

TRANSPLANTED TWICE

⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7 [NKJV]

In the center of the garden of Eden, God planted a tree. On the entire planet, ONE TREE was forbidden!

"Knowledge of good and evil"

Deciding for yourself what is good or bad belongs to God. Don't eat of it! That fruit will kill you!

"Every herb and tree has seed in it, Adam. Whatever you like, plant a **whole continent** of it, if you want! Just one tree, don't eat, that's mine!" Then, God planted the last defense. Right next to it, he planted the Tree of Life. "If you eat **that** fruit, you'll have eternal life!"

Who could resist that? If Adam was tempted by sin's tree, on this tree hung life eternal. *But we know.* Sin did come. The Tree of Life was ignored. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was tasted. Man was banished from paradise.

So, God transplanted the tree of life to a Hill outside of Jerusalem. Once again, eternal life hung on that tree. By taking of that fruit, man could live forever, and once again know the dominion he had lost. Mankind could return to paradise.

There were two other trees on that Hill. On them hung the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, the wages of sin.

Thieves

Fitting, for indeed, in the garden of Eden two thieves had taken what belonged to God! Once more the choice was presented: Continue eating the stolen fruit or turn to the tree where hung eternal life.

One thief chose the fruit of eternal life.

*⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me **in paradise**.*

Luke 23:43 [KJV emphasis added]

A forgiven thief - now a righteous man - breathed his last. As he woke in paradise, Jesus was waiting ...

"C'mere here, son. Help me transplant this tree ..."

*"To him who * overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is **in the midst of the Paradise of God.**"*
Revelation 2:7 [NKJV emphasis added]

Once again the tree of life was planted in the midst of paradise.

* So, we must ask ourselves, "How does a person overcome?"

*⁴ For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has **overcome** the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

1 John 5:4-5 [NKJV emphasis added]

Faith!

Today, turn from deciding right and wrong for yourself, to the one who freely gives eternal life. By faith, take Jesus and overcome.

Eat all you want!