**R922\_Rumination for Sept. 25, 2022**

The **T**heme: **The Tree of Life** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life.* Rev. 2:7

The **T**hots:

Intro.

1. **The Mandatory Tree of Life in Eden. Genesis**
2. Its First **O**ccurrence. Gen. 2:9
3. Planted in **E**den for Man’s **E**njoyment. 2:9a
4. *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,*

1. *And the LORD God commanded the man…Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:* 2:16
2. Also in **E**den, there was *the tree of knowledge of good and* ***E****vil.* Gen. 2:9b
3. The Tree of Good and Evil to Test **O**bedience. Gen. 2:17

*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:*

*for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.* Gen. 3:6

1. The **D**isobedience*:*

 *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes,*

*and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat.*

*and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

1. The **D**ismissal and **D**isbarment: Gen. 3:22
2. *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of Us, to know good and evil:*

*and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: …*

1. *So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.* Gen. 3:24
2. The **D**ownfall: **D**eath passed **D**own on all men: Rom. 5:12

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;*

*and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

1. **The Metaphorical Tree of Life in Life’s Experience Proverbs**
2. The Tree of Life is **W**isdom: Pro. 3:**18** (3:13-20)

*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding…* 3:13

*She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.* 3:18

1. Its **F**ruit is Righteousness and **W**inning **S**ouls to **S**uch is **W**isdom. Pro. 11:30

 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

1. It is **F**ulfilled **H**ope after the **H**eart had been **W**aiting for it in vain seemingly. Pro. 13:12

*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*

1. It is **W**holesomeness in **H**ealthy **H**ealing, and not **H**urting Communication with others. Pro. 15:4

*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.*

1. **The Tree of Life in Eternity Revelation**
2. It is **P**romised to the **O**vercomer. Rev. 2:7

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;*

 *To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

1. It **P**roduces **O**verwhelming Fruits in **P**aradise: Rev. 22:2

*In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life,*

*which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month:*

*and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

1. The **P**rivilege of the **O**bedient to access the Tree of Life. Rev. 22:14

*Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life,*

*and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

1. **Compare the Water of Life in Eternity. Revelation**
2. *And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.*

*I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.* Rev. 21:6

1. *And he* [the angel] *shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal,*

*proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.* Rev. 22:1

1. *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.*

*And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.* Rev. 22:17

*Meet me there, meet me there,*

*Where the tree of life is blooming,
Meet me there;*

*When the storms of life are o’er, On the happy golden shore,*

 *Where the faithful part no more,*

 *Meet me there.* [Fan­ny Cros­by](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/c/r/o/s/crosby_fj.htm)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 922**

1. Trees were created beautiful (*pleasant to the sight*, Gen. 2:9) and were objects of utility. We are to live like such trees (*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper,* Psa. 1:3)

Unger in his dictionary defining “*tree*” has this to say in his comments on the

Mosaic Regulations with regard to it: -

*When the Israelites planted fruit trees in Palestine they were to treat the fruit of every tree as uncircumcised, i.e., not to eat it. “The reason for this command is not to be sought for in the fact that in the first three years fruit trees bear only a little fruit, and that somewhat insipid, and that if the blossom or fruit is broken off the first year the trees will bear all the more plentifully afterward, though this end would no doubt be thereby attained; but it rests rather upon ethical grounds. Israel was to treat the fruits of horticulture with the most careful regard as a gift of God, and sanctify the enjoyment of them by a thank offering. In the fourth year the whole of the fruit was to be a holiness of praise for Jehovah, i.e., to be offered to the Lord as a holy sacrificial gift, in praise and thanksgiving for the blessing which he had bestowed upon the fruit trees” (K & D., Com.).* *The Hebrews were forbidden to destroy the fruit trees of their enemies in time of war, for the tree of the field is man’s life (Deut. 20:19-20).*

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

Today Man is conscious of his environment and realises the importance of surrounding trees to preserve them, as stated in the following:

*Trees help to improve and maintain the quality of water, soil, and air and to remove pollutants from the air. Trees also provide shade and help lower temperatures during hot weather. Trees enrich people’s lives and beautify landscapes. There are many good reasons to take care of a home and saving trees is one of them. Good maintenance of trees helps to protect the environmental investment that is made at home.*

*Trees are high-value assets. In addition to habitat, trees furnish essential requirements like clean water, food, and oxygen. As humans evolved and migrated around the globe, trees also provided additional necessities such as energy, shelter, medicine, tools, and transportation in the form of wheels and ships. A primary motivation to explore the new world was to find more trees as they had become scarce in the developing world. Running out of trees can be devastating and have irreversible consequences.*

[*https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/stay-motivated/why-preserving-trees-is-important-in-todays-developing-world-35715/*](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/stay-motivated/why-preserving-trees-is-important-in-todays-developing-world-35715/)

We are regarded by God as *trees planted by the rivers of water* (Psa. 1:3)*.* As such our function is to beautify our surroundings “*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* (Rom. 10:15) preserve our environment and *let (our) light so shine before men, that they may see (our) good works, and glorify (our) Father which is in heaven*. (Mt. 5:16)

Are you a fruitful tree bearing fruits unto the Lord? What are they? **REFLECT**

1. A tree in scripture can also be associated with a curse. In Old Testament times criminals were executed and then hanged on a stake or post to show God's divine rejection. However, *his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance* (Deut. 21:23). Thus, when Jesus was crucified and died on the cross that act was referred as *His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree* (I Pet. 22:23)and that *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree* (Gal. 3:13). Jesus bore the curse of our sin on the tree that He may offer us to eat of the fruit of the tree of life. **REFLECT.**

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

*Jesus died on the tree that we may be planted as trees to bear fruit for Him.*