

Crystallization-Study Outlines

GENESIS (1)

Message Six

The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9, 16-17; John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:6b

- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- 2 Cor 3:6b ... for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

I. The tree of life signifies Christ, who imparts life to man and who pleases and satisfies man—Gen. 2:9; John 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:63; 1 Cor. 15:45b; cf. John 15:1; Exo. 15:25:

- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
- John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- Exo 15:25 And he cried out to Jehovah, and Jehovah showed him a tree; and he cast it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there He tested them.
- A. The tree of life is the center of the universe; according to the purpose of God, the earth is the center of the universe, the garden of Eden is the center of the earth, and the tree of life is the center of the garden of Eden.
- B. We must realize that the whole universe is centered on this tree of life; nothing is more central and crucial to both God and man than this tree.
- C. God's placing man in front of the tree of life indicates that God wanted man to receive Him as man's life by eating Him organically and assimilating Him metabolically so that God might become the very constituent of man's being—John 6:35, 57.
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- D. According to John 1:1 and 4, life is in the Word, who is God Himself; this life—the divine, eternal, uncreated life of God—is Christ (11:25; 14:6a; Col. 3:4a), who is the embodiment of God (2:9).
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
- Col 3:4a When Christ our life is manifested, ...
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

- E. The tree of life grows along the two sides of the river of water of life (Rev. 22:1-2), indicating that it is a vine; since Christ is a vine tree (John 15:1) and is also life, He is the tree of life.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- F. Christ was processed through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection so that man may have life and live by eating Him—10:10b; 6:51, 57, 63.
- John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

II. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man—Gen. 2:9, 17; Heb. 2:14:

- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
- A. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil also signifies all things apart from God, for anything that is not God Himself, including good things and even scriptural things and religious things, can be utilized by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man.
- B. Even the Scriptures inspired by God and the law given by God can be utilized by Satan as the tree of knowledge to bring in death—John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:6.
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

III. God's first commandment to man concerned man's eating, not man's conduct—Gen. 2:16-17:

- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- A. Eating is critical to man, a matter of life or death; man's outcome and destiny before God depend altogether on what he eats.
- B. If man eats the tree of life, he will receive God as life and fulfill God's purpose; if he eats the tree of knowledge, he will receive Satan as death and be usurped by him for his purpose.
- C. God's forbidding commandment, given as a warning to man (vv. 16-17; cf. Eph. 2:1), indicates the following:
- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
1. It indicates God's greatness in creating man with a free will so that man may choose God willingly and not under coercion.
 2. It indicates God's love for man.
 3. It indicates God's desire that man would eat the tree of life to receive God into him as his life.

IV. The tree of life causes man to be dependent on God (John 15:5), whereas the tree of knowledge causes man to rebel against God and to be independent from Him (cf. Gen. 3:5):

- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.
- A. The two trees issue in two lines—the line of life and the line of death—that run through the entire Bible and end in the book of Revelation.
 - B. Death begins with the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17) and ends with the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 14); life begins with the tree of life and ends in the New Jerusalem, the city of the water of life (22:1-2).
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- Rev 20:14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

V. We need to see the line of the tree of life throughout the Scriptures:

- A. Abel contacted God in God's way—Gen. 4:4.

Gen 4:4 And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.
- B. Seth and Enosh called upon the name of the Lord—v. 26.

Gen 4:26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.
- C. Enoch walked with God—5:22, 24.

Gen 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot more sons and daughters.

Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.
- D. Noah walked with God and worked together with God—6:9, 13-14.

Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God.

Gen 6:13 And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.

Gen 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.
- E. Abraham lived in the appearing of God and called upon the name of the Lord—Acts 7:2; Gen. 12:7-8; 17:1; 18:1.

Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Gen 12:7 And Jehovah appeared to Abram and said, To your seed I will give this land. And there he built an altar to Jehovah who had appeared to him.

