbidden fruit would be severe. It would bring death to the man.

We already know the choice the man made and the consequences for the world have been devastating. But let’s not put all of the blame upon the man and the woman God made for him. All of us stand before the “Tree of Choice” on a daily basis. What choice do we make? Do we choose to be obedient to God in all that we do, or do we choose to be disobedient? The choice is always ours to make because God has given us the freedom to choose. With that freedom, we can freely choose to obey God and in so doing, show Him that we love Him as He loves us. Or we can disobey God and show Him that we have no such love for Him.

The fact that God gives us the choice is amazing! He didn’t have to give us a choice. He could’ve left the tree of the knowledge of good and evil out of the Garden of Eden, but He didn’t. In a very real sense, the presence of this tree and the command not to eat of its fruit shows us how great God’s love is for us. God’s love for us is so great that He even gave us the freedom to turn our backs on Him by disobeying His commands.

Why would God do this? Here’s why. He didn’t want us to be His slaves. He wants us to be His friends. He wants to have a deep and abiding love relationship with us. He wants us to be members of His family, but He wants us to make that choice. This could never have been had God not put the forbidden tree in His garden and given man the command not to eat its fruit. Isn’t God’s love amazing? He loves us so much that He gives us the choice to not love Him in return.  Choosing disobedience, choosing not to love God, separates us from His love and that is extremely bad. God knows this better than we do. So, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in Eden and the command had been given. We already know what happened. Thank God the first man’s choice of disobedience would not be the last choice he’d be given to make. God is greater and more wonderful than that!

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[[1]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftnref1) Romans 12:3

[[2]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftnref2) Ecclesiastes 12:7

[[3]](https://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/" \l "_ftnref3) Rick Joyner. *There Were Two Trees in the Garden*. Morningstar Publications. The Divine Destiny Series. 2006.