**The Way Of The Tree Of Life Is The Way Of The Cross**

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| **Scripture Text**: |  |

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 Genesis 3:24 KJV  So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.Matthew 7:13-14 KJV  Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:  (14)  Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.John 14:6 KJV  Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

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| **Message:** |  |

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Notice in the beginning of Genesis and John's Gospel that LIGHT and LIFE are stressed.Genesis 1:1-5 KJV  In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.  (2)  And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.  (3)  And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  (4)  And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.  (5)  And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.John 1:1-5 KJV  In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  (2)  The same was in the beginning with God.  (3)  All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.  (4)  In him was life; and the life was the light of men.  (5)  And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.Other versions bring this out about verse 5:John 1:5 CEV  The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.John 1:5 EMTV  And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not apprehend it.John 1:5 HNV  The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it.John 1:5 LITV  and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.And the start of revelation also shows LIGHT in its context.Revelation 1:10-13 KJV  I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,  (11)  Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.  (12)  And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven **golden candlesticks**;  (13)  And **in the midst of the seven candlesticks** one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.      LIGHT and LIFE are very important thoughts in the Word of God since the time of mankind's departure from God when Adam sinned.* The LIFE God wanted man to receive by way of the fruit of life from the tree of life, was neglected by man.
* And it still occurs today.

John brings the thoughts of LIFE and LIGHT together in 1:4* Jesus is the LIFE and the LIFE was the LIGHT of men.

Notice that in Revelation Jesus appears to John in a vision in the middle of a candlestick.* We all know candlesticks are intended for use to lighten rooms.
* But what we might not be aware of is that this picture of seven golden candlesticks is a familiar biblical picture of the candlestick shaped like seven branches of an almond tree, according to Exodus 25.
* And so the idea of LIGHT being the LIFE OF MEN brings together the two main points of Genesis' beginning where God spoke LIGHT and God gave Tree of LIFE to Adam.

It's so wonderful that all these pictures actually focus in upon the crucifixion of Jesus and the purpose for it in God's plan.* In Him was LIFE, and the LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.

John 15 says He is the vine and we are the branches.* He is the TRUE vine.
* That means there is a FALSE VINE.
* And like LIFE in the vine goes into the branch to produce FRUIT, LIFE produces LIGHT FOR MEN of the world.
* And the candlesticks  show that in Revelation 1.

God created man to live forever and have His LIFE flow through man.* It's like God coming into the physical by way of mankind having HIS LIFE inside and accomplishing things and manifesting His love and producing activities that are actually inspired and originated by God's Spirit in man.
* God had a purpose for mankind, and still does.
* And God's purpose for us is meant to exist forever.
* So God never meant for man to ever die.

And while speaking of the tree of life having FRUIT, while Gen 1:11 said fruit has seed within itself, after Adam and Eve sinned God said there would be a SEED of the woman.* This is the bible's first prophecy of Jesus to come and save the world.
* This SEED of the woman would bruise the serpent's head.

And thinking of the FRUIT and the SEEDS and the TREE OF LIFE, we can consider the SEED of the woman a very special seed.John said IN JESUS was LIFE and the LIFE was the LIGHT OF MEN.* And we see a tree-shaped candlestick in Revelation -- the first chapter about a REVELATION -- an UNVEILING -- of Jesus Christ.
* And LIGHT is on the BRANCHES like FRUIT.

If the SEED of the woman would be Christ, and Christ had LIFE in Him to be LIGHT of mankind, then the thought of JESUS BEING THE SEED OF LIFE is clearly in view.* The seed of the woman would be CHRIST -- A SEED OF LIFE.

People wanted to SEE Jesus.John 12:21-25 KJV  The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.  (22)  Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.  (23)  And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.  (24)  Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.  (25)  He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.He spoke of Himself being A SEED that must die by falling into the ground so it can rise again bearing branches and many more seeds like itself.* And all those seeds would be in FRUIT on this tree.

This He said when people wanted to SEE Him.* John was given a REVELATION of Jesus.
* A SHOWING of Jesus.
* Jesus was SEEN by John.
* The whole book implies SEEING JESUS.
* REVELATION OF JESUS.

And just as Jesus showed himself to the Greeks by SPEAKING of being a SEED planted so it can rise up with MANY MORE SEEDS, Jesus is shown to John in the book called "SHOWING JESUS", as it were, and is a TREE with branches all over Him and LIGHT shining out.And look what he says in the midst of this tree.Revelation 1:17-18 KJV  And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:  (18)  I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.He takes all those who have DIED spiritually, and says HE IS ALIVE AND WAS DEAD, AND ALIVE FOREVER MORE.When John SEES this, Jesus speaks of having died and resurrected, just as He told the Greeks when they wanted to SEE Him.    This shows how people are saved when they first receive a word from Jesus.* And Word of God is LIGHT to our souls.
* God’s first words in the bible were LET THERE BE LIGHT.
* And that is the nature of the first words we receive from God, too!
* IT’s TRUTH/LIGHT that changes us into what He is!
* The Bible said GOD IS LIGHT.
* And we are supposed to be in his image.
* Therefore, speaking to us and saying “Let THERE (where? There!) Be light” is God making us into His image BY HIS WORD.!

