

True Story — Three Trees

December 24, 2023

Pastor Doyle Jackson

God is Great and Marvelous*

Christmas Reading - Together

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.

Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

For we know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that we were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to us from our ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for our sake. Through him we believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so our faith and hope are in God.

*Revelation 15:3b-4; 1Peter 1:18—21

I. The Tree of Good and Evil — Rejected

Genesis 2:9; 15-17 (NIV) *Trees of the Garden...* **9** The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil....

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

 God's blessing includes _____ and responsibility.

II. The Tree of the Cross — Accepted

1 Peter 2:24-25 (NKJV) **24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. **25** For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) **13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)

 We break the curse by _____ Jesus and the cross.

III. The Tree of Life — Expected

Revelation 22:1—5 (NIV) *The River of Life in Heaven...* **1** And he (*the Angel*) showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. 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. **4** They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. **5** There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever..

 Live with hope in Jesus, _____ more with God.

Christmas Prayer:

Father, I thank you for Jesus, who came personally for me. I'm here to celebrate with You. I welcome your presence and salvation. Cover my body with your healing, my mind with your peace, and my heart with your love. In Him —Amen.



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