

# Table of Time References

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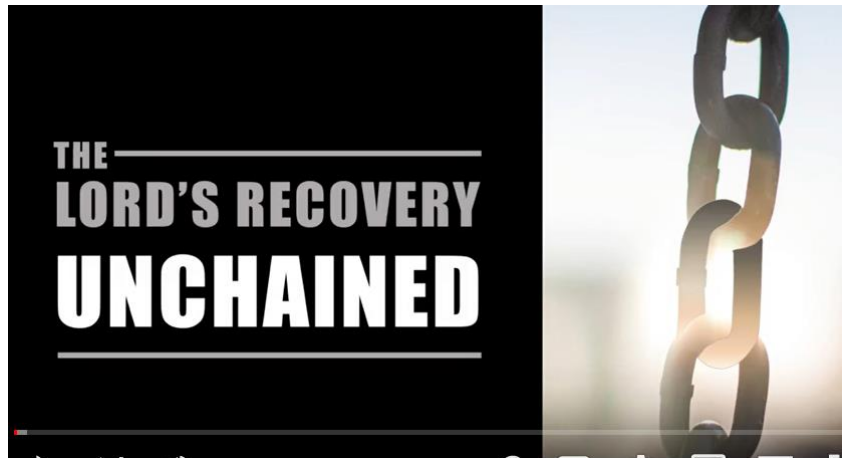
## Contents

(0:34-32:19) Test a litany of conclusions .....	4
(0:59/32:19) Right and Wrong.....	4
(1:10/32:19) Test All things.....	4
(1:34/32:19) Life Study of Genesis quote.....	5
(2:28/32:19) Gen. 2:8-9 .....	5
(2:34/32:19) Not quite true .....	5
(3:06/32:19) Gen. 2:9.....	6
(3:42/32:19) WL half-truth .....	6
(4:20/32:19) The story gets changed.....	6
(4:46/32:19) WL v the Bible.....	7
(5:02/32:19) Huh?.....	7
(5:33/32:19) Sounds good—not true .....	7
(6:09/32:19) Gen. 2:15-17—Did you see that?.....	8
(7:14/32:19) Stomachs can understand .....	8
(7:33/32:19) Lee changed the Bible.....	9
(8:30/32:19) Sounds good—ain’t right.....	10
(9:38/32:19)Test Their Words .....	11
(10:22/32:19) What’s in the center? .....	11
(10:46/32:19) Both trees in the center .....	12
(11:15/32:19)Change the story to pit the trees.....	12
(11:48/32:19) Not “life” is “death” .....	12
(12:47/32:10) Countless trees .....	12
(13:08/32:19) WL: No no no no no!.....	13
(14:05/32:19) LR problems for decades .....	13
(14:48/32:19) Enjoy something? No no no no no.....	14
(15:26/32:19) Freedom is not sinful .....	14
(16:43/32:19) Epitome of Legalism.....	15
(17:07/32:19) Not legal? On the contrary... ..	15
(18:12/32:19) WL: Tree of life, source of life .....	16

(18:56/32:19)Are you shaking your head? .....	17
(19:20/32:19) Adam formed before the tree .....	19
(20:09/32:19) God is the source of life .....	19
(20:45/32:19) How death entered .....	19
(21:32/32:19) Prevented from living...you die.....	20
(22:20/32:19) Wages of sin.....	20
(22:46/32:19) Disobedience.....	21
(24:37/32:19)God cannot carry death .....	22
(25:20/32:19) Romans—More proof .....	23
(26:00/32:19) Death, not through the fruit.....	24
(26:20/32:19)”forsake the plain words...” .....	24
(27:20/32:19) “you’re dead” = punishment .....	24
(27:52/32:19) Genesis 3:22.....	25
(28:14/32:19) WL COMPLETELY FALSE.....	25
(30:10/32:19)Not the tree of death.....	27
(31:47/32:19) Lee makes God an evil God.....	28

# The Lord's Recovery UNCHAINED

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## THE TWO TREES

(Note: This video was transcribed by Nell. It's as accurate as possible, but there may be some variations, especially between the timestamp and the text.

Click the Table of Time References to follow the link.

If you find errors, please let me know and I will correct. Thanks--Nell)

Welcome back to another discussion on the LR

Today we're going to talk about the teaching of the LR about the two trees in the garden of eden in Genesis 2 and 3. Remember, the co-workers of the LR have admitted that WL's teachings are not infallible. So we're testing the teachings of the LC to see if we should hold fast to them as biblically true or discard them as biblically false like the Bible tells us to do.

### **(0:34-32:19) Test a litany of conclusions**

So why is this an important teaching to test? Because there are a litany of conclusions that are produced from WL's teaching on this topic. Conclusions like these:

- God doesn't care about good and evil, right and wrong
- Knowledge is death
- Good is death
- Death is lurking behind good intentions
- Death is lurking behind good
- Knowledge and good bring in death
- Opinions are of death
- Satan entered into mankind
- It just matters what you are, not what you do
- You are "on the wrong tree"

If you are going to believe and hold fast to claims like "God doesn't care about right and wrong, or knowledge is death or good is death," well, these are the kinds of things you really want to make sure actually have biblical basis.

