

*Tree Of Life*



**UNLIKE EVE,  
WE WAITED FOR THE VOICE OF AUTHORIZATION TO EAT**

B e n H o w a r d

*To:*

*The Wife Of The Lord Jesus Christ*

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June 1, 2008

Dawsonville, Georgia USA

Brother Ben Howard

## Unlike Eve, We Waited For the Voice of Authorization to Eat

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I want to speak on the subject, "*Unlike Eve, We Waited for the Voice of Authorization to Eat.*" You'll find when we look at this, the tree of life and the little book as it relates to the bride of Jesus Christ is basically the same. The book that was sealed with seven seals is seen by John as having to do with the church ages in this particular scene. Although the bloody Lamb here means He paid the sin debt for all God's creation. The seven horns and the seven eyes on the Lamb that took the book in Chapter 5 of Revelation shows something that will benefit His wife. It is showing the ending of the church ages. Notice, the little book was sealed with seven seals; and it is for the bride of Christ. We'll be dealing with that in this message, and I also want to deal with the tree of life that was set in the Garden of Eden and show that there was also another tree that was more visible and more assessable and could be approached from the physical standpoint. God said not to eat of this tree; but there was someone there saying, eat this. Note here, that there was nothing said concerning the eating of the tree of life at this time, because that would have been later in God's plan. But standing here in the garden was the serpent saying, "Eat this." Now there was an opportunity to present temptation to eat of the tree of knowledge without the tree of life being involved. That has been the picture all the way through, and even up to where we're at today. Especially coming up to the time where we have taken the book and began to eat. There has been a voice that God allowed and it has been more visible, more excitable, and looks like it would be the right voice, rather than waiting on God to tell us to eat. That's the way it's been in this hour. But there had to be somebody to say, "No, I'm going to wait to take the book. I don't have all the answers on everything; but I'm going to stay the course until I see clearer." Because there have been times when we were looking through a glass darkly, and we could only feel our way. The Word says to feel after the Lord. It also says to follow on to know the Lord. That's the way the walk has been in this generation as God began to restore back the Word. Each and every time God was bringing life or giving an opportunity to eat from the book, there was also a counterpart that was more exciting to the human realm and more enticing with a louder voice saying, "Come and eat with us."

There has always been the other side as God is giving life. That's God's way of testing. Everything that comes into His kingdom He tries. Somewhere we all come through trials and testing to get where God wants us. Yet we've got our eye on the prize, and we keep going towards that regardless of what it looks like otherwise. That's the way it's been with this particular part of the Word of God that we've been preaching here. There's been a counterpart that looks much better when looking from the natural eye. The speakers have seemed to be more eloquent in some ways, depending on whether you're looking at it in the natural or spiritual. I think an eloquent speaker is one that speaks the Word of God. But we waited, and we've come into something. We're past the point where the Mighty Angel of Revelation, Chapter 10, raised His hand to heaven and swore that time is no more. We're past the point where eating of the little book is only done as the ministry feeds it to you. There was a time

when it was said, and there was probably a lot of truth to the statement, that you're probably not going to get any revelation until the preacher gets it and preaches it. That's not so now, because as we're baptized into the body of Christ, we all eat the little book, and the body prophesies. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. We all receive of the Lord. Once this takes place and we have begun eating, then the enticement of the other side begins to vanish away. That's because you are in Christ and you can no longer be tossed to and fro. You cannot be lost. You cannot be deceived. Once you eat the little book, once you take it in your hands, there's no way for you to be deceived or tossed to and fro. There's where we've come. Unlike Eve, who decided, "This isn't going like I think it ought to," or "I think there ought to be more going on than what is," or "look over here, they've got this and it's working there." They'll say, "Look how good everything is working over there. Can this here be God when it's a constant struggle?" Well, let us look at Paul. He went up to Jerusalem in Chapter 21 of Acts. He had been in Asia and different places. It's true that he had some large crowds at times to preach to, but at other times he said, "No man stood with me, only the Lord." There was a few of the ministers that he thought highly of, but he said, "They have forsaken me." One time he said, "Only Luke is with me." Then when he went up to Jerusalem, James came out and said, "Brother, you see how many thousands there are that believe (in Jesus) and they are very zealous of the law." Paul's presence there started an uproar and they were about to tear Paul apart, but the soldiers came in and rescued him and put him in prison. Then his ministry went into another phase. It didn't end. That's where we get some of these good books like Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, where he tells us, "You are translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light." Many of these wonderful things were laid in there, not particularly for them at that time because the church had already begun to fall away, but God laid it in there for us.

