

## Cursed is Every One that Hangs on a Tree

Recently, I was studying the following verse: "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 KJV) Gradually, it began to dawn on me the significance of the tree in Scripture as it relates to our salvation. I've gathered these passages together, and they astound me with yet another example of the interwoven beauty of God's hand through the Bible and throughout history.

Because of sin involving a tree, paradise was lost. Because of this, access to another tree was blocked. All through the Old Testament period, there was foreshadowing of Christ's work on yet another tree. Finally, because He bore our sins on that tree, the way to the tree of life can be restored again.

### Paradise lost through a tree

(Gen 2:16-17 KJV) "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: {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."

### Tree of life protected and kept

(Gen 3:22-24 KJV) "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: {23} Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. {24} So he drove out the man; and he placed (tabernacled) at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep (protected) the way of the tree of life."

### Foreshadowings of Christ

#### Abraham offers up Isaac:

(Gen 22:6 KJV) "And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together." (The *wood* was laid on the son, and both father and son went together. What a beautiful picture of the Father and Son, working together on our salvation!)

#### The Passover:

(Exo 12:22 KJV) "And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning."

(It was my nine-year old daughter who pointed out to me that the *blood of the lamb* is painted on the *wood* of the door, protecting the occupants therein.)

#### Bitter Waters of Marah:

(Exo 15:23-25 KJV) "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. {24} And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? {25} And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them," (How the tree of Calvary changed our bitter predicament with sin to sweet victory in Him!)

#### The Law:

(Deu 21:22-23 KJV) "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: {23} 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." ("He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us..." 2 Cor.5:21 NKJV)

#### Brass Serpent on a pole:

In the following passage, Moses lifts the brass serpent on a presumably *wooden* pole. John 3:14-15, then makes it clear

that Christ is represented in that event. Satan and sin were the ones really crushed when Christ was lifted up on the cross.

(Num 21:8-9 KJV) "And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. {9} And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."

(John 3:14-15 KJV) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: {15} That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

#### Wicked Haman:

I love the story of Esther, and how the tables are turned on Haman, who is a picture of Satan. The gallows (of wood) he built to kill Mordecai, were actually used to defeat and kill him. In case the typical meaning might be lost, the actual word for "hang"

in the Septuagint is "crucify," which is the same as Matt.27:22!

(Est 7:9-10 KJV) "And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang (crucify) him thereon. {10} So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified."

#### Absalom:

(2 Sam 18:14 KJV) "Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak."

This is the punishment deserved for the rebellious son who continuously spurned his father's love. I always had thought that Absalom was a picture of Satan and his rebellion against God. Then one day, I suddenly read afresh the following verse. In the original, David says, "Would to God that I had died *instead* of thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" I flushed at the hot reality. Absalom doesn't represent Satan; I'm Absalom! I'm the rebellious child who spurns the Father's love. While I was a total enemy of God, He died *instead* of me. Christ hung on that tree, but like Absalom, it should have been me. O, the love of the Father and the sacrifice of His Son for us!

#### Christ: made a curse for us on that tree

(Gal 3:13 KJV) "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:"

(1 Pet 2:24 KJV) "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

(Acts 5:30 KJV) "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree."

(Acts 10:39 KJV) "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:"

(Acts 13:29 KJV) "And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre."

#### Paradise restored, Tree of Life Returned

(Rev 2:7 KJV) "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."

(Rev 22:2 KJV) "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."

(Rev 22:14 KJV) "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."

In nature all around us, there are beautiful trees. I pray they always remind me of their great significance in Scripture, and the One who died *instead* of me on that tree.

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