

The Cutting of the Umbilical Cord – the Birth of Sin

The question once was asked, “Why did God create the ‘Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil’ if He knew that Adam and Eve would eat from it?” A very good question. One that has confounded mankind for millennia. I believe the answer lies in the creation of angels.

The Bible is not specific in telling us when angels were created but we know from Paul’s writing that all things were created by God...*For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him for Him.*¹ Scripture also tells us that angels were created perfect in every sense of the word.

The prophet Ezekiel in referencing Lucifer, states, “*You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect beauty...*”² so too, were Adam and Eve created perfect. So what went wrong?

Understand this! The events that occur in chapter three of Genesis was the beginning of God’s plan for mankind’s redemption and was always plan “A”. So why then the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*?

Imagine a spacecraft that is tethered to its mother ship in space; now having conceived that concept; we need to understand that all of God’s creation was made perfect including the Archangel Lucifer. Lucifer whilst tethered to God, was perfect in all things. God who is omniscience, who is outside of time who knew us before creation, wanted a family that would choose Him out of free will. Whilst the spacecraft is tethered it is safe. Likewise, at creation whilst connected to God, perfection was maintained but...it is not of choice. God’s plan was never to have spiritual automatons thus He allowed for freedom of choice. He did this by allowing Lucifer to become untethered. At that moment of severance, sin was formed and Lucifer (Satan) was cast out of heaven.

*“How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
¹³For you have said in your heart:
‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’³*

¹ Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

² Ezekiel 28: 12 (NKJV)

³ Isaiah 14: 12-14 (NKJV)

Earlier we had established Lucifer's state of perfection at creation (as described by Ezekiel), we now learn that he was in God's garden, that he Lucifer was created with the perfect gift of music...*the workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created...*⁴ he was anointed the cherub who covered the holy mountain of God. Again, Ezekiel reminds us that Lucifer was ...*perfect in you ways from the day you were created until iniquity was found in you.* He became filled with pride and coveted the seat of God.

The moment Lucifer was allowed to choose, separate from God, he became corrupted and pride was discovered and sin was born.

Back to Adam and Eve, they too were created perfect, *"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good** (emphasis mine). So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*⁵

Now God didn't leave Adam clueless, He walked with him and talked with him but God did leave Adam with the command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil...*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* You shall surely die, what did that mean?

The current umbilical cord of Life that Adam was presently attached to, would be severed and eternity would be lost. Through Satan, sin was born, Adam now had a choice to either reject sin and live or face the consequence of eternal separation from God. In Adam too, pride was found and he chose the path of separation.

However, God outside of time, knowing Adam's ultimate choice, planned to have Yahweh divest Himself of His deity and become man and thus redeem all of mankind back to the Father. Through Jesus, He would again offer to all humanity the opportunity to be tethered once again to Him, but this time through our choosing.

Jesus, in John 3: 3-7 explains that to do this we must be "born again".

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'⁶

To be "born again" we must have to die and this we do symbolically through baptism.

⁴ Ezekiel 28: 13-19 (NKJV)

⁵ Genesis 1: 31 (NKJV)

⁶ John 3: 3-7 (NKJV)

Paul in Romans 6: 3-11 describes it as such:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life... Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The moment we elect to choose (freedom of choice); to accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour and reject sin, we as “*born again*” people, become once again connected by God’s Spiritual umbilical cord to God the Father. We again begin to be nourished by the process of sanctification into Godly perfection.

The promise: Paul in Galatians 3: 26-29 clarifies this by stating: “*...For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*”⁷

Paul continues in Ephesians chapter one by affirming... “*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*”.

God in opening the portal to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, was offering you and I the freedom to choose a pathway that is to be filled with a desire to take on a life inclusive of Him, not from a forced state but from a position of surrender – a surrender of the self-will. But not only did He allow free will but He Himself was able to express His infinite love for all mankind in His son Jesus who demonstrated perfection in His humanity.

Jesus’ ultimate severance can be seen in the gospel of Mark...*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* The Father could not look upon the sins of all humanity that was borne by Christ, the perfect sacrificial Lamb.⁸

Jesus death was accepted by the Father as recompense for all of humanities sins and thus provided the way once again to the Tree of Life.

Thus the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was planted in the Garden to allow you and I to freely choose the way to God. Amen.

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⁷ Galatians 3: 26-29 (NKJV)

⁸ Mark 15: 34