

ALL THINGS NEW

Tale of Three Trees

Easter is more than death, it is God's **redemption** plan for humanity

It wasn't that Jesus had to die, it was the **way** He died on a **tree** that was significant

As death and decay has plagued humanity, God will find a way to breath life into a lost world

"Behold, I am making **all things new.**"
Revelation 21:5 ESV

Easter is about a **covenant** that was broken. But it wasn't Abraham's, it was in the **garden**

Easters **roots** are in the **Garden of Eden**, from the **decision** humanity made there, **the fall**

Back to the Garden

The two trees

The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the **tree of life** and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. [Genesis 2:9](#)

Back to the Garden

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God **warned** him, "You may freely eat the fruit of **every** tree in the garden—except the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." [Genesis 2:15-17](#)

Why the prohibition for only **one** tree?

Back to the Garden

There were **two** trees at the center of the Garden of Eden. One (the Tree of Life) represented humanity's connection to the **divine** and the **eternal**. The other (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil) represented **human agency**—and possible rebellion. [Matthew Sleeth](#)

Back to the Garden

Then the Lord God said, "Look, the human beings have become like **us**, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from **the tree of life**, and eat it? Then they will live **forever!**" [Genesis 3:22](#)

Edenic/Adamic Covenant

The **Edenic covenant** is one of many covenants between God and man in the Bible. The Edenic covenant specifically refers to the covenant made between God and Adam in Genesis. The Edenic covenant was a bilateral or **conditional** covenant, that is, there was responsibility on both sides. Adam was responsible to obey, and God would bless him with life. If Adam disobeyed, and ate of the **tree of the knowledge** of good and evil, death would be the result

Edenic/Adamic Covenant

While Bible scholars are divided on the question of how many covenants the Bible contains, most would agree on the following: **Adamic Covenant** (Gen. 3:14-19), Noahic Covenant (Gen. 8:21-9:17, 24-27), Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3), Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 19:5-8, 20:1-31:18), Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16), and the New Covenant (Matt 26:28, Heb. 8:6-13)

The Three Harmonies (Garden)

Harmony between God and humanity

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our **image** to be like us." [Genesis 1:26](#)

Harmony between humanity and humanity

It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just **right** for him [Genesis 2:18](#)

Harmony between creation and humanity

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to **tend** and **watch** over it. [Genesis 2:15](#)

The Fall

When Adam sinned, **sin entered the world**. Adam's sin brought **death**, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. [Romans 5:12](#)

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's **curse**. [Romans 8:20a](#)

The Three Discords (Curses)

Discord between God and humanity

So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. [Genesis 3:8](#)

Discord between humanity and humanity

It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it. [Genesis 3:12](#)

Discord between creation and humanity

the ground is cursed because of you [Genesis 3:17](#)

In the garden, the **plague of sin** was unleashed on the world. **Death, disease** and **decay** became part of our daily realities. But God did not sit idly by and abandon us to our choices. **Easter** was His answer to this problem

He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. [Genesis 3:15b](#)

COVID has made western countries feel vulnerable

A Theology of Trees

Other than people and God, **trees** are the most mentioned living thing in the Bible. There are trees in the first chapter of Genesis (v. 11–12), in the first psalm (Ps. 1:3), and on the last page of Revelation (22:2). As if to underscore all these trees, the Bible refers to wisdom as a tree (Prov. 3:18).

A Theology of Trees

Every major character and **every** major theological event in the Bible has an associated **tree**. The only exception to this pattern is Joseph, and in Joseph's case the Bible pays him its highest compliment: Joseph is a tree (Gen. 49:22).

A Theology of Trees

The menorah and other adornments of the tabernacle and temple possess **tree of life imagery**, symbolic of God's Holy presence. The doors and walls of Solomon's temple contain **images of trees and cherubim** that recall the Garden of Eden and God's sacred presence with humanity (1 Kings 6:23-35). Ezekiel indicates that carvings of **palm trees** and cherubim will be present in the future temple (Ezekiel 41:17-18).

A Theology of Trees

Build a large boat from cypress **wood** and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. [Genesis 6:14](#)

Aaron threw down his **staff** before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a serpent! [Exodus 7:10](#)

and the Lord showed him a piece of **wood**. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink. [Exodus 15:25](#)

Have the people make an Ark of acacia **wood** [Exodus 25:10](#)

A Theology of Trees

Then the Lord told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a **pole**. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!" So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a **pole**. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed [Numbers 21:8-9](#)

There is nothing **random** about Easter

The Cross as a Tree

"The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a **tree**." [Acts 5:30](#)

"They put him to death by hanging him on a **tree**." [Acts 10:39](#)

"And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the **tree** and laid him in a tomb" [Acts 13:29](#)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the **tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. [1 Peter 2:24](#)

The Cross as a Tree

The early church understood the concept of the Roman cross, but instead chose to communicate it as a **tree**. They understood what we have forgotten, Jesus death was **upon** humanities greatest mistake.

The Cross as a Tree

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who hangs on a **tree**.'"
Galatians 3:13 (Deuteronomy 21:23)

Covenant requirements (4:44 – 26:19)

For Paul features the pole of the accursed **covenant breaker** as the place of divine transaction and the **turning point** of the ages. It was there that Christ, the guiltless one, was hung as a **covenant breaker** as the substitute for real **covenant breakers**. A. B. Caneday

Calling the cross "**a tree**" linked his death to the passage in the Book of Deuteronomy. It also alluded to another important tree in the Old Testament: **the tree of knowledge of good and evil**. The story of the fall as recounted in Gn 2 tells us that the first human beings, contrary to God's wishes, ate the **forbidden fruit** from that tree. Their disobedience brought sin into the world and a **curse** upon the human race. Friar Mike Stubbs

"For you placed the salvation of the human race on the **wood of the Cross**, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and **the evil one, who conquered on a tree**, might likewise **on a tree be conquered**, through Christ our Lord" (preface). *Exaltation of the Cross, Eastern Churches 335 AD, Catholic Church 7th Century*

Jesus **conquered** sin, death and decay upon the **tree**

There was **another** tree in the Garden

We lost paradise through the "**forbidden tree**" and gained heaven through the "**tree of life**".

Easter is not about death, but about giving us a **new** life

The **Tree of Calvary** is *how* we partake of the **Tree of Life**. The cross is how we go from sin to righteousness, from the curse to healing, from death to life, from alienation to reconciliation. How is that a cursed sinner, ruined and wrecked by the Fall, who is spiritually dead, facing eternal death, alienated from the life of God can be saved from that desperate condition? The answer is **the Tree of Calvary**. *Brian Anderson*

The cross becomes the **Tree of life** because Jesus is the Passover lamb (**wooden** door posts). Death is passed over all who embrace Jesus upon **our** tree

"See how the cross of the Lord stands revealed as the **tree of life**." *First antiphon for the Office of Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours for the Fifth Sunday of Lent*

The Tree of Life

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the **tree of life**, which is in the paradise of God.' [Revelation 2:7](#)

The Tree of Life

It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew **a tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. [Revelation 22:2](#)

Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the **fruit from the tree of life**. [Revelation. 22:14](#)

And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove **that person's share in the tree of life** and in the holy city that are described in this book. [Revelation 22:19](#)

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have **eternal** life. They will never be **condemned for their sins**, but they have already passed from **death into life**." [John 5:24](#)

"Behold, I am making **all things new**."
[Revelation 21:5 ESV](#)



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