Let's pray before going to the scripture. *Heavenly Father, as we've got your Bible, thy Book, thy Word, open before us, I pray God, that you will anoint us as we read and that you will grant us grace to speak the words you would have us speak this morning. I pray that the words as they go forth will find a lodging place in the hearts of the people and they'll, as one said, prosper where you send, and bless, and accomplish that which you've ordained. I pray, God, for that anointing not only upon myself; but upon the hearers. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Now reading in Genesis, Chapter 2:8-9, "*And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*" Notice this part that says "grows out of the ground." This is talking about physical fruit. Then He goes into another realm, which is spirit. Notice the tree of life 'also' in the midst of the garden. The strange thing about this is that it never was authorized for them to eat of the tree of life, but there would come a time when it would be. At that time the tree of life had to do with the reproduction of the human race, bringing forth children as God would give the revelation of the right time for Adam and Eve to come together. We know that they failed to wait for instructions as God foresaw they would, and that's why He made

provision. That's why Christ was slain from the foundation of the world. Do you see that? God knew what would take place. The tree of life was there; but God never did say, "Go, eat of the tree of life." The Voice of Authorization hadn't come to Eve yet, but it would. It would have been by the law in her body to bring forth. The two trees of Eden were two laws of Eden; but the tree of life never was eaten from in its original form, because Eve couldn't wait for instructions. Instead they ate of the tree of knowledge and not the tree of life. Then God removed it and took it away so that it could not be eaten in that form. God said, "Lest you eat and live forever." It could not be eaten in that form; but God's plan hadn't finished yet. His plan was still going and He knew exactly what He was going to do. That Voice of Authorization is in Revelation, Chapter 10 where it says, "Go and take the little book." Eve never did get that, because she couldn't wait. There are people today that didn't get that, because they couldn't wait for God's time to take the little book; but formulated their own plan.

There was a time in the Bible that's called the kingdom of heaven age, and it has to do with the seven church ages. During that time God specifically permitted certain things to take place, because He knew the tree of life wasn't available in this form. They hadn't been told to take complete possession of it. So He permitted certain things to take place 'until' it ran its course of seven church ages. He said to even let the wheat and tares both grow together. The Bible says to let them all grow together and God would separate them at the end time, and that end time has already come. It's already separated. God has already given us the little book and we're eating and we're not under that church age law anymore, but some couldn't wait.

Sometimes God lets a trial or a test be there. The serpent had some Word, for he said, "Yeah, hath God said." The serpent told Eve, "You don't have to wait on God." He told Eve to look at nature and said, "You don't have to wait on God. I will show you how to have a child without waiting on God." He persuaded Eve, and like Brother William Branham said, "Eve couldn't wait." That is typical of the church (foolish virgins) today, they couldn't wait. They have to get out there and do something themselves rather than come in and wait upon the Lord. The Bible says, "*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they'll mount up with wings as eagles; they'll run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint,*" (Isaiah 40:31) because they waited. We have waited until we could see the way. The wife has the Word that's brought back again in this hour with the same Jesus, the same power, the same Spirit. Christ and the bride (wife) totally united in marriage. He that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit.

So, the tree of life was in the garden and also the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said concerning the tree of knowledge, "The day you eat thereof, that day you'll surely die." But I want you to notice the tree of knowledge was good and evil. It is good if you wait till the time. They say it takes time to make good wine. Sometimes you just have to wait on the Lord until He tells you what to do. It wasn't that the tree of knowledge was so bad itself, but it was the usage of the tree. It definitely could produce good, but outside of God's original ordained way it would be evil. It's the same thing today. All the way through there has been another side to this thing. Even as Israel came through the land, the other nations looked good out there.