- Gen 12:8 And he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah.
- Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; / Walk before Me, and be perfect.
- Gen 18:1 And Jehovah appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.
- F. Isaac lived in the appearing of God and called upon the name of the Lord—26:2, 24-25.
- Gen 26:2 And Jehovah appeared to him and said, Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I will tell you.
- Gen 26:24 And Jehovah appeared to him the same night and said, I am the God of Abraham your father. Do not be afraid, for I am with you, and I will bless you and multiply your seed for My servant Abraham's sake.
- Gen 26:25 And he built an altar there and called upon the name of Jehovah and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.
- G. Jacob lived in the appearing of God and called upon the name of the Lord—35:1, 9; 48:3.
- Gen 35:1 And God said to Jacob, Rise up, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.
- Gen 35:9 And God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram and blessed him.
- Gen 48:3 And Jacob said to Joseph, The All-sufficient God appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me.
- H. Moses lived in the appearing and the presence of God—Acts 7:30; Exo. 3:2, 16; 33:11, 13-15; 34:29; 25:9.
- Acts 7:30 And when forty years had been fulfilled, an Angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a thornbush fire.
- Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.
- Exo 3:16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, I have surely visited you and seen what is being done to you in Egypt.
- Exo 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.
- Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.
- Exo 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.
- Exo 33:15 And he said to Him, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.
- Exo 34:29 And when Moses came down from Mount Sinai-and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain-Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone by reason of His speaking with him.
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- I. The children of Israel journeyed in the presence of the Lord—13:21-22; Num. 14:14.
- Exo 13:21 And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them on the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might go by day and by night.
- Exo 13:22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night departed from before the people.
- Num 14:14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Jehovah, are in the midst of this people; for You, O Jehovah, are seen in plain sight, and Your cloud stands over them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.
- J. Joshua lived and worked in the presence of the Lord—Josh. 1:5-9.
- Josh 1:5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.

- Josh 1:6 Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them.
- Josh 1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, being certain to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn away from it to the right or to the left, that you may have success wherever you go.
- Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success.
- Josh 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.
- K. Gideon fought the battle in the presence of the Lord—Judg. 6:12, 16.
- Judg 6:12 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him and said to him, Jehovah is with you, valiant warrior.
- Judg 6:16 And Jehovah said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you will strike the Midianites as one man.
- L. Samuel prayed and called upon the name of the Lord—1 Sam. 12:23; 15:11; Psa. 99:6; Jer. 15:1.
- 1 Sam 12:23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against Jehovah by ceasing to pray for you, but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
- 1 Sam 15:11 I repent that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not fulfilled My words. And Samuel was angry, and he cried to Jehovah all night long.
- Psa 99:6 Moses and Aaron among His priests, / And Samuel among those who called on His name - / They called out to Jehovah, / And He answered them.
- Jer 15:1 And Jehovah said to me, Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My soul would not turn toward this people. Send them out of My sight and let them go.
- M. David trusted in God, looked to God, and enjoyed God as life—1 Sam. 17:37, 45; 30:6; Psa. 27:4, 8, 14; 36:8-9.
- 1 Sam 17:37 And David said, Jehovah, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and may Jehovah be with you.
- 1 Sam 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied.
- 1 Sam 30:6 And David was very distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for the soul of all the people was bitter, every man because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God.
- Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.
- Psa 27:8 When You say, Seek My face, / To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.
- Psa 27:14 Wait for Jehovah; / Be strong, and let your heart be encouraged. / Yes, wait for Jehovah.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- N. Daniel prayed to God constantly and contacted Him continually—Dan. 6:10-11; 9:2-4; 10:1-3, 12.
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.
- Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

- Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
- Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
- Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the word was true and concerning a great distress. And he understood the word and had an understanding of the vision.
- Dan 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three full weeks.
- Dan 10:3 I ate no desirable food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, until the three full weeks were completed.
- Dan 10:12 And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
- O. Jesus as the Son of God lived by God—John 5:19; 6:57; 14:10.
- John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- P. The New Testament believers live by the Lord and enjoy the Lord—15:5; 6:57; 14:19; 6:35; 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; 1 John 1:4.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
- John 16:24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full.
- John 17:13 But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves.
- 1 John 1:4 And these things we write that our joy may be made full.
- Q. Paul lived out the Lord—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- R. The church as the Body of Christ lives by Christ as life—Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 3:4.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- S. The New Jerusalem is sustained by the river of water of life with the tree of life—Rev. 22:1-2.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

VI. We need to see the line of the tree of knowledge throughout the Scriptures:

- A. Cain presented an offering to God in his own way, not in God's way; he murdered his brother and went out from the presence of the Lord—Gen. 4:3-9, 16.
- Gen 4:3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.
- Gen 4:4 And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.
- Gen 4:5 But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.
- Gen 4:6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?
- Gen 4:7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and his desire is for you, but you must rule over him.
- Gen 4:8 And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.
- Gen 4:9 Then Jehovah said to Cain, Where is Abel your brother? And he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?
- Gen 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
- B. Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord, was a person who was absolutely independent of God, building a kingdom for himself, and the beginning of his kingdom was Babel—10:8-11.
- Gen 10:8 And Cush begot Nimrod: He began to be a mighty one on the earth.
- Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Jehovah.
- Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.
- Gen 10:11 From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-ir and Calah
- C. The people at Babel held a council, and the result was the construction of a high tower for man's name and the formation of a city for his possession—11:3-4.
- Gen 11:3 And they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and they had tar for mortar.
- Gen 11:4 And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth.
- D. Lot drifted away from the line of life by making a choice according to his own sight—13:10-13, cf. vv. 14-15, 18.
- Gen 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw the entire plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before Jehovah had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt, as you go to Zoar.
- Gen 13:11 So Lot chose for himself the entire plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed east; and they separated themselves from each other.
- Gen 13:12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.
- Gen 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were very wicked and sinful toward Jehovah.
- Gen 13:14 And Jehovah said to Abram after Lot had separated from him, Now lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;
- Gen 13:15 For all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever.
- Gen 13:18 And Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.
- E. Esau, for the purpose of satisfying his appetite, sold his birthright—25:30-34.
- Gen 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Let me swallow down some of the red stew, that red stew there, for I am faint. Therefore his name was called Edom.