### **(0:59/32:19) Right and Wrong**

These are the kind of statements that directly affect your thoughts, your behavior, your actions and the way you view and do many things.

### **(1:10/32:19) Test All things**

So Let's just be responsible adults and spend a little time to test whether they are biblically true in the first place. Can we just be real and admit that it's a serious thing to walk around believing and teaching that God doesn't care for right and wrong?

So lets start by looking at what WL has to say about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. We'll start slowly in the Life Study of Genesis

### **(1:34/32:19) Life Study of Genesis quote**

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. 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. It is very meaningful to see man in the garden standing before the tree of life.

-Witness Lee, Life-Study of Genesis, Chapter 11, Section 4

Witness Lee, Life Study of Genesis, Chapter 11, Section 4

He (Lee) repeats the concept of the tree of life being in the center of the garden again here, saying the tree of life was the center and here saying God placed man in a garden with the tree of life as the center. And again here saying the Bible begins with the tree of life as the center and once again saying that the tree of life is the center of the garden.

### **(2:28/32:19) Gen. 2:8-9**

“Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed. 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.” Gen. 2:8-9

In this portion he goes so far as to quote the verses in Genesis 2:8-9 which ends with “as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden.

### **(2:34/32:19) Not quite true**

So what’s the clear takeaway? There is a garden and in the center of the garden is the tree of life.

Sound good? Welllllllll...it’s not quite true. It’s not really true that it’s the tree of life that’s the center of the garden. The truth is that both trees, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil AND the tree of life were in the center, or were the center.

But WL, conspicuously, doesn’t say that. Here’s the verse:

**(3:06/32:19) Gen. 2:9**

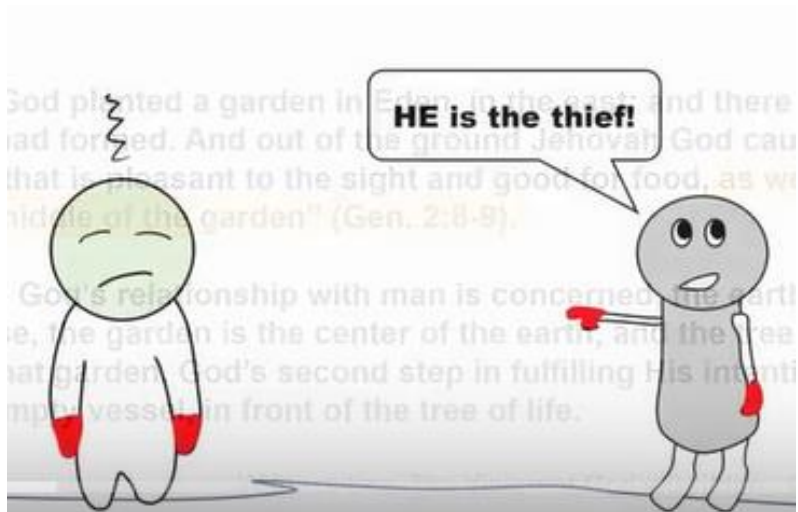
Genesis 2:9 “The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. **In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.**”

That’s right. In that previous excerpt WL quoted Genesis 2:9 but he literally left off the part of the verse that shows that both trees were in the center (of the garden) so WL keeps saying one tree is the center and he actually truncates verses to make it look like it’s the only tree there in the center .

**(3:42/32:19) WL half-truth**

Well, that’s clearly a half-truth, or a misrepresented truth, or a truth containing a glaring omission...like if you and a friend both committed a crime and got caught red-handed...and you kept telling the police that your friend was the guilty party, buuuuuuu never mentioned you also happened to be a guilty party.

I think you can see the issues with this way of relaying information. Because, the way WL keeps presenting the situation makes it seem—for all the world—like it’s only the tree of life that’s the center of the garden when there are two trees in the center and he keeps saying one of them is the center.



**(4:20/32:19) The story gets changed**

Well, no one walks away from hearing that thinking there are really two (trees) there in the center, and the story gets changed from what the Bible says—just a little bit.

Don’t get me wrong—the tree of life is definitely an important critical component of the story, but both trees were in the center and neither is described as “more in the center” than the other.

### **(4:46/32:19) WL v the Bible**

I'm not being negative here in pointing this out—by the way—we are literally just looking at what the Bible says. And, I hope you would agree with me, that if the Bible says one thing, and WL says another, we should go with what the Bible says.

### **(5:02/32:19) Huh?**

So lets look at another excerpt. WL says

**Genesis 2:17 tells us that God issued man a warning and gave him a prohibition. God wanted man only to touch Him to receive life, but not to touch the things apart from God to receive death. God seemed to tell Adam and Eve, "Don't touch the tree of knowledge—only touch the tree of life. If you eat the tree of life, you will receive Me and have My life. If you eat the tree of knowledge, you will take in Satan and have his death."**

-Witness Lee, Life-Study of Genesis, Chapter 14, Section 5



### **(5:33/32:19) Sounds good—not true**

Sound good—again? It's not true—again. Yep. You heard me right. Saints and listeners, what WL said there is not true.

First of all, and we'll bring this up again in subsequent videos, it's not the 'tree of knowledge"—like he (Lee) says here—it's the "tree of **the knowledge** of good and evil."

