

# Two Trees

Do you understand what life truly is? It's a battle over the Word of God. If you don't understand this battle, how can you expect to overcome?

From the beginning, there's been a battle between two trees. In God's spiritual language, "trees" are people. The **Tree of Life** is the Lord, the Word of God. "**The tree of the knowledge of good and evil**" is the evil one, the "serpent." Both the Lord and the devil were present in the garden of Eden.

the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen 2:9)

**Why is the evil one called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"?** Because he mixes good and evil together. The devil is the "father of lies" who mixes truth about God with lies about God. This mixture kills. Even a little bit of "leaven" (lies about God) ruins everything.

He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth ... for he is a liar, and the father of lies. (Jn 8:44)

**What does this have to do with churches and church leaders?** More than anywhere else, where is the mixture of good and evil? In churches. Church leaders and churchgoers take truths from the Bible and mix in men's religious ways and teachings. As a result, they all believe and speak mixture. Like Eve, they "eat" lies about God and then share those lies with others. This is why the churches are so deadly.

For the time will come when ... they will accumulate for themselves teachers ... and will turn away their ears from the truth (2Tim 4:3-4)

**What is the solution?** In the two-trees battle, the solution is to eat only from the Tree of Life, and reject the mixture tree. **How?** You must look to God as your One Teacher of the Scriptures. Believe only what He teaches to be the truth, and reject all else.

**Without God, you cannot detect the mixture.** Only God is good. Therefore, only God can teach you the difference between good and evil. **How?** By going to God the Father's words in Moses and the Prophets and listening to His voice. Only by learning from The Father can you have the discernment to detect mixture. That's why God calls people to Himself, to learn His Word from Him as the One Teacher, and to believe Him only. Though every man be a liar, God, alone, is true.

## Three Lusts

Where do the three lusts of 1John 2:16 fit into the battle over the Word of God?

The three lusts are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Every sin and temptation falls into one of these categories.

When Scripture says Jesus was tempted in all ways, it means all three. The evil one — the bad tree — tempted Jesus with the three lusts (Mt 4, Lk 4).

For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (1Jn 2:16)

The three-lusts battle is shown thousands of times throughout Scripture. From the beginning, God and the evil one have been battling over people's souls. On one side is God, the good Tree, teaching His Word in truth. On the other side is the evil one with his religious leaders (bad trees) contradicting and distorting the Word of God and promoting the three lusts.

## Four Horses

The four horses are the four spirits of heaven that have been roaming the earth since the beginning of mankind. They appear throughout Scripture, and are instrumental in the battle over the Word of God.

“What are these, my lord?”

“These are the **four spirits** of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth” (Zech 6:4-5)

The **white horse** is the Spirit of the Lord, and represents good.

The **red horse** is the spirit of war, and targets man's greed.

The **black horse** is the spirit of famine and pestilence, and targets man's need.

The **pale horse** is the spirit of satan and antichrist, and represents evil.

### What is the main purpose of the horses? To MOVE people...

- The **white horse** moves people to the Word of God with a new attitude to believe God only, rejecting the teachings and traditions of men.
- The **red and black horses** are used by God to move people toward Himself (Amos 4), but can also be used by the evil one to move people away from God (Job 1-2).
- The **pale horse** moves people away from God and His Word in truth, and includes “wild beasts.” Wild beasts are not only animals, but anyone who is of the evil one, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Primarily, wild beasts are religious leaders and anyone who lies about God. Paul fought against false teachers in Ephesus, not against animals (1Cor 15:32). In the Book of Job, the wild beasts were Job's wife and three friends, who spoke wrongly about God.

# One Parable

The Parable of the Sower is the most important parable in the Bible. It's about **the battle over the Word of God and people's souls**. If you don't understand this parable by the Lord's teaching, don't expect to understand His other parables.

And He said to them, "Do you not understand **this parable**? And how will you understand all the parables?" (Mk 4:13)

The parable brings together the battle of the two trees, the three lusts, and the four horses. It also shows God's growth stages of babe, child, young man, and father.

**Plucking bird** — This is the two-trees battle, white horse vs pale horse. God, the Father of truth, battles against the evil one, the father of lies. The Father calls people to Himself, to believe Him only, be of His Word only, and learn His Word in truth from Him as the One Teacher. The evil one blocks this. Instead of heeding God's call to repentance, the person continues to listen to and trust in men's religious ways and teachings. For this reason, God's process does not start for the person.

**Rocky places** — These are difficult times: persecution, affliction.

**Thorns** — These are so-called good times. Desire for riches and other things choke the Word.

**Good soil** — This represents people who endure past plucking bird, rocky places, and thorns. They bear fruit by persevering in God's growth process without falling away.

Mt 13, Mk 4, Lk 8 sower parable	Lk 8:11 "the seed is the Word of God"	1 Jn 2:12-14 growth process	two trees	1 Jn 2:16 three lusts	four horses
plucking bird	Word is plucked	Doesn't <u>believe</u> the Word of God / remains a <u>babe</u> of the world	tree of the knowledge of good and evil	boastful pride of life	pale
rocky places	Word is scorched	Falls away in <u>child</u> stage		lust of the flesh	black
thorns	Word is choked	Turns away in <u>young man</u> stage		lust of the eyes	red
good soil	Word bears fruit	Endures to become a <u>father</u> in the Word / <u>believe</u> , <u>understand</u> , <u>speak</u> and <u>do</u> the Word of God	Tree of Life		white