



bloodline network newsletter

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HEDGED IN

And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **GENESIS 2:9**

God spoke to Adam saying, "Of every tree of the Garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die."

If God wanted to 'test' obedience, why use something that caused DEATH? After all, Christ LEARNED obedience by the things he suffered—learning is experiential. Why put the tree of death in the MIDDLE of the garden and not put His firewall around it?

Adam and Eve didn't need a guard at the tree because they were in His Presence.

= EVE'S TEMPTATION

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

*Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **GENESIS 3***

- Satan QUESTIONED God's INTENTION. He implied that God denied man's right to happiness. His tone suggested God kept something from them—insinuating an ulterior motive—envy.
- Satan CONTRADICTED God's INTEGRITY. He calls God a liar, saying, "You will not surely die." He denies God's Word is true

- Satan TRANSCENDED God's EXISTENCE. He showed them another way to become God by promoting the forbidden fruit as a product able to produce wisdom. Satan intimated 'experiential knowledge' of what this forbidden fruit offered mortals—that eating it would make them divine.

= **STEALING**

Stealing is taking something that belongs to another without their permission.

All the trees were “good for food and pleasant to the eye”—but Satan intrigued Eve with a tree that also had ‘power’ to make one wise.

- Eve, not aware that she's already made in God's Image—is tempted to eat the forbidden fruit to be like God.
- Eve, not aware that God kept nothing from her at all—felt deprived. It's the basis of most sales pitches to create the image of limited supply. She could have spoken to God, but she's caught up in the URGENCY of the moment. Convinced God withheld something that's rightfully hers—she stole it.
- Eve, not aware that God had something better for her, partook of the only tree He FORBADE them to eat. She consumed forbidden fruit thinking it held the secret to divinity—that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil would make her wise.

Eve's distrust of God's Word led to a complete disregard of it—she felt justified to eat it. She never considered it STEALING—she merely took what was withheld from her.

= **FIREWALL**

So (God) drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. **GENESIS 3:24**

Only after the fact did God put a firewall around the garden with an angel to guard the tree of life. Stealing changed the protocol of man's relationship with God.

Later God would command Moses to "...set a BOUNDARY ... that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base." "Then the Lord descended on (Mount Sinai) in FIRE." He warned Moses to keep the people from gazing at Him. Those 'not consecrated' He threatened to break out against. Numerous incidences portray fiery outbreaks consuming people at the 'outskirts of the camp.'

God dwelt between the Cherubim in the Tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple of Solomon. Those who STOLE a look at the Presence of God in the Ark or TOUCHED it immediately perished.

= CONSUMING FIRE

Everything that can endure FIRE, you shall put through the FIRE, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification. **NUMBERS 31:23**

We went through fire and through water; but You brought us out to rich fulfillment. I will go into Your House with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows. **PSALMS 66**

God is a CONSUMING FIRE. What part do we STEAL from Him that could ever possibly diminish God? What part of a CONSUMING FIRE can we steal and not be consumed ourselves?

What would we be stealing from God? He says before we pray for it, it's already PROVIDED. In the day we need it—it's there. Before we can even think of stealing it—it's already GIVEN to us.

God created a world for us and prepared everything in advance. In the moment we need it—there it is. That doesn't mean only when we're threatened by the devil—it's for every decision we make.

= VEIL OF DARKNESS

And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy. **EX 26**

Satan's methodical temptation distorted God's Word—casting a shadow or VEIL over Truth. From that moment on man would doubt what God spoke. Deceived, they QUESTIONED everything.

Satan tried to keep man ignorant of truth. But the veil is removed in Christ—signified by the rending of the veil at His death. Jesus as High Priest bridged the great divide between heaven and earth. In Christ Jesus we likewise pass through the veil ... door ... barrier ... firewall ... by the blood of His sacrifice.

Light shone at the beginning of creation—but in the new creation His Light shines even brighter in the hearts and souls of the REDEEMED. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Because of His SACRIFICE we boldly walk through the veil to enter the realm of the Most Holy Place.

= PARTAKE OF TREE OF LIFE

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you and many sleep. **1 COR 11:29-30**

After Jesus' Resurrection, He walked with the two disciples from Emmaus and conversed about the crucifixion. But it's at the 'breaking of bread' that their eyes opened and they knew His Identity.

What's the significance in the order He established for the 'breaking of bread?' It must be powerful—Jesus talked with them for a long time but not until He broke bread did He rend the veil on their hearts.

Jesus is the Bread of Life. In Jesus there is a SUBSTITUTION through sacrifice—life instead of death. We partake of the Tree of Life in Communion—restoring/redeeming man's original Identity in the Garden.

= **FIERY PRESENCE**

For you did not come to ... (Mount Sinai) that burned with FIRE ... But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem ... to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant ... For our God is a consuming FIRE. HEBREWS

The FIREWALL is the outer dimension of the invisible tabernacle of Christ. "We have come to Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem."

The Firewall is penetrated by Perfect Truth—those purified by the Word of God walk through the firewall unharmed. Jesus represents man's way into the Holy of Holies, the way into the Garden of Eden. Through Christ we partake of the tree of life and gaze into His Fiery Presence ... walking in and out of His Spiritual Tabernacle between heaven and earth.

= **HEDGED IN**

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may HAVE THE RIGHT to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **REVELATION 22:14**

Lucifer and his legions tried to steal God's glory, His Light, His Thunder—but God would never allow it. Neither could Satan steal God's creation. Not knowing who they really were—mankind forfeited their rights ... but that all changed in Christ.

Since Christ, God's Presence dwells within—we have the right to once again partake of either tree—it's FREEDOM. Today we have the right to eat freely of the tree of life!

God never put a wall around the garden to keep man from eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but He did put one around the tree of life. He separated the vile from the precious. You are precious to God—that's why He hedged you in all sides ... promised that nothing will ever harm or hurt you ... keeps you as the apple of His eye. God made you a walled city ... He is your shield ... a cloud to protect by day and fire pillar by night.

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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