Everything looked so flowery and so good. It was said of the children of Israel that they were just a little, beat down people, but God said He didn't choose them because they were the greatest; He took the smallest number and did it. They were a little rag-tag bunch; but they had the will of God, the Word of God. They had a prophet of God. Of all the groups in the world, and of all the nations in the world, God only sent one nation a prophet. Think about that. Of all the groups and religious systems in the world, God only sent a prophet at that time to the nation of Israel. God sent Moses and said, "Go, bring my people out." That's what God is interested in, bringing His people out. Of all the great religious systems, with all their money and finery, with all their systems and assemblies, here came a prophet to a little place in Jeffersonville, Indiana USA. Everybody was in their big air-conditioned places, and here came a man in a little wooden building with no air-conditioning and a wood heater, and when he got through preaching, they just sat around talking about the Word and asking questions. This was a man that God used. He laid hands on the sick and they got well. He had discernment, and yet, there he was in that little place. Others said, "Come and join up with us." See, that's what was in the garden. God's law says, "There's the tree of life sitting here that God wants to give you in His own time, and if you eat it, you will live forever and not die." But the ole serpent said, "You're not going to die, you don't have to wait, I've got another plan. I can send you all over the world. You won't have to worry about paying bills." That's the other side. But trust in God, He will bring you out. Trust in Him, He will show you the way. Trust in Him, He will give you that little book. But on the other side, He's going to let enough things come along so that it will be kind of enticing to go the other way. He lets our human side show. He'll let faults and failures be highlighted so that you'll say, "I thought that was God and I felt like it was and I felt good; but I'm seeing this thing isn't running as good as I thought it was going to run." Have you got a revelation? There's the tree of life sitting there. God just hasn't said to eat it yet, to take possession of it yet. But Eve said, "I'm not waiting." Not to long ago, somebody told me that we needed to get the show on the road. In other words, don't fool around and preach little messages to a handful of people. When we were over in one of the African countries on one of our trips, there was this preacher that was having meetings and had gathered in maybe 800 to 1000 people. He said to me, "Ben, don't waste your time and money coming to Africa and going to small groups out here. We can guarantee you 10,000 people if you'll come through us and plan it with us. You're going out to those small villages and preaching. You don't have to do that. It's a great waste." To whom was it a waste? It's not a waste. It's right to go where God leads you. Someone could have looked at Philip leaving that big revival in Chapter 8 of the Book of Acts. There were hundreds, whole cities coming out. Devils came out crying with loud voices. People were being delivered. All of a sudden an angel came and messed up his program. God sent an angel and said to Philip, "Arise and go down into the desert. There's a man down there who is a eunuch and he riding in a chariot." Philip could have said, "Now, wait a minute, Lord. Are you sure? Maybe my mind is playing tricks on me. Am I hearing right? Here are thousands of people and you want me to leave this big meeting and go down there to one person. Lord, that can't be right." And the Lord said, "Go." Philip went down and got one converted and he went on his way rejoicing. To vindicate that God was with him Philip was

caught up by the Spirit of the Lord and set over in another town. God lets certain things come that looks good. Therefore, we've all had to walk the straight line, and we've gotten to the place where He has given us the little book of Revelation, Chapter 10.

When we look at Ephesians, Chapter 4, it says you'll reach the perfect stature of the man Christ Jesus; and at that time you'll no longer be tossed to and fro. It's over with, your battle is won, as far as being pulled this way or pulled that way by religious groups, or by big meetings, or by so-called preachers. Put it in the Word, and if it's in the Word, it doesn't matter if it's 2 or 200, or 200 thousand. If it's the Word, go with that. If God wants you out here on the desert alone for awhile, then you go on. People say, "Well, I believe if it was God that there would be more people, and more of this and more of that. God is going to put something over here with more people, more spirit, more shouting, more talking in tongues, so that you can say, "Okay, there it is." One time, my wife Barbara asked this man about baptism and he said, "We'll do it whichever way you want, and if you don't want to be baptized then that's alright too. But if you do, then we'll do it in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, or the name of Jesus, whichever one you want. Look what a crowd we've got. Look what's taking place." She said, "Thank you, but no thanks." That's the way this thing is. There's always the other side pulling, but we've come through all these things.

