



-- **Big Idea: Everlasting life is God's gift to those who partake of the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ.**

-- The New Heavens and Earth is the final fulfillment of the **GARDEN OF EDEN**

-- Both Eden and the New Heavens and Earth refer to:

- a.) The waters of life (Genesis 2:10 , v. 1)
- b.) The tree of life (Genesis 2:9 , v. 2)
- c.) Precious stones (Genesis 2:12, v. 21:18-21)
- d.) God's presence with His people (Gen. 3:8, v. 3-5)

-- Like every great theme in Scripture the distinction between the temporary and eternal all comes down to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

-- Everything that has happened and everything yet to come has been ordained by God to show the absolute **SUPERIORITY** of Christ to everything else (Hebrews 8:6, Colossians 1:18-20).

-- The paradise that no man on earth could establish or keep is perfectly established and will be kept forever in Christ alone (Romans 8:20-22)

-- Upon Christ's return, all **CREATION** will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

The story of the redemption can in the story of three trees...

1.) The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

-- *Four tragic consequences came as a result.*

- a.) Sin (Romans 5:12, Romans 5:19)
- b.) The **CURSE** (Genesis 3:14-19)
- c.) Death (Romans 5:12-13)
- d.) **SEPARATION** (Genesis 3:23-24).

2.) The Former Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22).

-- The tree of life in the Garden of Eden is presented that as the means by which Adam and Eve **MAINTAINED** their immortality.

3.) The Tree of Calvary (Acts 5:30)

-- On it, Christ purchased our redemption by bearing upon Himself every **CONSEQUENCE** stemming from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

- a.) He bore our sin (1 Peter 2:24)
 - b.) He bore our curse (Galatians 3:13)
 - c.) He bore our death (Hebrews 2:9)
 - d.) He bore our separation (Matthew 27:46)
- On Calvary's tree, Christ **REVERSED** every consequence of the Fall, so that we can inherit the opposite blessings in Christ.
- a.) Righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21) – We can become righteous because Jesus became sin for us.
 - b.) Healing (Isaiah 53:5) – We can be healed because Christ was wounded in our place.
 - c.) Life (John 3:16) – We can live because Christ died for us.
 - d.) **RECONCILIATION** (Mat. 27:46) – We can be reconnected to God because Christ was willingly separated from Him (Romans 5:10).

4.) Jesus Christ, the Everlasting Tree of Life

-- John 6:53-57, John 15:4-5

-- Our hope comes from the fact that we partake of **JESUS** who is the ultimate expression of the tree of life.

Summary

-- Everyone longs for paradise, but only one—the eternally redeemed and perfected Garden of Eden—will endure, and it will be beyond compare.

-- Only those who eat from the **TREE OF LIFE** can live in glory forever, and the Tree of Life is all about Jesus.