"Knowledge in general" versus "knowledge, specifically of good and evil" are two different things.

Secondly, God did not tell Adam and Eve, or even "seem" to tell Adam and Eve to "only touch the tree of life."

**(6:09/32:19) Gen. 2:15-17—Did you see that?**

Look! Here are the verses starting with verse 16.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, **“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;**

17 but you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

**Did you see that?** WL claimed God told Adam to only touch or only eat the tree of life but it doesn't say that—at all! God said they are free to eat from any tree in the garden, and he (God) only told him (Adam) not to eat of “one tree.” God, flat out, didn't even say the words “tree of life” to them until he banned them from it later on.

It's like you walk into a “love feast” and there is a table of food packed with pizza and chicken and tacos and salad and sandwiches and dips and cookies—all of which is good for food. It's the difference between being told you can eat all of the food—except for that one dish in the middle versus being told that you should not eat ANY of the food, except for one of the dishes.

**(7:14/32:19) Stomachs can understand**

All of our stomachs can readily understand how different these two scenarios are.

So, Lee says the tree of life is the center of the garden and that God told them ONLY to eat of the tree of life.



But the Bible says both trees, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life, were in the center of the garden, and that God told them they could eat of

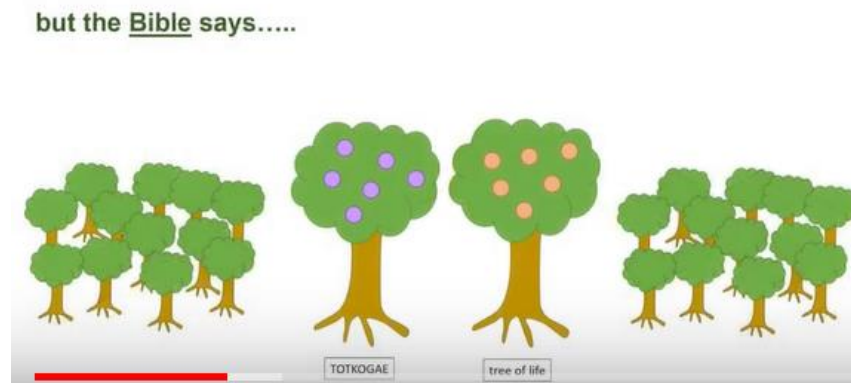


ANY of the numerous trees, except for just the one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



**(7:33/32:19) Lee changed the Bible**

**But the Bible says,** both trees, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life were in the center of the garden and that God told them they could eat of ANY of the numerous trees, EXCEPT for just the one tree...the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



So we have barely started looking at the story and already WL has very much changed what the Bible says.

## THE BIBLE

1. Both trees in the center
2. Eat of countless trees except for one

## WITNESS LEE

1. One tree in the center
2. Eat only of one tree

This isn't just a mistake or a one-time thing. WL does it again in other parts of the ministry by saying:

God putting man before two trees indicates that man had a free will. The two trees show that in this universe there are two wills, two sources, and two possibilities for man to choose. God put man before the two trees in a neutral position....After God put man in front of two choices, **God warned man not to choose the wrong tree and charged him to eat the right tree (Gen. 2:16-17).** This indicates that God created for man a free will and that God wanted man to exercise his free will to choose Him.

-Witness Lee, *Basic Lessons on Life*, Chapter 2, Section 4

### (8:30/32:19) Sounds good—ain't right

Again! All biblical words! You read it and it all sounds good, right? But, as I hope you can tell, this isn't what the verses say, as we've already seen. God did not charge man to eat the right tree, like WL said he did. The verses Lee references, Genesis 2:16-17, **do not say that.**

Here are the verses again. It's as plain as day.

#### Genesis 2:16-17

- 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;  
17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

By the way, every time the ministry references a verse to support its teaching—I know this is a big task, but—you need to look up that verse and *read it in context*. Don't just take their word for it that whatever they say is automatically supported by the Bible. You need to

# TEST THEIR WORD

Not doing so leaves you wide open to deception. Look at the verses!

**Genesis 2:16-17**

**16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;**

**17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

## **(9:38/32:19) Test Their Words**

The Bible is saying something totally different than what WL has claimed it says. And buckle up with me here, but there were also not two choices that corresponded to the two trees.

God didn't say “don't eat this tree and only eat that tree.” He did not give man only two choices, in the way WL has presented. God permitted them to eat from any tree in the garden, except for one.

This means there were not two possible trees for man to eat from, but countless. The choice man had was not “this tree” or “that tree,” but whether or not to eat of *one tree*.

The choice man had was whether or not to obey God's command. That was man's choice.

God putting man before two trees indicates that man had a free will. The two trees show that in this universe there are two wills, two sources, and two possibilities for man to choose. God put man before the two trees in a neutral position....After God put man in front of two choices, God warned man not to choose the wrong tree and charged him to eat the right tree (Gen. 2:16-17). This indicates that God created for man a free will and that God wanted man to exercise his free will to choose Him.

-Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Life, Chapter 2, Section 4

## **(10:22/32:19) What's in the center?**

And secondly—wait a minute! We've just looked at five ministry excerpts where WL unequivocally represents multiple times that it's only the tree of life in the center. But here Lee describes the scene as man placed in a neutral position before

two trees. Well. I'm not sure how God can place man neutrally before two trees if only one of them is in the center, and the other is somehow so far away that WL never describes it as also being "in the center."