On the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost, God let the brethren of Jesus Christ eat their portion from the tree of life. There was life there; but they never did take full possession of it because they weren't to be the Gentile wife that is bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, as He is the husband and she is the wife, whereas the Jews are His brothers. God did give them life as well as all of His predestinated children. But there is a specific gospel that is for the bride. This specific gospel was put in Paul. Paul said, "I am the minister of Jesus Christ to you Gentiles, and unto me is committed this gospel." He said, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His body's sake, which is the church." (Colossians 1:24) The thing is that God revealed certain things to him about the Gentiles. Read Chapter 15 of Romans. It says Christ came to the covenant people (Israel) and as a minister to them. Paul was explaining why Jesus came to the Nation of Israel and offered Himself. But then, he went right from that and began to quote scriptures that related to the Gentiles. "*And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.*" Then in Verse 16 of this same Chapter in Romans, he said, "*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.*" He said he wasn't building upon another man's foundation, because it was to be something very specific. He said, "*For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.*" (Romans 15:18) Paul said, "I have begotten you. You could have 10,000 instructors in Christ, but I have begotten thee. You don't have many fathers, but you only have one father." It was a similar situation with the prophet of God, William Branham who came and restored us back to the faith of the 'fathers.' That means what the church was taught, taking all that the apostles said collectively without separating the gospel to the Jews and to the Gentiles as defined in Galatians, Chapter 2, as Peter having the gospel to the Jews and Paul having the

gospel to the Gentiles. But now, God has separated the bride with revelation, and He revealed that there's 'one father' with the gospel for the Gentiles, and Paul was that in his day. He took only the parts of the Word that the other apostles brought that would fit the Gentiles and with the furtherance of revelation of the gospel that God gave him, he laid the foundation for the Gentiles by the wisdom of God. God helped him connect the Gentile church into that Jewish branch that it might get the life and get everything that Jesus paid for, and by this means, the Gentile bride received it.

Does the Bible give life? Yes, there's life there, but it has to be proportioned right. That tree of knowledge was fine and it was good, because everything God made he saw that it was good, and that includes the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Of course, this was two laws, but they had to wait on God's time to **connect them together** and bring forth children with eternal life. This Adam and Eve failed to do, thus the fall of mankind took place. So, how are children brought forth today? They are brought forth in the natural; and strictly by the tree of knowledge, because the tree of life is not in that realm. It's in a new birth realm now. It's in a revelational realm. The latter part of 2 Corinthians, Chapter 3:3 says, "*Written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God: not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*" He's telling them where the real Word is at. This is not talking about the Bible, because Verse 6 says, "*Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.*" This says "*able ministers of the New Testament,*" and there was very little New Testament written at this time. Just like in Acts, Chapter 19:10 where it says, "*All they that dwelt in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus.*" This Word that they were hearing was, Holy Ghost Word with life in it. It wasn't the letter of the Word. You say, "Are you discrediting the Word of the Lord?" No, I'm saying that you have to worship God in Spirit and in truth. You have to have the Word and the Spirit, because the next part of this says., "*for the letter killeth.*" The letter killeth (the tree of knowledge of good and evil), unless it is connected to the Spirit (the tree of life). It was the same thing in the Garden of Eden. It will kill you without God's Spirit. It will kill a congregation. A preacher can get up and condemn the people, spewing out condemnation, and all the time quoting scripture while he's doing it. The people walk out, and as Paul said, "It slew me." People have felt like they've been slain. They feel like they went to church and got slain, got cut low. When they come out they feel like they've been cut to pieces. Paul said, "It slew me." When we go on to Chapter 8 of Romans, he begins to talk about the Spirit of life has made us free from the law of sin and death. But notice, here he says the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. There's life. There's the tree of life, the book of life. The Bible says, "The tree of life is in the midst of the paradise of God. The only way you can get to it is by revelation, not by studying, not by learning, not by anything; but by the revelation that the Lord gives you of that tree of life.

