

## The Tree of Good and Evil: Covenant, Law, or Both?

### *A Theological Discussion on Genesis 2-3*

The tree of good and evil in the middle of the Garden—is it a covenant, a law, or both? After working through the Scripture and Hebrew, I believe it's BOTH covenant and law, inseparably joined.

### **The Covenant**

The tree represents the sacred use of the fruit of the womb. Genesis 1:28 gave Adam and Eve the commission to "be fruitful and multiply"—this was a holy covenant governing the tree (woman/Eve) in the midst of the garden. The fruit of that tree was the fruit of the womb, designed to produce seed after its kind.

### **The Law**

The law defined the boundaries governing that covenant—when, how, and under what conditions the tree could be used. The covenant was holy; the law protected its holiness. Breaking those boundaries broke both the law and the covenant.

### **The Breaking and the Blood Covenant**

When Adam and Eve used the covenant tree for pleasure only, outside YAHWEH's design, they broke both covenant and law. This brought death. Immediately, a blood covenant was required—animals were sacrificed, and tunics were made from the skins. Abel continued this practice of blood sacrifice (Genesis 4:4), as did Noah (Genesis 8:20). The pattern was established: broken covenant requires blood.

## Abraham's Covenant: The Same Commission

Here's what strikes me most: Abraham's covenant (Genesis 15, 17) is the same commission as Genesis 1:28.

- Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful, multiply, subdue, have dominion" over the Garden
- Abraham: Seed promise, become a nation, inherit the land (milk and honey = the Garden restored)

The blood covenant to Adam and Eve became the pattern for all future covenants—Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Yehoshua. Each one pointed forward to the ultimate blood covenant in the Messiah.

## The Fruit of the Womb

Scripture consistently uses "fruit of the womb" to refer to children:

- Genesis 30:2 - "Who has kept back from you the fruit of the womb?"
- Psalm 127:3 - "Children are an inheritance of YAHWEH; the fruit of the womb is His reward"
- Luke 1:42 - "Blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

And Genesis 1:11-12 establishes the principle: "Let the earth bring forth... the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself." The pattern is clear:

- Tree produces fruit
- Fruit contains seed
- Seed reproduces "after his kind"
- Woman = tree
- Fruit of womb = seed (child)
- Seed follows the father's nature

## The Hebrew: "After His Kind" = Blood Continues

The Hebrew word for "kind" (H4327, מין min) reveals something profound. The Ancient Hebrew Lexicon breaks it down:

- Pictograph: Water/blood (מ) + seed/continuance (י)
- Meaning: "Blood continues"
- Concept: Each species (kind) continues by passing its blood to the following

generation

- Implication: Strength and nature come through the blood

This is why Genesis 1:11 says "seed after his kind"—the blood and nature are passed down from parent to child. This is also why Cain and Abel are different seeds: they have different spiritual blood, different fathers. Cain bears the serpent's nature; Abel bears Adam's nature.

## Conclusion

So to answer your question: Yes, the tree in the midst of the garden (Eve) was a covenant with law embedded in it. The fruit of that tree (the womb) was holy, designed to produce seed after its kind. When used outside covenant boundaries—for pleasure rather than for the sacred purpose YAHWEH designed—it brought death and required a blood sacrifice to restore the relationship with Elohim.

The tree of good and evil was both a covenant and a law. You cannot separate them. The covenant defined the relationship; the law protected the covenant. Breaking the law broke the covenant. And from that broken covenant came the promise of the Seed who would restore all things—Yehoshua, the ultimate fulfillment of the blood covenant.

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