**(10:46/32:19) Both trees in the center**

Logical geometry would dictate that both of the trees would indeed need to be "in the center" for man to be able to be in front of both of them neutrally.

So WL's own teaching doesn't logically cohere, and it's actually kind of frustrating because it shows that he (Lee) really did know what the text said—that both the trees were together in the center—making his prevalent teaching elsewhere, that it was only the tree of life in the center all the more problematic.

**(11:15/32:19) Change the story to pit the trees**

While all of this may seem nitpicky, it is really significant. Because, in changing the story to pit the two trees against each other as some kind of opposing forces, WL created an incredibly binary situation in the garden of Eden by saying that *only* the tree of life is the center, and by saying that God wanted man to *only* eat of the tree of life, and that man *only* had two choices, WL created a scenario where everything was "only life" or "only death".

**(11:48/32:19) Not "life" is "death"**

We can see this kind of blanket statement here where Lee says "anything that is not life is of death and results in death."

This sweeping categorization of only two possibilities, completely ignores the abundance of other trees in the garden that they were free to eat from that *did not lead to death* but were also not the tree of life.

Do you see the problems that immediately spring from what WL taught here? The wealth of other pleasant trees that were good for food, were put there by God as good, acceptable and, even to use a common LC term, "proper" to eat. God wanted them to eat of all those trees. He encouraged them to. He told them, and this is important, that they were free to eat *of all those trees*. They had full freedom from God to do so.

**(12:47/32:10) Countless trees**

There was *only one tree* they were not to eat from, in a garden of countless trees that they *were* free to eat from.

But WL comes along and says *no, no, no!* The *tree of life is the center* and says that God charged them *only* to eat of the tree of life! And *anything that is not the tree of life* and is automatically *death and of death*.

**(13:08/32:19) WL: No no no no no!**

In other words, where **God granted** encouragement and enjoyment and uncondemned freedom to partake in many good and enjoyable things other than and in addition to the freely available tree of life; **WL instead placed restriction**.

Where God granted freedom, WL placed restriction.

What God called good, WL condemned.

What God called good, WL, instead, called death.

This should actually shine light on vast amounts of the perpetually unresolved issues in the LR. It applies, not to every single problem, but to almost every problem in the LC. The co-workers would do well to see this and take sober steps to make serious changes in this regard.

**(14:05/32:19) LR problems for decades**

Because the problems that have plagued the LR as a group have not changed over the decades. The concerns and serious issues the saints rightfully have, decade after decade—so-called “storm after so-called storm, “rebellion” after “rebellion” —many of them are precisely because of what you see on the screen (below):

<b>GOD</b>	<b>WITNESS LEE</b>
<b>FREEDOM</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>CONDEMNED</b>
<b>GOOD!!</b>	<b>DEATH</b>

So many things God has given his people the freedom to do, so many things God considers good, or simply “perfectly acceptable” these are things that in the “church life’ are called “death,” and over which the saints are threatened that they would be touching “death”. When the truth is these things are not death at all.

**(14:48/32:19) Enjoy something? No no no no no**

And how does this apply to our daily life? Our behaviors and our actions?

Well...next time you want to do something or buy something or go somewhere or enjoy something but feel condemned about it because it is not explicitly “of life” or “pure Christ.” And because of this teaching you think that it automatically means it is “of Satan” or “of death,” instead, stop and use your sober mind to consider whether it is not “of death” but is actually like one of the many, many trees God gave man the total freedom to enjoy, that were not the tree of life or the forbidden tree.

**(15:26/32:19) Freedom is not sinful**

There is much freedom in our lives that God has explicitly given us the uncondemned approval to enjoy and participate in that is not sinful—that the ministry in the LC utterly and wrongly condemns as death.

Here’s a great example from the Life Study of Genesis:

To save the soul means to refuse to suffer for the Lord's sake. Christians who save their soul like to have their pleasure. They say, "What's wrong with going to sporting events? It's not sinful." Although it may not be sinful, it is worldly. I am not saying that Christians should have no physical exercise for their health. We certainly need that. But once any form of exercise becomes a sport or entertainment, it is worldly. If you enjoy it and find it pleasurable, it means that you are saving your soul. To have any psychological and worldly enjoyment is to save the soul.

Today is not the time for us Christians to have psychological and worldly pleasure or enjoyment; it is the time for us to suffer in our soul, in our psychology. As long as we can maintain our existence, it is sufficient. We should not seek psychological and worldly pleasure.

...we must suffer the loss of every kind of amusement and entertainment. Your enjoyment of certain music at home may be a saving of your soul. Many Christians cannot overcome their television sets. Their watching television may be a saving of their soul. I am neither religious nor legal, but I do say that today is not the time for us to have psychological and worldly amusement; it is the time for us to suffer in our soul.

-Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Genesis*, Chapter 53, Section 5

(Read highlighted text. End of paragraph 3)

WL claims he is neither religious nor legal, but I’m afraid that telling people who look to you as the “minister of the age” that they are “wrong to have any psychological enjoyment” is the epitome of legalism! *This is the most legalistic I’ve ever heard!*

## (16:43/32:19) Epitome of Legalism

have their pleasure. They say, "What's wrong with going to sports... ul." Although it may not be sinful, it is worldly. I am not saying that... e no physical exercise for their health. We certainly need that. But... rcise becomes a sport or entertainment... is wrong. If you enjoy... , it means that you are saving your soul... av... psycholog... yment is to save the soul.

t the time for us Christians... has... worldly ple... it is the time for us to suffer... our psychology. As lon... n our existence... it... we... did not seek psychological... ure...

suffer the loss... amusement and entertainment. Yo... of certain... may be a saving of your soul. Many Chri... come their... sets. Their watching television may be a sa... either religious nor legal, but I do say that today is not the time fo... cal and worldly amusement: it is the time for us to suffer in our sc...

Saints! Use your sober mind! WL's rules are not your standard if they are contrary to what God has given you. WL's category of "worldly" is what the Bible, many time, would actually call "lawful." It's like Christ set us free and WL put us in bondage again.

## (17:07/32:19) Not legal? On the contrary...

Someone claiming they are "not legal" while (also) telling you not to have literally *any* psychological enjoyment is like someone squeezing your head in a clamp while telling you they are not crushing your skull.

On the contrary to all this, the Bible says God provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

**1 Timothy 6:17**

**Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

**Genesis 2:9a, 16**

**9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food...**

**16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;**

In Genesis it says God made all kinds of trees pleasing to the eye and good for food and gave man the freedom to eat of them.

**Uh oh.** Heaven forbid Adam and Eve got any psychological enjoyment from the pleasing looking trees...right?

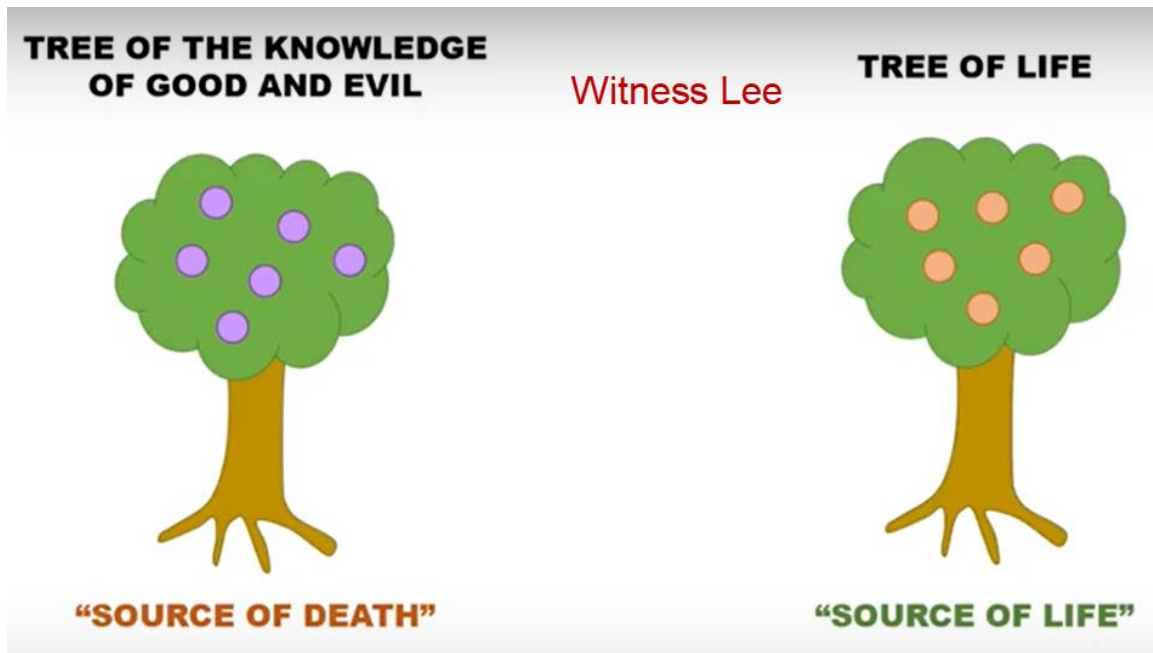
WL needs to put his whip away and repent for whipping you to the ground, just because you...I don't know...*smiled?*

I'm about willing to hazard a guess that if WL created the garden of Eden, it would be gray with fruit of cement blocks. Thank God that we follow God and don't follow WL.

**(18:12/32:19) WL: Tree of life, source of life**

So WL taught that the tree of life was the source of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was its opposite, the opposite of life a/k/a the source of death.





In some places, going so far as to call it the “tree of death.” Lee says:  
 “God seemed to tell Adam and Eve...

God seemed to tell Adam and Eve, "...If you eat the tree of life, you will receive Me and have My life. If you eat the tree of knowledge, you will take in Satan and have his death." ...in the whole universe there are two sources: one is the source of life, and the other is the source of death.

-Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Genesis*, Chapter 14, Section 5

But saints and listeners, *the tree of life is not the source of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not the source of death.*

**(18:56/32:19) Are you shaking your head?**

Are you shaking your head at me? I understand.