- Gen 25:31 And Jacob said, First sell me your birthright.
- Gen 25:32 And Esau said, I am now about to die. Of what use then is this birthright to me?
- Gen 25:33 And Jacob said, First swear to me. And he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- Gen 25:34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose up and went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.
- F. Pharaoh was rebellious against God, and his heart was hardened toward God—Exo. 5:2; 7:13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:34-35.
- Exo 5:2 But Pharaoh said, Who is Jehovah that I should listen to His voice to let Israel go? I do not know Jehovah, and I also will not let Israel go.
- Exo 7:13 And Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.
- Exo 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret spells; and Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.
- Exo 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.
- Exo 8:19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God. But Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not listen to them, just as Jehovah had said.
- Exo 8:32 However Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, and he did not let the people go.
- Exo 9:34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.
- Exo 9:35 So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not let the children of Israel go, just as Jehovah had spoken through Moses.
- G. Aaron listened to the people and acted independently to make a golden idol—32:1, 4, 24.
- Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, Come, make a god for us who will go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.
- Exo 32:4 And he took the gold from their hand and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!
- Exo 32:24 So I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out.
- H. Nadab and Abihu offered “strange fire” to God—Lev. 10:1-2.
- Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in them and laid incense on it, and they presented strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them.
- Lev 10:2 And fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.
- I. Miriam and Aaron were opposed to Moses, not as a result of their contacting God but because of their own motive—Num. 12:1-2, 9-15.
- Num 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman).
- Num 12:2 And they said, Has Jehovah indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not also spoken through us? And Jehovah heard it.
- Num 12:9 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against them, and He departed.
- Num 12:10 And when the cloud had departed from over the tent; there Miriam was, leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, leprous.
- Num 12:11 And Aaron said to Moses, Oh, my lord, please do not lay this sin upon us that we have so foolishly committed.
- Num 12:12 Please do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb.
- Num 12:13 And Moses cried to Jehovah, saying, Please heal her, O God, please.
- Num 12:14 And Jehovah said to Moses, If her father had just spat in her face, would she not bear her shame seven days? Let her be shut up outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.
- Num 12:15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out until Miriam had been brought in again.

- J. The ten spies failed because they looked at the situation in the land by their own sight; they failed because they relied on their knowledge and refused to trust in the Lord—13:28, 32-33, cf. v. 30; 14:6-9.
- Num 13:28 However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and we also saw the descendants of Anak there.
- Num 13:32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.
- Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
- Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
- Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.
- Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
- Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.
- Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
- K. Korah and his company attacked God's deputy authority—16:1-3.
- Num 16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took men
- Num 16:2 And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men.
- Num 16:3 And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?
- L. Saul acted independently and did not follow the Lord; rather, he dealt with the enemy according to his preference—1 Sam. 15:8, 11, 22-23.
- 1 Sam 15:8 And he captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.
- 1 Sam 15:11 I repent that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not fulfilled My words. And Samuel was angry, and he cried to Jehovah all night long.
- 1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, / Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices / As much as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? / Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, / And to heed, than the fat of rams.
- 1 Sam 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also rejected you from being king.
- M. Absalom rebelled against his father, King David—2 Sam. 15:10-13.
- 2 Sam 15:10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, When you hear the sound of the trumpet, you shall say, Absalom is king in Hebron.
- 2 Sam 15:11 And with Absalom there went two hundred men from Jerusalem, who had been called and went innocently; they did not know anything.
- 2 Sam 15:12 And while he was offering the sacrifices, Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, a counselor of David, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy gained strength, and the people with Absalom increased continually.
- 2 Sam 15:13 Then a messenger came to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.
- N. Ahab was an evil king who married Jezebel, a devilish and idolatrous woman, and built a temple for Baal, the most famous idol of the time—1 Kings 16:30-32.
- 1 Kings 16:30 And Ahab the son of Omri did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah, more than all who were before him.