But due to sin we must die.* Christ died as us in our places to take our deaths and sins.
* And John falls like one dead in Rev when He gets a word from God.
* This is the GOSPEL GOING FORTH.
* His Word is that HIS DEATH affects us in regards to OUR DEATHS.
* We can say WE DIED WITH HIM when He died.
* That is why Jesus applies the fact of HIS DEATH to John when John fell dead
* And we rise to walk in newness of life again!

You could say we went the wrong way back through Adam's actions in taking the wrong fruit with the wrong seed in it.* And instead of becoming extensions of God, we became extensions of the one who gave Adam and Eve the false fruit.

Instead of becoming BRANCHES of God's work, we became extensions of the serpent.* Notice it was a serpent the devil invaded and used in order to haul man down into sin.

Exodus 4:2-4 KJV  And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.  (3)  And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.  (4)  And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:Man fell in sin and took upon himself the nature of the wicked one instead of the nature of God.* God Himself came down in the flesh as Jesus Christ and united to us.
* As Moses' hand grabbed the snake, Jesus UNITED to us.
* This UNION is the work of the cross.
* He did not have to die.
* He had no sin.
* But since MAN WAS DYING, He united to OUR DEATHS and TOOK OUR SINS and chose to be one with us.
* And that UNION allowed for our sins to be removed from us.
* And so when he died, our old lives of sin died with Him.
* Our lives as sinners end the moment we SEE THIS AND BELIEVE IT!

And once we are united to Him in His death... IN HIS REACHING DOWN TO WHERE WE FELL... he picks us up again and we RETURN TO THE USEFUL EXTENSION AND ROD that He created us to be originally.His life hanging on the cross is the core of the MESSAGE and TRUTH that we must believe or else be lost.John 3:14-21 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.  (16)  For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  (17)  For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.  (18)  He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.  (19)  And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.  (20)  For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.  (21)  But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.Notice He spoke of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.* He compares that with Christ being lifted up.
* This is His crucifixion.
* His death.
* And in order to follow the rest of Jesus' words, we must go to the story of Moses.

Numbers 21:5-9 KJV  And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.  (6)  And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.  (7)  Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.  (8)  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.SERPENTS had bitten them due to disobedience to God.* Sounds like the Garden of Eden where Adam disobeyed God and did what the serpent urged them to do.

And the SERPENTS were the cause of the Israelites' dying.* Serpents were killing Israel.
* And so Moses put a serpent -- what was killing them -- on a pole for them to look to that they might not die.

Jesus said His crucifixion was like that.* The serpent put something in our lives, like the serpents put into the Israelites in the form of venom.
* IT WAS the venom of SIN in our cases.
* And SIN WAS KILLING US!
* And so that which was killing us is what JESUS BECAME when He went to the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV  For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.HE WAS MADE SIN FOR US.* When He died, He had already been made SIN for us.
* I believe this occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed about the cup He had to drink.
* He drank the cup.
* He took all our sins into himself.
* And HE BECAME SIN.

And LOOKING TO THAT POLE represented what Jesus said back in John 3.John 3:14-21 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.  (16)  For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  (17)  For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.  (18)  He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.  (19)  And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.  (20)  For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.  (21)  But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.JESUS WAS LIFTED UP SO WHOEVER BELIEVED IN HIM WOULD NOT PERISH.* Moses lifted up that serpent on a pole so every one who LOOKED at it would not perish.
* SEEING IS BELIEVING.
* I do not mean we have to see something before we believe in it, but that SEEING REPRESENTS BELIEVING in this picture.
* DO YOU SEE?
* DO YOU BELIEVE?

And Jesus said if we do not believe we are already condemned.* He did not come to condemn.
* If we do not believe we are condemned already because LIKE VENOM IN OUR SOULS, SIN IS ALREADY KILLING US AND HAS BEEN SINCE THE GARDEN.
* He came AFTER we were condemned by our own sins.
* And he came to GIVE US LIFE!

You have to LOOK to the Lord's crucifixion and SEE something. -- UNDERSTAND something.* It's like getting light from looking at the resurrection tree of life.
* It's getting an understanding.
* WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND HE HAD TO DIE AS YOU WITH YOUR SINS so you could be freed from it -- thereby fulfilling the penalty since there has to be DEATH -- YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE POLE AND ARE SAVED FROM WHAT KILLS YOU.