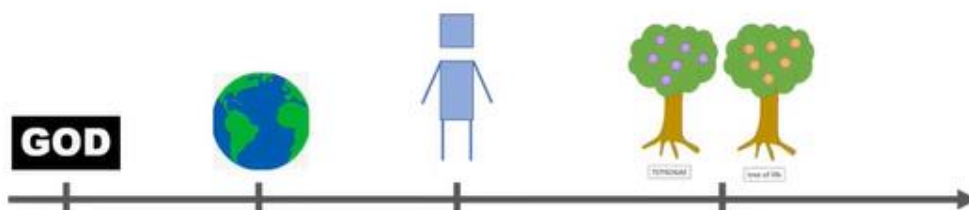


But hear me out and *then* shake your head after I've made my case...if you still want to (shake your head).

Adam was created before the tree of life was created. Therefore, the tree of life cannot be Adam's source of life because it didn't exist when Adam's life was created.

Genesis 2:5,7-9

- 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,
- 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.
- 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



When Eve was created, there is no record that the tree of life was involved.

**(19:20/32:19) Adam formed before the tree**

Adam is clearly formed from the dust of the ground without any source in the tree of life.

The Bible says pretty clearly that God is the source of life. God is the originator, initiator, creator and the source.

Remember, God and the tree of life are two distinct entities in this story. God is—you know—God. The tree of life is a created thing, created by God. The tree of life, based on what Genesis says, seems to be a tree that makes you live forever, or prolongs your existing life.

It's like saying "our mother is our source" but food or air keeps us going or prolongs our life. We would never say that food or air are our source.

**(20:09/32:19) God is the source of life**

However, in this same way, God is the source of life, and the tree of life—by eating of it—would have made Adam and Eve live forever.

Do you see the difference? All of this simple, sound, logic and reasoning matters greatly. It's why God gave us a mind and a sober mind and told us in the Bible to actually use our mind and not "get out of it".

This is how we test teachings, and this is how we discern false teachings. And on top of that, (how we) know the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not the source of death.

**(20:45/32:19) How death entered**

Genesis actually tells us how death entered the scene.

**Genesis 3:22**

**And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."**

When God says "you will certainly die" earlier on, he's not talking about some poison or death element from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Or, that the

tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the source of death. He's actually referencing the loss of access to the tree of life.

How do we know this? From what God says in the next chapter, after they ate of the forbidden tree here in verse 22:

**Genesis 3:22**

**And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."**

**(21:32/32:19) Prevented from living...you die**

Okay, if you're not allowed to reach out your hand and live forever, what happens?  
YOU DIE!

**If you are prevented  
from living forever,  
at some point.....you die!**

That's how death came in. The deal was that they could eat of any tree they wanted, except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And, if Adam and Eve disobeyed God, then He would cut them off from the tree of life as the consequence.

In other words, the tree of life was not there as an "only eat me" tree. The tree of life is what they would lose if the *disobeyed*.

**(22:20/32:19) Wages of sin**

Being cut off from it was the punishment for disobeying God's command. You know—like Romans 6:23—the wages of sin is death? Death is what we earn for our sin. We are punished with death by God for disobeying and sinning against Him. This is why we die.

# THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not the source of death. Being cut off from the tree of life is (the source of death). Adam and Eve didn't die from anything found in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil itself. You have to "add to" the biblical text in order to make the claim that there was some kind of poison or negative element inherent in the tree, or in the fruit.

## **(22:46/32:19) Disobedience**

I know WL used to compare this scenario to a young child that consumed poison, against their parents orders, and then says something like "although the child disobeyed the parent, what the parent really cares about now is that the child has injected poison.

While I understand this story, what it does is, it totally downplays the sin of disobedience. And that sin of disobedience is not downplayed in the Bible. That relatable little story is not what is portrayed in Genesis.

No parent would call a bottle of poison "good for food". There is no poison or negative element in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Bible provides no basis for that assumption and provides information describing the exact opposite.

## **(23:39/32:19) Proof**

Want the proof? The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is described in four ways:

1. Good for food
2. Pleasant to the sight
3. Desirable for gaining wisdom
4. Makes you like god, knowing good/evil.

1

### GOOD FOR FOOD

**Genesis 2:9** - The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—**trees that were** pleasing to the eye and **good for food**. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 3:6** - When the woman saw that **the fruit of the tree was good for food** and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

2

### PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT

**Genesis 2:9** - The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—**trees that were pleasing to the eye** and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 3:6** - When the woman saw that **the fruit of the tree was good for food** and **pleasing to the eye**, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

3

### DESIRABLE FOR GAINING WISDOM

**Genesis 3:6** - When the woman saw that **the fruit of the tree was good for food** and pleasing to the eye, and **also desirable for gaining wisdom**, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

4

### MAKES YOU LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD/EVIL

**Genesis 3:22a**

And the LORD God said, "The man has now **become like one of us, knowing good and evil...**

Do any of these sound like death? The Bible is abundantly clear that the tree is only ever described positively, and created by God positively. It's just forbidden. Something that is good for food cannot contain a death element. Something that is good for food cannot carry poison. It just doesn't work. These are incompatible attributes. It's not good for food if it has poison in it. If your child asks for something to eat, are you going to hand him or her some bags of rat poison and tell them it's good for food?

Definitely not! Something that makes you like God cannot carry death, poison, sin, Satan, or any negative element within it.

