

THE TREE THAT CHANGED THE DESTINY OF MANKIND

The serpent in that perfect garden of Eden served as an instrument for Satan to fulfill his plan against God's creation in his fallen state. Obviously, he hated men, whom God created as His image and wanted them condemned to hell. Eve became his target and was deceived by the serpent which was crafty and she was prone to listen to the devil. A battle for men was happening at that time, and Eve made it easy, for not perceiving the reality. Was she aware of whom Satan was and his enmity against God since they did not have the understanding of good and evil, with the exception of not "to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden." Obviously, Satan hid himself behind the voice of the serpent to deceive Eve and bring them to condemnation of the curse. The battle raged on and he won. The beautiful garden, pure and perfect, where there was the presence of God was painted black; its shining disappeared in the waves of sin; men's destiny shifted to Satan's control. So, it was that the earth bent to him lost its beauty, peace, and love. Now, violence, hatred, homicide and everything evil took the form of the curse.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity was not to be eaten from (Gen. 2:17a). That command sealed God's agreement with men. Obviously, Adam was the recipient of that command, for Eve to fall for the serpent's idea without defending God's command. When the prohibited fruit was yanked from the tree it felt the pain, as if it knew what was happening to the human race from eating that prohibited fruit whose message carried consequence to all who ate it for generations to come. When Eve listened to the serpent's voice, disregarding God's voice, she lost her relationship with Him, for she had believed the serpent's words, doubting God's word and breaking the agreement with Him to obey. As a result, she brought down the entire world with her, including her husband.

The tree was disregarded and dishonored by Eve. So, God sent Adam out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So, "He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim with the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3:22-24). In this, we see nature changing, as well as the ground being cursed. Life was left marked by sin and a curse. Men multiplied, so did their iniquity, while nature of all kinds suffered the consequences of their evil acts. "How long must the land mourn and the grass and herbs of the whole country wither? Through the wickedness of those who dwell in it, the beasts and the birds are consumed and are swept away... "says Jeremiah "because the ground is cracked and the tillers are dismayed, since there has been no rain on the land, the plowmen are put to shame, and they cover their heads. Yes, even the hind gives birth to her calf in the field and forsakes it, because there is no grass or herbage and the wild donkeys stand on the bare heights; they pant for air like jackals or crocodiles; their eyesight fails because there is no grass. O Lord though our iniquities testify against us, deal and work with us for Your own sake! For our backslidings are many; we have sinned against You" (Jer. 12:4; 14: 4-7). In Romans 8:19-23 Paul says: "For the creation waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known, for the creation was subjected to frailty, not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it with the hope that nature itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption into the glorious

freedom of God's children . We know that the whole creation has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now, and not only creation, but we ourselves too..." (Rom. 8:19-23a).

From the beginning of the fall of men, God had a redemption plan for men. In fact, when that happened, God called a meeting of all three and dealt with each individually about their fate as a result. And in that meeting, God judged Adam saying, "The ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat of it all the days of your life. and to Eve, God said, I will greatly multiply your grief and your suffering in pregnancy and the pangs of childbearing with spasms of distress you will bring forth children. Yet your desire and craving will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. When directing to the serpent He said, And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He (YAHSHUA) will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you (Satan) will lie in wait and bruise His heel" (Gen.3:15). Satan bruised YAHSHA'S heels at the time of His atonement work for mankind, but YAHSHUA bruised and tread his head. Satan lost the battle forever. We will see it someday. The woman's Offspring is YAHSHUA; the offspring of the devil is the antichrist- son of the devil. YAHSHUA was victorious at the cross and redeemed mankind for Himself. We are no longer slaves to sin, neither to the law. "When the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to the Law to purchase the freedom of those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us" (Gal.4:4-5).

The timeline in which YAHSHUA fulfilled the promise of redemption was approximately 4000 years after the fall of men. At that time, a special tree was chosen from which the cross was taken. A tree must be cut down to be useful in its many ways, as was the chosen tree to be made into a cross. This was not just a tree. This was a tree for the purpose to carry on God's plan of salvation. The Lord was nailed to this tree for several hours, until His death. His body against the fiber of the tree, it shared YAHSHUA'S pain, it received His blood, it felt the tremor of YAHSHUA'S body when He was forsaken by the Father; it absorbed the blood from His body, His precious blood cleansing mankind from their sins. In a form of a cross, that tree stood vertically and horizontally touching heaven and connecting with earth through the cry of God's Son, **MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?** Nature lifted up their voices as heaven cried with it in loud voices of thunder and lightning, revolting at the death of their Creator; the sun refused to shine; hiding YAHSHUA's pain of separation from His Father. Time marked those hours forever as a testimony of His sufferings for mankind's salvation. Messiah carries the nails and the floggings marks in His body as a symbol of His eternal love, which was not ended on the cross, but continues for eternity, not wanting that men perish. The cross felt the vibration of His pain and silently showed the world the greater love ever expressed. While the eating of a fruit from a tree, condemned mankind, a tree served as an instrument through YAHSHUA, to save mankind.

If the whole creation has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now, waiting to be free from its bondage to decay and corruption, according to Paul in Romans eight, shouldn't we join them in unison of desire for that day when we will be made as perfect as YAHSHUA and nature being restored? Men' restored destiny was an act of God's love and grace toward the underserving world. Nothing we do equals what He did for us. To die for Him is a price worthy our effort of love for Him.