EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE! By Apostle Jacquelyn Fedor

What if we woke up from sleep and found ourselves and our loved ones in a beautiful garden where peace and harmony filled the atmosphere, balmy breezes bore the fragrance of spices and herbs, creating a climate designed perfectly for our comfort. There is no sickness, pain, sorrow or decay. Death is not to be found in this garden, so there is nothing to fear or dread. Our bodies are restored, we are perfectly healthy! Food is for the picking, no poverty or lack and a crystal clear river fed by pure cool springs is provided to satisfy our thirst. Huge, magnificent trees supply shade and a luscious grass carpet is beneath our feet, all that is lacking for us as modern man is a lovely home to dwell in. No problem building one, the Master Creator of the entire universe, the Carpenter of all Carpenters, Jesus, Yeshua, the Word of God, the Tree of Life is there with all knowledge and perfectly calculated formulas to advise us. There is nothing to hinder us, nothing to stand in the way of our progress, no sin, no evil, well ... maybe there is one thing we should avoid, one obstacle in the midst of all this perfection we better ignore, it's the knowledge of the tree of good and evil! You see, it turns out the key to our remaining in this wonderful garden, just like it was for Adam and Eve, is obedience to Father's command to "not touch or taste" the fruit of this particular tree. In other words, we are not to seek his knowledge for any

reason as our disobedience to the law of God and our assimilation of this wrong knowledge would result in death and decay affecting not only us, but all creation alike. Just as Adam and Eve were forewarned, we too were made to understand God's command clearly. What would we do though? Would we hear and obey the voice of the Almighty, or would we be fooled like Eve or lawless like Adam and take counsel from the enemy we were forbidden to connect with? For those that read the previous blasts, "What Really Was the Original Sin?" and its sequel, "Effects of the Original Sin", the answer would surely be we would absolutely ignore the enemy! These informed ones would understand the world we live in today evolved out of the first pair's wrong choices and how we are now held captive by its ruler through its systems. They would surely not want to repeat these same errors! But you know what? Humanity could have made this error many times before! The enemy has tried to conceal this recorded fact through man's more modern translations of the Bible, but let us read Genesis 1:28 from the Old King James version.

Genesis 1:28

28 And <u>God blessed them</u>, and <u>God said</u> unto them, <u>Be fruitful</u>, and <u>multiply</u>, and <u>replenish the earth</u>, and <u>subdue it</u>: and <u>have dominion</u> over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over <u>every living thing</u> that <u>moveth</u> upon the <u>earth</u>. Notice the word <u>replenish</u>. Makes you wonder how many times humanity faced this same dilemma and failed! We see Father's long suffering nature towards man when despite all the sin and debauchery He gave the Adamic race opportunity to redeem their mistakes and be restored to His grace during Noah's era. They were hardly out of the safety of the ark however when Noah's son sinned against his father! Then again we see the Father's invitation at Mt. Sinai for the whole nation of Israel to be set aside to be His people. They were cleansed of their sins and given a culture that would stand as evidence for the rest of mankind to see the benefit of walking in God's law and knowledge. They too wouldn't stay separate from the world! They crossed the boundary line between the land God gave them invading lands owned by pagans even to marrying their people! Look next at the early Christian church! Christ did it all. He died to pay the death penalty for man's sin, bought humanity back, jubileed them from the enemy with His own life, giving mankind a chance for a clean slate, a fresh start through the miracle of rebirth! Yet they too failed. They didn't obey His laws, became religious hypocrites, and tainted the knowledge revealed through His apostles' by teaching through man's intellect based on the world's knowledge. They did not address sin for the sake of money and numbers and in fact they still do not today! Because of these infractions, very little of this world will stand through Yahweh's wrath.

You see, when man breaks the Lord's commandments he becomes evidence or proof that he really does not love God and is therefore gathered to Satan's people. He becomes the legal property of the king of lawlessness whether he knows it or not and is a member of the body of Satan, the lawless one, antichrist. Thinking about all this and understanding the church is moving beyond Christianity towards the church glorious, again I ask the question, what would you do, what would I do if we found ourselves in the above mentioned garden in this end time?