The Apostle Paul was a thorough, perfect representation of the tree of life in his time period. Because God said, "I have made you to be a light to the Gentiles." Somebody said, "But I thought Jesus Christ was?" Well, He was, but it was Jesus Christ in Paul. When Paul walked out there and preached the Word, that wasn't Paul preaching, but it was Christ in him. Paul

said, "If you're going to preach the letter of the Word, it will kill you. It's got to be the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:6) When the church fell away from the Spirit of the Word, God took the understanding away and sealed it, until now when He has opened the seven seals. The life of the Word did not come back in the form of the little book that we could take possession of until the church ages were over, until the seven seals were opened, and the Angel raised His hand to heaven and swore that time is no more for the kingdom of heaven age. In that kingdom of heaven age, they only got portions of the tree of life (revelation) for the time periods that they lived in as each church age messenger brought his message. During this kingdom of heaven age they had to live among situations and had to be careful to not get deceived. Paul said, "There's men among you right now, and as soon as I'm gone they're going to rise up and draw disciples after themselves. But today, the only ones that come into this are those that are baptized by one Spirit into the body of Christ, and not a one of them is out to deceive. Not a one of them is out to draw disciples after themselves. They all speak the same thing, see eye to eye, and they recognize Jesus Christ as the head of the church. They recognize the church as a group of people that receives revelation that can even help the preacher. That's baptized into the body. That's taking possession of the little book. Unlike Eve, we've waited. We didn't jump out there and try to contend with Brother Raymond Jackson on his preaching seven additional men were to come that would be thunders, and his preaching that the seventh seal had not been opened. But we just waited, because knowing God in His infinite wisdom, He would stop us until the Voice of Authorization came to take the little book, and that would make the difference.

That's the way God said it would be. He said a five fold ministry would come and feed the church from the hand of God through the ministry. In Revelation, Chapter 10:8-11 we see John, him being a type of this very situation showing the wife of the Lamb. After this is made known, we understand clearly that this is showing the whole body of Christ that takes the little book. Here we see the ministry and all other members of the body of Christ joined together and married to Christ. So unlike Eve, we've waited for the Voice of Authorization and now we're married to Christ. We've become His wife. We're clothed in fine linen, clean and white. We waited, we've come into it, and here it is! This is to those that have revelation, and to them it's just as clear as the noon day sun. He comes and His face is like the sun, but it's hid with a cloud. What is the cloud? The cloud is things that God allowed to form to keep us from seeing clearly until that time. The only thing the world sees now is a cloud. They see a little group of people, not many in number; but precious in His sight.

Now we can say, "I've found a new home. I've found a new master. It's not a denominational master. It's Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. I've found some new food. It's eating the little book and it's as sweet as honey." Can you see the wisdom of God? How that He puts something on the other side to try you, to test you? But somehow, all the time He was doing that, He put a little revelation way down on the inside of the inside, that you felt somehow this is right. You might have said, "I may not understand all the ins and outs, but I've got a feeling this is right." Then the way gets clearer. It says in the Book of Job that the path of a

righteous man is as a light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Then the voice is clear. Then that old serpent can't tempt us anymore. God took care of that. God has taken care of anything that would tempt us and try to pull us aside. There's no temptation that has taken us to pull us this way or that way. Since we ate the little book, nothing else will satisfy. Do you see that unlike Eve, we waited for the Voice of Authorization? Unlike all the other movements, we waited for the Voice of Authorization to say, "Now, go take the little book!" We have taken the little book. We ate it, and now we're no longer tossed to and fro. We're the body of Christ; the joints supply each other, and we're doing just fine. May God bless you.