

## Occasional Update #12

24 March 2023

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)  
"Surely I am coming soon", Jesus said. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen! (Revelation 22:20-21)

### Alpha Α and Omega Ω

I guess many people know that Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek **alphabet**, so these letters can be used to symbolise the First and the Last; the Beginning and the End.

I've found it interesting to compare the first 3 chapters of the Bible, with the last 3 chapters.

### GENESIS 1, 2, 3

These three chapters speak about ...

1. **Paradise**: Creation – everything was “very good” – perfect, sinless, pure, and God was there!
2. **Two trees**: Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil **and** Tree of Life. God told Adam and Eve *not* to eat the fruit of the knowledge of Good and Evil [good almost always has an evil counterpart] but He also gave them the freedom of **choice!**
3. **Disobedience**: They chose the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (right and wrong). And so, sin corrupted the perfect world that God had created.

#### Results?

**Shame / guilt** (they clothed themselves with leaves). **Fear of God** (“I was afraid...”).  
**Hid from God. Blamed others**: Adam → Eve → Serpent.

**Judgement**: Denied the Tree of [eternal] Life. Denied the Garden of Eden. Denied close fellowship with God. (Notice that there is no indication of repentance).  
“**PARADISE LOST**” (John Milton wrote a long poem, with this title).

**Genesis chapters 1, 2, 3: Degeneration** – from God's perfect creation, to people's disobedience, and loss of eternal life with Him in Paradise.

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### REVELATION 20, 21, 22

**Chapter 20. Judgement**: of the serpent; and of the living and the dead.

**Chapter 21. New Heaven, new Earth, new Jerusalem** – “very good”; where our holy God “dwells” with His people (21:6-8, 27).

- Nothing that defiles; no abomination, lies or evil.
- Tears are wiped away. There is no death, sorrow, crying, or pain.
- There is Water of Life for the thirsty.
- Those in Heaven are overcomers who have **inherited** all things because He is our Father, and we are His children.

- There is no need for a Temple, the sun, or the moon because the glory of the Lord God and the Lamb are with us.
- Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, will live there forever.

**Chapter 22. One tree:** The only tree is the Tree of Life, eternal life. Its roots are in the river of the pure water of Life. It is a place of Perfection – there is no sickness, no curse, no night, tears, death, ... (See 22:3, 11-17).

There is eternal separation of the righteous and holy, from the unjust and filthy.

Heaven is a Holy Place; the Almighty God dwells there; there is **no** sin in Heaven!

**Revelation chapters 20, 21, 22: Regeneration** – “Behold, I make all things **new**.”

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**WHAT COMES BETWEEN  
THE FIRST 3 CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE AND THE LAST 3 CHAPTERS?  
BETWEEN DEGENERATION AND REGENERATION?**

God is holy. Heaven is holy. But every person sins and therefore cannot live in a holy Heaven with a holy God. An answer to the question, “Why does God send some people to hell?” is that, in a sense, God *doesn't* send people to hell. God gave Adam and Eve a **choice**: the Tree of Life, or the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. They made the wrong choice and were separated from the place of Paradise, the original Garden of Eden.

If sinful people lived in Heaven, then Heaven would not be perfect; it would not be holy, and would not be Paradise. Pure gold has *all* impurities removed from it before it can be called pure gold. So how can *anyone* go to Heaven? What lies between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant? Between **Degeneration** and **Regeneration**?

**REDEMPTION!**

Remember the two trees in Genesis? and only one tree in Revelation? One tree was missing – the tree on which **Jesus** died for our sins, and conquered the power of sin and death. There's no sin and no death in Heaven! The imperfect **can** be made perfect again! To purify gold, it is melted at 1064 °C and the impurities are scraped off its surface. To purify us, **Jesus** suffered and died on a tree. The perfect One gave His life so that we can be made holy, through His death.

Remember **Choice**? The Lord gave Adam and Eve the choice – obey or disobey; live life in all its fulness, with the LORD God Almighty, or be separated from Him forever. The choice is ours: God's way with God's blessings, or our own way with all its sad consequences. “**Choose** today who you will serve, ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (See Deuteronomy 30:14-20, and Joshua 24:15)

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is not in the New Jerusalem – there is only *one* tree – the Tree of LIFE – whose roots are on both sides of the river of the water of LIFE (the water Jesus spoke about to the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4:10-15)

**JESUS** is the **First and the Last – the Alpha and Omega**  
(Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13)

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Jesus said to a woman, at a well in Samaria, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." (John 4:10-15)

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, **choose** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15. Also see Deuteronomy 30:14-20).

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"  
And let everyone who hears say, "Come!"  
And let everyone who is thirsty come!  
Let anyone *who wishes [chooses]*, take the Water of Life as a gift.  
Revelation 22:17

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