Would there be something in the world we could not do without? For Adam and Eve it was pursuit of a knowledge God had not intended them to have. Is there something the enemy could offer us that would easily sway us? Would it perhaps be the world's people, pagans that would not be granted access to the garden by the Lord, lawless ones that see no need to change. Nice people by the world's standards, fun people, but God is sure not at the top of the list of what they think or care about. Possibly a golf cart or a luxurious car would look enticing for us to get around in, and wouldn't cellphones be handy? In other words, would Satan be able to pull us back to his world? Is this not the same tactic he used to lure the Lord after He was baptized? Didn't he offer Him the whole world if He would bow down and serve him?

Matthew 4:8-11

8 Again, the <u>devil took Him</u> (Jesus) up on <u>an exceedingly high mountain</u>, and <u>showed Him all the kingdoms of the world</u> and their <u>glory</u>.

9 And <u>he said</u> to Him, "<u>All these things I will give You</u> <u>if</u> <u>You will fall</u> <u>down and worship me</u>."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "<u>Away with you</u>, <u>Satan</u>! For <u>it is written</u>, '<u>You</u> <u>shall worship the Lord your God</u>, and <u>Him only</u> you shall <u>serve</u>."

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Jesus did not deny the world was Satan's to offer, but He sure did not have the least bit of interest in it! Would we? He knew the world is inferior to the rest of creation. Nothing in this world is perfect, absolute or in harmony with the rest of the universe or God Himself. Would we trade that small piece of perfection for the glitz and glitter of this imperfect culture? This scenario could really happen you know. A small group of people really will be called and chosen to restore the earth, re-establish God's laws and bring back the original order through the knowledge of God.

Matthew 7:13-14 shows us why there will be but a few. 13 "<u>Enter</u> by the <u>narrow gate</u>; for <u>wide</u> is the <u>gate</u> and <u>broad is the way</u> that <u>leads to destruction</u>, and <u>there are many who go in by it</u>.

14 Because **<u>narrow</u>** is the **<u>gate</u>** and <u>**difficult** is the way</u> which <u>**leads** to life</u>,

and there are **<u>few</u>** who **<u>find it</u>**.

The way into God's Kingdom is both narrow and difficult. Difficult because we will fight the enemy every step of the way. He will test our integrity, our focus, our morals, on and on trying to tire us, wear us down. Many will choose to not walk there, because they cannot endure hardship. These like and follow the easy path. Then there are unhappy, always depressed ones, never satisfied with life and always looking for external things to make them feel good and enjoy life, they will not be happy or content there either. Ones that enjoy striving for success and want recognition for themselves will not make it either. They are perfectionists determined to make things happen themselves. They easily tire of waiting on direction from God and waiting for God's promises. These are just a few of the natures that are very easy marks for Satan and the list goes on. Only the strong in nature, people that keep God's laws, truly love Him and above all things want to see restoration for all of creation will find themselves in that garden place.

So the question is, if we ended up there, would we stay? Would we happily begin to subdue the earth, restore what the Adamic race of man ruined and expand the garden for future generations across the earth? Adam's race built this world for the enemy, the born again new species of man will build a new earth and culture for God. While we are speaking of a new earth, let us be assured God is not saying He will create a new planet. This statement is based on Ecclesiastes 1:4 and Psalm 104:5.

Ecclesiastes 1:4

4 <u>One generation passes away</u>, and <u>another generation comes</u>; but <u>the earth</u> <u>abides forever</u>.

Psalm 104:5

5 You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that **it should not be moved** forever,

You see, it is this world, its systems and all that love them that will be destroyed! Where the problem lies is again in the translation. The Hebrew word ('erets) number 776 in the Strongs Concordance can be translated either world or earth. Number 127 however means only earth. Likewise the Greek word (ghay) 1093 in the Strongs Greek dictionary can also be translated as world or earth and 3749 means only earth.

776 'erets eh'-rets from an unused root probably meaning to be firm; the earth (at large, or partitively a land):--X common, country, <u>earth</u>, field, ground,

land, X natins, way, + wilderness, world.

127 'adamah ad-aw-maw' from 119; soil (from its general redness):--country, **<u>earth</u>**, ground, husband(-man) (-ry), land.

1093. in the Greek dictionary (New Testament) ge ghay contracted from a primary word; soil; by extension a region, or the solid part or the whole of the terrene globe (**including the occupants** in **each application**):--country, **earth**(-ly), ground, land, **world**.

3749. ostrakinos os-tra'-kin-os from ostrakon ("oyster") (a tile, i.e. terra cotta); earthen-ware, i.e. clayey; by implication, frail:--of <u>earth</u>, earthen.