He took our nature of the serpent upon himself and SLEW IT.* Sinners must die.
* He knew no sin, but TOOK IT ANYWAY.

He did not send anyone to hell. * People were going there themselves, since they condemned themselves by sinning.
* He came to GIVE LIFE!

AND LIGHT SHINES OUT TO THE WORLD.* THE LIFE in HIM is the LIGHT OF MEN.
* His life is His words.

John 6:63 KJV  It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.His words were LIFE.* His flesh hung on the cross and died as us.
* When He spoke of eating HIS FLESH in John 6 and DRINKING HIS BLOOD TO GET LIFE, he was not speaking physically.
* He said in verse 63 HIS WORDS are the life.
* So it's like taking fruit of life from the tree!

It is everywhere!His crucifixion is our remedy.* And HIS WORDS specifically refer to the SALVATION you receive when you SEE AND UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE what His crucifixion is all about.

Like the serpent of Adam's day, false prophets give the WRONG FRUIT today.Matthew 7:13-19 KJV  Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:  (14)  Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.  (15)  Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.  (16)  Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?  (17)  Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.  (18)  A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.  (19)  **Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**Genesis 3:24 said the WAY OF THE TREE OF LIFE was blocked due to man's sins.* Jesus came to give life.
* He said he is the WAY, TRUTH and LIFE.
* Those three terms repeat and emphasize the same point.
* BACK TO GOD and EDEN.
* So Jesus said the WAY OF LIFE is NARROW.
* And there is a very popular BROAD WAY the devil has, just as he had another tree and false vine.
* And there are also two kinds of servants in the world.
* SHEEP are the servants of God and WOLVES are the servants of the devil.
* And TWO KINDS OF FRUIT.

The tree that does not bring forth good fruit is going to be cut down and burned in the fire.**If you never noticed, Genesis 2 has two trees... a true and false.*** Tree of life and tree of knowledge.
* **But at the end of the Bible, In Revelation 20, there is only THE TREE OF LIFE.**

Revelation 22:1-3 KJV  And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.  (2)  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.  (3)  And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:No more curse is there either, as God had to CURSE because of the false tree and man's sin in eating of it.THAT IS BECAUSE between Genesis 2 and Revelation 22 there is the note of Matthew 7 cutting down of the tree and burning it in fire.Revelation 20:10-15 KJV  And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.  (11)  And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.  (12)  And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.  (13)  And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.  (14)  And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.  (15)  And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.The false tree is removed and burned.God is getting man back on track from where w e were SIDETRACKED or DERAILED.* The tree is here again.
* Tree of life.
* He alone can get you through the WAY of the tree of life.
* It's the way of the cross.. because the tree of life today is the CROSS.

His crucifixion is the wondrous plan of the ages for all time to get us back to God.* It was shown through the stories of the old testament over and over again
* I mentioned Moses' rod and the serpent Moses put on a pole.
* I mentioned Revelation's tree of Christ's life.
* Like SAP OF LIFE flowing through the church, COMING OUT IN LIGHT in the vision, His Life is the LIGHT OF MEN.

He took OUR SINS and we were made God's righteousness.Look one more time at this verse:2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV  For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.Isaiah 11:1-5 KJV  And there shall come forth **a rod** out of the stem of Jesse, and **a Branch** shall grow out of his roots:  (2)  And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;  (3)  And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:  (4)  But with **righteousness** shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.  (5)  And **righteousness** shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.He took our sin and we took his righteousness, because THIS ROD and BRANCH of Christ had righteous judgment and a righteous girdle.* Righteousness was all what he was about.
* He took our sin and Gave us HIS righteousness.
* And together we died on the cross BY FAITH.
* Can you have faith you died with Him?
* Is it your good works?
* No

Curses were given forth due to the sin in the Garden.* God cursed the serpent, cursed the woman and cursed the ground for man's sake.
* But Revelation says there will be NO MORE CURSE.
* God wanted to BLESS.
* But man brought upon the curses.
* And JUST AS THE SERPENT TOLD EVE TO BE HER OWN GOD AND THAT SHE DID NOT NEED GOD, BRINGING ON A CURSE, JEREMIAH SAID A CURSE IS UPON THOSE WHO TRUST IN MAN -- TRUST IN SELF.
* And how insane it is for a person to trust in himself.
* It's a like a plant in the desert where there is no water.,
* It won't last!
* But one who trusts in God is like a TREE PLANTED BY WATER WHOSE ROOTS SPREAD OUT!
* LAST FOREVER.
* No danger.

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