

## Doctrinal Studies: THE TREE OF LIFE

- Symbol of Eternal Life
  - Seen in Gen. 2:9; 3:22, 24
  - Related to the New Jerusalem in Rev. 22:2;14 Third Heaven by Paul in 2 Cor. 12:2-4; Prov. 3:13-18; 11:11-31; 13:10-16; 15:1-5
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- I. The Tree of Life is the total happiness for which man was designed by creation before he sinned.
  - II. References to the Tree of Life (TOL) are confined generally to three books: Genesis, Revelation, and Proverbs.
  - III. Full capacity for eternal blessing and happiness is related to the TOL.
  - IV. The TOL is related to immortality where capacity for happiness is perpetuated apart from any act of volition in eternity to destroy that happiness. At the present time we can use our volition to destroy our happiness – but in eternity volition cannot be used to destroy that happiness.
  - V. In eternity man will not be able, in his resurrection body, to repeat the fall of the original parents (Adam and the woman), or to sin as they did in the Garden.
  - VI. The TOL is related to immortality and immortality under the status of happiness – eternal happiness – to a greater or lesser degree.
  - VII. There will be degrees of happiness in heaven, as well as degrees of rewards. Why? It is because winners are authorized to eat from the TOL, and some heavenly desserts will not be made available to losers.
  - VIII. The cosmic believers will have a resurrection body since their failures in life will not in any way negate their eternal life; but some heavenly privileges *will be omitted*.