So based on this information and the above scriptures. "world" would have been a better choice to aid understanding and teach the truth in II Peter 3:10-18 for instance.

With this in mind let us read **II Peter 3:10-18**.

10 But <u>the day of the Lord will come</u> as <u>a thief in the night</u> (humanity will be taken by surprise), in which the <u>heavens</u> will <u>pass away with a great noise</u>, and <u>the elements</u> (the fundamental orders) will <u>melt with fervent heat</u>; both <u>the earth</u> (world) and <u>the works that are in it</u> (man's works) will be <u>burned</u>

up (but please remember, the earth abides forever).

11 <u>Therefore</u>, since <u>all these things will be dissolved</u>, what <u>manner of persons</u> <u>ought you to be</u> in holy <u>conduct and godliness</u>,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved (no more rebellious angels, no accuser of the brethren will accuse the humans), being <u>on fire</u>, and the elements will <u>melt</u> with <u>fervent heat</u>? (the original order will be changed under the fire of judgment)

13 Nevertheless <u>we</u>, <u>according to His promise</u>, look for <u>new heavens</u> (or a new order of things) and a <u>new earth</u> (new world, with God's systems in place and a new culture) in which <u>righteousness dwells</u>.

14 <u>Therefore</u>, <u>beloved</u>, looking <u>forward</u> to <u>these things</u>, <u>be diligent to be</u> <u>found by Him in peace</u>, <u>without spot and blameless</u> (separated from the world, walking in His law, turning your back on the things offered by the enemy);

15 and <u>consider</u> that <u>the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation</u>—as also our <u>beloved brother Paul</u>, according to <u>the wisdom given to him</u>, has <u>written to</u> <u>you</u>,

16 as <u>also in all his epistles</u>, <u>speaking in them of these things</u>, in which are some things <u>hard to understand</u>, which <u>untaught and unstable people</u> <u>twist</u> to their <u>own destruction</u>, <u>as they do also the rest of the Scriptures</u> (thus false doctrines). 17 You <u>therefore</u>, beloved, since <u>you</u> know this <u>beforehand</u>, <u>beware lest you</u> <u>also fall from your own steadfastness</u>, being <u>led away with the error of</u> <u>the wicked</u> (just like Adam and Eve);

18 but grow in the grace (love Him, be obedient to Him) and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (instead of the knowledge of the world).
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

The garden scene we started with may seem kind of foolish to us, but is it? Let us look at a future happening, a promise to yet be fulfilled.

I Corinthians 15:51-55

51 Behold, <u>I tell you a mystery</u>: We shall <u>not</u> all <u>sleep</u> (or die), <u>but</u> we <u>shall</u> all be <u>changed</u>—

52 <u>in a moment</u>, in the <u>twinkling of an eye</u>, <u>at</u> the <u>last trumpet</u>. For the <u>trumpet will sound</u>, and the <u>dead will be raised incorruptible</u>, and <u>we shall be</u> <u>changed</u>.

53 For <u>this corruptible</u> must put <u>on incorruption</u>, and <u>this mortal</u> must <u>put</u> <u>on immortality</u>.

54 So <u>when</u> this <u>corruptible has put on incorruption</u> (can you see the reason to be born again, covered by the blood of the Lamb), and <u>this mortal has put</u> <u>on immortality</u> (we die to who we are as we enter the watery grave of baptism into Christ's death and resurrect into a new creature through His victorious resurrection), <u>then</u> shall be <u>brought to pass</u> (in Father's timing He will bring an end to the devil's plans, fulfilling) the <u>saying that is written</u>: "<u>Death is swallowed up in victory</u>."

55 "O **Death**, where is your sting? O **Hades**, where is your victory?" (The conditions that exist in the garden were just described!)

Jesus made all of this possible for those that believe. Surely we would not want to follow in the footsteps of Adam.

His fate is seen in Genesis 3:22-24.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— (or consume the knowledge of God and live forever without change!)

23 therefore the Lord <u>God sent him out of the garden</u> (the first recorded time God dealt harshly with man) of Eden to <u>till</u> the <u>ground</u> from which he was taken.

24 So <u>He drove out the man</u>; and <u>He placed cherubim</u> at the <u>east</u> of the <u>garden</u> of Eden, and <u>a flaming sword</u> which <u>turned every way</u>, to <u>guard</u> <u>the way to the tree of life</u>.

