



The Two Trees

True Education Part 1



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Genesis 3:1-6

By partaking of this tree, he declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge . . . And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself . . . Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. He tempts men to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom. PP 54

God had freely given them good and withheld evil. But they had eaten of the forbidden tree, and now they would have the knowledge of evil—all the days of their life. Instead of happy labor, anxiety and toil were to be their lot. They would be subject to disappointment, grief, and pain, and finally to death. {EP 28.2}



Satan represented to the holy pair that they would be gainers by breaking the law of God. Do we not today hear similar reasoning? Many talk of the narrowness of those who obey God's commandments, while they themselves claim to have broader ideas and to enjoy greater liberty.

What is this but an echo of the voice from Eden, "In the day ye eat thereof"—transgress the divine requirement—"ye shall be as gods"? PP 55.1

Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She **disbelieved the words of God**, and this was what led to her fall. In the judgment men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but **because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth . . . We must set our hearts to know what is truth.** All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God's word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan. PP 55.2

2 Thessalonians 2:10

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they **received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

She ate, and, thinking she felt the sensation of a new and more exalted life, she bore the fruit to her husband. CH 108.3

After his transgression Adam at first imagined himself entering upon a higher state of existence. PP 57.1



Israel of old

The people saw what a mistake they had made in desiring a king that they might not be different from the nations around them. Many looked with alarm at the condition of society, fast becoming leavened with godlessness. EP482.4

Bitter were the reflections of the people as they looked upon Samuel's quiet resting place and remembered their folly in rejecting him as their ruler; for he had had so close a connection with Heaven that he seemed to bind all Israel to the throne of Jehovah. Samuel had taught them to love and obey God, but now he was dead. The people felt they were left to the mercies of a king who was joined to Satan and who would divorce the people from God and heaven. EP 483.1

Tree of Life

Tree of Knowledge



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True
Education



False
Education

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The garden of Eden was not only Adam's dwelling, but his school-room. As in that school, so in the school of earth today, **two trees are planted**,—the **tree of life**, which bears the fruit of the **true education**: the **tree of knowledge** yielding the fruit of “**science falsely so called.**”

{GCDB March 6, 1899, par. 36}

The **tree of knowledge**, so-called, has become an instrument of death. Satan has artfully woven his dogmas, his false theories, into the instruction given. From the tree of knowledge he speaks the most pleasing flattery in regard to the higher education. Thousands partake of the fruit of this tree, but it means death to them. Christ says, “Ye spend money for that which is not bread.” Isaiah 55:2. You are using your heaven-entrusted talents to secure an education which God pronounces foolishness. CT 12.2

There is an education which is essentially worldly. Its aim is success in the world, the gratification of selfish ambition. To secure this education many students spend time and money in crowding their minds with unnecessary knowledge. The world accounts them learned; but God is not in their thoughts. They eat of the **tree of worldly knowledge**, which nourishes and strengthens pride. In their hearts they become disobedient and estranged from God; and their entrusted gifts are placed on the enemy's side. Much of the education at the present time is of this character. The world may regard it as highly desirable; but it increases the peril of the student. CT 64.2

His brothers, as the sons of Joseph were called, sided with the rabbis. They insisted that the traditions must be heeded, as if they were the requirements of God. They even regarded the precepts of men more highly than the word of God, and they were greatly annoyed at the clear penetration of Jesus in distinguishing between the false and the true. His strict obedience to the law of God they condemned as stubbornness. They were surprised at the knowledge and wisdom He showed in answering the rabbis. They knew that He had not received instruction from the wise men, yet they could not but see that He was an instructor to them. They recognized that His education was of a higher type than their own. But they did not discern that He had access to the **tree of life**, a source of knowledge of which they were ignorant. {DA 86.2}

The tree of knowledge was
to be a test of the
obedience, faith, and love
of our first parents. EP 19.3

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve** through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ.

**When God gave
His Son, He
gave all heaven.
He could give
no more.
Te 286.3**



Psalm 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield:
the Lord will give grace and glory: **no
good thing will He withhold from
them that walk uprightly.**

Isaiah 55: 6-9

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions?** if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

What tree are you eating
from?

Who will you believe?