- 1 Kings 16:31 And as if it were a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshipped him.
- 1 Kings 16:32 And he raised up an altar to Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.
- O. The chief priests and the scribes knew the letter of the Bible but not the life of the Bible—Matt. 2:4-6.
- Matt 2:4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- Matt 2:5 And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written through the prophet:
- Matt 2:6 "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you the least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, One who will shepherd My people Israel."
- P. Nicodemus was seeking knowledge, but what he needed was a new life—John 3:1-3.
- John 3:1 But there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
- John 3:2 This one came to Him by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- Q. The Jewish religionists searched the Scriptures thinking that in them they had eternal life, yet they would not come to the Lord for that very life—5:39-40.
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- R. The scribes and Pharisees held the knowledge of the law but were still under the slavery of sin—8:5, 9, 34.
- John 8:5 Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What then do You say?
- John 8:9 And when they heard that, they went out one by one, beginning with the older ones. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman stood where she was, in the midst.
- John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.
- S. The disciples who were with the Lord still held the traditional knowledge of religion when they saw a man blind from birth—9:1-3.
- John 9:1 And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.
- John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?
- John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him.
- T. Martha was occupied with the line of knowledge, holding the knowledge of the sound teachings regarding the resurrection in the last day—11:23-25.
- John 11:23 Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again.
- John 11:24 Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- U. Peter, after receiving the revelation from the heavenly Father, turned to his mind and was utilized by Satan to frustrate the Lord from going to the cross—Matt. 16:17, 21-23.
- Matt 16:17 And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

- V. Judas, who was always occupied with thoughts of money, opened himself to the devil and betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver—John 12:4-6; 13:2, 27; Matt. 26:15; 27:5.
- John 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was about to betray Him, said,
 John 12:5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?
 John 12:6 But he said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, carried off what was put into it.
- John 13:2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him,
 John 13:27 And at that moment, after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, What you do, do quickly.
- Matt 26:15 And said, What are you willing to give me, and I will deliver Him to you? And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.
- Matt 27:5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple and departed, and he went away and hanged himself.
- W. The unbelieving Jews kept their law and sentenced the Lord Jesus to death according to it—John 19:7.
- John 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He made Himself the Son of God.
- X. Saul of Tarsus, a foremost religionist, persecuted the church until God revealed His Son in him—Gal. 1:13-16; 2:20.
- Gal 1:13 For you have heard of my manner of life formerly in Judaism, that I persecuted the church of God excessively and ravaged it.
- Gal 1:14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my race, being more abundantly a zealot for the traditions of my fathers.
- Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
 Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,
 Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Y. The Corinthian believers were enriched in all knowledge but were puffed up and still infants in Christ—1 Cor. 1:5; 8:1; 3:1.
- 1 Cor 1:5 That in everything you were enriched in Him, in all utterance and all knowledge,
 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
 1 Cor 3:1 And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshy, as to infants in Christ.
- Z. The Gnostic philosophy distracted and spoiled many believers from enjoying Christ as their life—Col. 2:8, cf. v. 6.
- Col 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
 Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
- AA. The dissenters in the church make divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the teaching of God's economy—Rom. 16:17; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- Rom 16:17 Now I exhort you, brothers, to mark those who make divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the teaching which you have learned, and turn away from them.
 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- BB. The teaching of Balaam, the teaching of the Nicolaitans, and the teaching of Jezebel deceived the early churches, who turned away from the eating of and feasting with the Lord—Rev. 2:14-15, 20, 24, 7, 17; 3:20.
- Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you, that you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat idol sacrifices and to commit fornication.

- Rev 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- Rev 2:20 But I have something against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, she who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and leads My slaves astray to commit fornication and to eat idol sacrifices.
- Rev 2:24 But I say to you-the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they Say-I put no other burden upon you;
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.
- Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
- CC. Antichrist will be the man of lawlessness, the son of perdition; he will be the giant on the line of knowledge, and his destiny is to be cast into the lake of fire with Satan, the source of death—13:5-8; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 19:20; 20:10.
- Rev 13:5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and authority was given to him to act for forty-two months.
- Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, which tabernacle in heaven.
- Rev 13:7 And permission was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority was given to him over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.
- Rev 13:8 And all those dwelling on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name is not written in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world.
- 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- DD. “The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life”—2 Cor. 3:6b:
- 2 Cor 3:6b ... for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
1. The Bible in dead letters, which belongs to the tree of knowledge, kills, but the Spirit, who belongs to the tree of life, gives life.
 2. Besides the line of knowledge there is the line of life (cf. Deut. 30:19-20); praise the Lord for the choice of life!
- Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,
- Deut 30:20 In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.