### **(24:37/32:19)God cannot carry death**

It just can't. Otherwise we're talking about a non-biblical, non-good, non-holy, non-immortal God.

Something that has a death element that makes you like the immortal God?

What kind of God does WL follow here? All of these things that WL claims are just a non-starter. I'm sorry to break it to you.

**Death did not have its source in and did not come from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

**It came from God as punishment for disobedience, by their being cut off from the tree of life.**

**(25:20/32:19) Romans—More proof**

Do you want even more proof? Lets look at Romans 5. These verses are referring to the fall of Adam in the garden of Eden. They could not be more explicit that it is through one man, it is the sin, it is by the offense, it is through the disobedience that sin and death entered

Romans 5:12-19

12 Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned --

14 But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But it is not that as the offense was, so also the gracious gift is; for if by the offense of the one the many died, much more the grace of God and the free gift in grace of the one man Jesus Christ have abounded to the many.

16 And it is not that as through one who sinned, so also the free gift is; for the judgment was out of one offense unto condemnation, but the gracious gift is out of many offenses unto justification.

17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.

19 For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be constituted righteous.

It doesn't say through the fruit or through the poison or through the death tree or through the Satanic element being injected into man. It says through the transgression, through the sinful action, through the disobedience, through the offense.

**(26:00/32:19) Death, not through the fruit**

**NOT THROUGH  
THE FRUIT!!**

There is nothing in Genesis or Romans to back up WL's claim that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was death, or that death came through the tree itself. It was through the disobedient action that sin entered then death came by being cut off from the tree of life which was their punishment from God for disobedience.

**(26:20/32:19)"forsake the plain words..."**

Now I know the co-workers and the defenders from DCP like to say things like "well would you have us forsake the plain words of the Bible that say "but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for when you eat from it you will certainly die? Obviously the tree is the source of death."

Okay. Saints and listeners. It's very simple.

Firstly, if you tell someone "If you steal \$20 from my wallet, you're dead. Do any of us think that death would come from the \$20 bill? Of course not.

Maybe you don't like that comparison because it doesn't involve food. Okay. Even if you tell someone "if you take one bite of that birthday cake before we sing 'Happy Birthday', you're dead meat.

Would any of us think that death or that you're being "dead meat" comes from the cake?

Again, of course not. Particularly if the birthday cake is literally described as being "good for food."

**(27:20/32:19) "you're dead" = punishment**

Particularly in those examples, we all know "you're dead" means it's the punishment, the consequence.



Secondly, we've looked at the verses in Romans that tell us sin and death came in because of disobedience, not because of the fruit or the tree itself. And the Bible tells us explicitly that death is wages. It's what we get paid...what we earn for our sins.

Sin is an action, not an element. Death is punishment, not an element.

**(27:52/32:19) Genesis 3:22**

Thirdly, remember Genesis 3:22 literally tells us where death came from—from being cut off from the tree of life.

**Genesis 3:22**

**And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."**

If you can no longer live forever, you die.

So, now that you've heard me out, go ahead and shake your head if you still disagree with me. I won't be mad.

**(28:14/32:19) WL COMPLETELY FALSE**

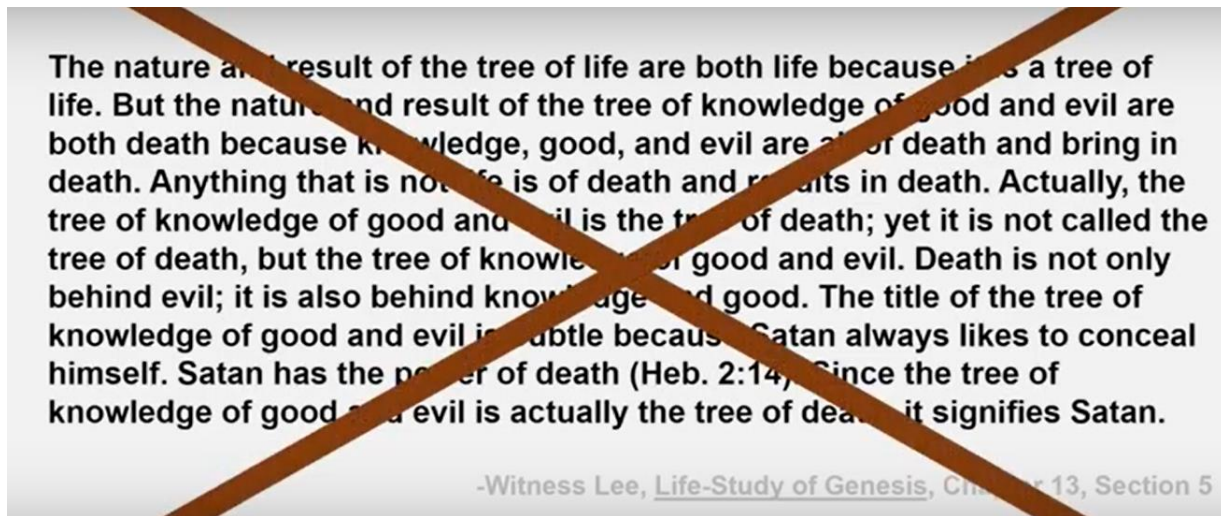
So in this vein, let's look at how WL describes the two trees. He says...