Our Creator did not mean for us to know any evil or experience any bad. We

brought this on ourselves. The only restriction on man was to not touch or taste it! We can read about all that happened to the human race down through the time covered by the Old Testament to see just how foolish we were. Then God came to salvage man from their destruction or at least offer them a way to reverse things.

II Corinthians 5:19

19 that is, that **God** was **in Christ** reconciling the world to **Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them (He forgave us), and has committed to us the word of reconciliation (we are to then lead others out of the hands of the enemy and teach them about God's plan for restoration).

Remember Jesus said I go to prepare a place for you? Well He has. There is a beautiful city, designed in heaven that manifests here on earth in a gardenlike setting called New Jerusalem. It is a spiritual city where His home on earth is, all made of living stones!

I Peter 2:5 shows us these living stones and their use.

5 you also, <u>as living stones</u>, are <u>being built up a spiritual house</u> (one use), a <u>holy priesthood</u>, to <u>offer up spiritual sacrifices</u> (second use) <u>acceptable to</u> <u>God through Jesus Christ</u>.

Hebrews 3:6

6 but <u>Christ as a Son over His own house</u>, <u>whose house we are</u> if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of <u>the hope</u> firm to <u>the end</u>.

I Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do **you not know that you are the temple of God** and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you**?

17 If <u>anyone defiles the temple of God</u>, <u>God will destroy him</u>. (see the fate of the enemy that has brought sickness pain and sorrow to God's creation?) For <u>the temple of God is holy</u>, which <u>temple you are</u>.

The temple of God is His Bride. As it grows it becomes a city made of living stones. These precious stones are those chosen and faithful ones found loyally in the garden. You see, the remnant of mankind is His Bride.

Now let us read from **Revelation 21:1-5** where John saw the fulfillment of these things.

1 Now <u>I saw</u> a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and <u>the first</u> <u>earth</u> (world) had <u>passed away</u>. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, <u>New Jerusalem</u> (made of living stones), coming down out of <u>heaven from God</u> (designed in heaven), <u>prepared</u> as <u>a</u> <u>bride adorned for her husband</u> (selected for God's Son). 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "<u>Behold</u>, <u>the tabernacle</u> (or house) of <u>God</u> is <u>with men</u> (on earth, not a city in heaven as taught falsely by the world's churches), and <u>He</u> (God) will <u>dwell with them</u>, and <u>they shall be</u> <u>His people</u>. <u>God Himself</u> will be <u>with them</u> and <u>be their God</u> (exactly as in the beginning).

4 And <u>God will wipe away every tear from their eyes</u>; there shall be <u>no more</u> <u>death</u>, nor <u>sorrow</u>, nor <u>crying</u>. There shall be <u>no more pain</u>, for <u>the former</u> <u>things have passed away</u> (only the City and garden will remain and the new species of man will multiply and be fruitful and fill the earth).

5 Then <u>He who sat on the throne said</u>, "<u>Behold</u>, <u>I make all things new</u>." And <u>He said to me</u>, "<u>Write</u>, for <u>these words are true and faithful</u>."

Let us close with these scriptures.

Revelation 2:7

7 "<u>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says</u> to the <u>churches</u>. To <u>him who overcomes</u> I will <u>give to eat from the tree of life</u> (the Word of God, Jesus who is the way, the truth and life), which <u>is</u> in the <u>midst of the</u> <u>Paradise of God</u>." (Remember Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "this day you will be in paradise with Me"?)

John 6:53-56

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, <u>unless</u> you <u>eat the</u> <u>flesh of the Son of Man</u> and <u>drink His blood</u>, you have <u>no life</u> in you.

54 <u>Whoever eats My flesh</u> and <u>drinks My blood</u> has <u>eternal life</u>, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Revelation 19:13, 16

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called** The **Word of God** (the one Adam and Eve turned their back on in favor of the knowledge of the tree of good and evil).

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

Revelation 22:14

14 <u>Blessed</u> are <u>those</u> who <u>do His commandments</u> (hear <u>His</u> voice and keep <u>His</u> law), that <u>they may have the right</u> to <u>the tree of life</u> (I feel sorry for those looking for an apple tree!), and <u>may enter through the gates into the</u> <u>city</u>.

Those that do not love and search for truth will never eat from the Tree of

Life!

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