**The nature and result of the tree of life are both life because it is a tree of life. But the nature and result of the tree of knowledge of good and evil are both death because knowledge, good, and evil are all of death and bring in death. Anything that is not life is of death and results in death. Actually, the tree of knowledge of good and evil is the tree of death; yet it is not called the tree of death, but the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Death is not only behind evil; it is also behind knowledge and good. The title of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is subtle because Satan always likes to conceal himself. Satan has the power of death (Heb. 2:14). Since the tree of knowledge of good and evil is actually the tree of death, it signifies Satan.**

-Witness Lee, Life-Study of Genesis, Chapter 13, Section 5

First of all, do you see the binary situation we have here, where everything is either “of life” or “of death?” Or, everything that is not life automatically means that it is “of death” or results in death?

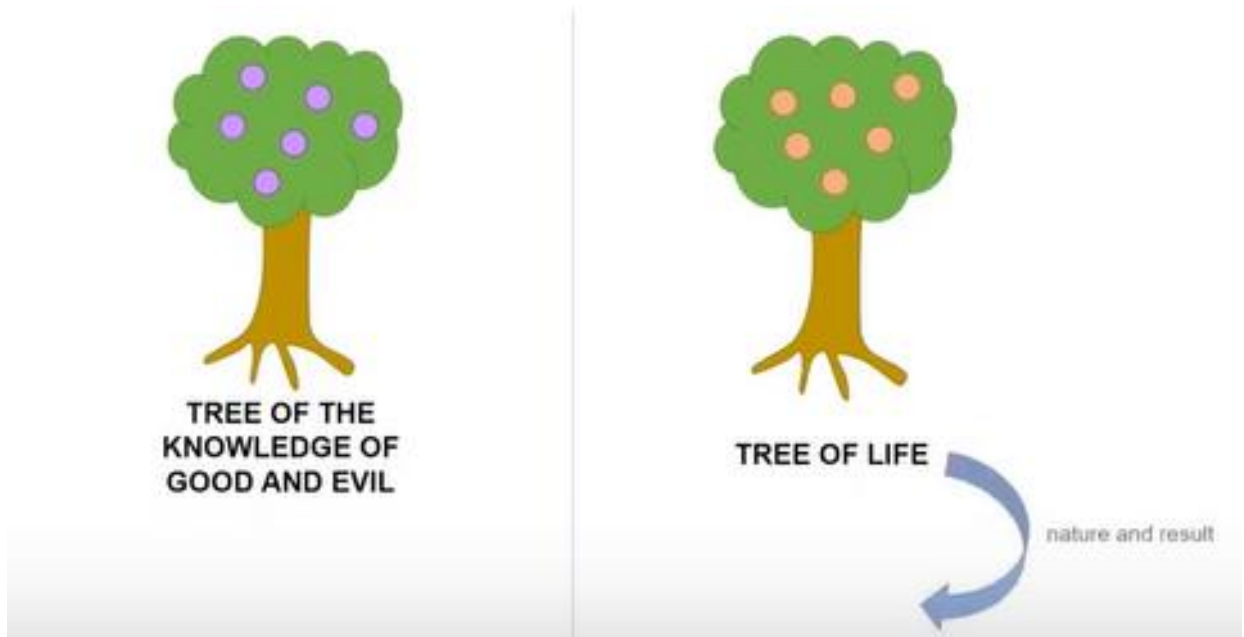
Secondly, I’m not kidding here. Almost... almost everything that WL says in this excerpt is—get ready for it—*completely false*.



A false teaching. Not according to the Bible. Grossly misrepresents the Bible as well as God Himself.

Okay. There are a lot of wrong things to unpack, most of which will be addressed in Part 2, in the next video in this series. But right now, we’ll look at these claims about the nature and result of the two trees.

Listeners and especially saints in the LR, look at this screen. Turn the key in the ignition of your sober mind on and get that critical, God created engine running and follow this simple sequence with me.



**(30:10/32:19) Not the tree of death**

If the nature and result of the tree of life is life because it is a tree of life, then it follows logically that the nature and result of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is—drum roll please—the knowledge of good and evil. Because it is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, NOT THE TREE OF DEATH.

And guess what? God reveals all this is true by what he says after Adam and Eve ate of that tree:

**Genesis 3:22a**

**And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil...”**

God didn't say the man now has the death element, or see the nature and result of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is death or “see the man has become like one of us having ingested the nature of Satan or ingested the fruit of death.”

Noooooooo! He said the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil—just like the name of the tree said they would.

We'll look at the rest of the claims about the name of the tree in part two.

So if we summarize and look at what the Bible, which is the straight line, teaches, and compare it to what WL's ministry says, it doesn't take much effort to see that WL's teaching, the ministry, and what the co-workers continue to teach here is not in line with the Bible. And these are not teachings we should hold fast to. Not at all. In fact, hopefully you'll see you should drop them like a hot potato and run from them as fast as you can.

**(31:47/32:19) Lee makes God an evil God**

Because, if the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the source of death, like WL says it was, it would make God an evil god.

We'll look at "why" in Part 2 of the video series on this topic. Keep watching because the way that WL got a lot of this wrong has serious and direct implications on your life.

See you in Part 2.