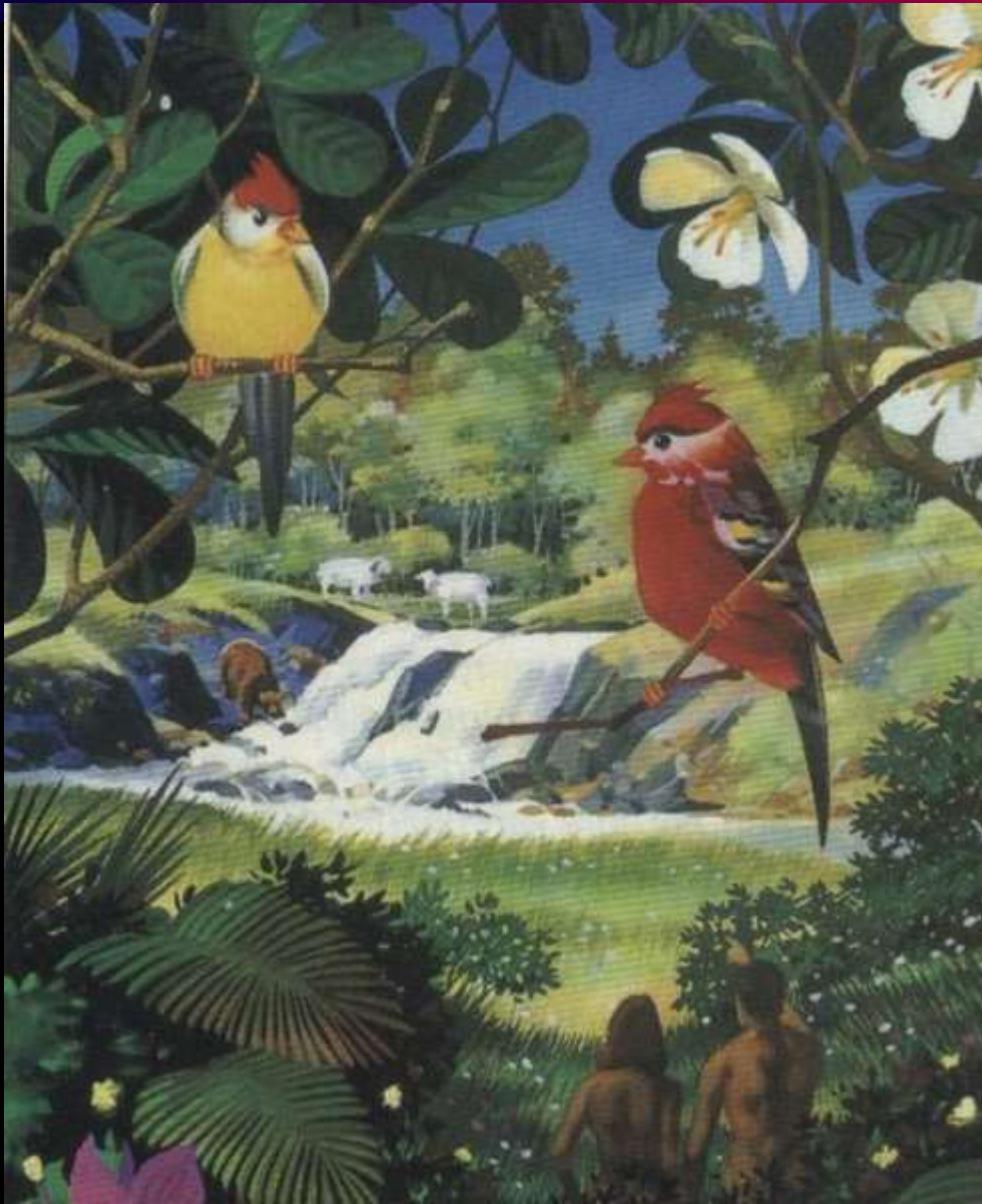


# *A TALE OF TWO TREES*

*By Mario Seiglie, Dec. 18, 2021*



***IT ALL BEGINS IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN***

# IN THE MIDST OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – WHAT DOES CHRIST HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?



HE SAID, “AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH  
AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE”  
(JOHN 8:32) – IT MEANS BEING FREE FROM LIES  
AND ERRORS OF SATAN & MEN. SOMETIMES,  
THOUGH, THE TRUTH CAN BE INCONVENIENT  
BUT IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT PATH TO TAKE.  
BRETHREN, WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF THE  
TRUTH! THAT’S WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT.

LET’S START WITH A FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH --  
LEARNING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A  
HOLIDAY AND A HOLY DAY. WHERE DID THE  
TERM “HOLIDAY” COME FROM?

**THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM HOLIDAY:** “The word **holiday** came from an **Old English** word that was first recorded in 950 AD, as hāligdæg (hālig for ‘**holy**’ and dæg for ‘**day**’).

The first recorded spelling as **holiday** was in 1460 AD...Most certainly the holy days that God commands in the Christian Bible and those kept by Jesus and his apostles are almost universally ignored in our modern society. A fact that could explain why the celebration of Christmas is nowhere to be found in the Christian Bible” (ProLingo.com).

Also, the term “holiday” did not come from the holly. From The Sun newspaper: “Ever wonder why holly is a symbol of Christmas? Here’s the interesting reason why.



“It is associated with Christmas dates all the way back to Roman times. The holly was the sacred plant of Saturn and the Romans used to send boughs of the bush to their friends along with gifts to mark the Saturnalia Festival. The feast was celebrated between December 17 and 23 - the darkest time of the year - to commemorate the god of agriculture, creation and time and the transition from winter into spring and sunshine” (Dec. 15, 2016).

So there is a big difference between a holiday and a holy day. A holiday, then, is just a watered down version of what used to be God's holy day.



God does not talk about a holiday in the Bible but He does talk about My Holy Day.

He says in Is. 58:13, “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord.”

In Neh. 8:2 & 10 it says about the Feast of Trumpets: “Today is a holy day for the Lord” (GW).

Regarding the Roman holiday Saturnalia: “The Greek satirical poet and historian Lucian (A.D. 120 – 200), in his work entitled Saturnalia, describes the festival’s observance in his time. In addition to human sacrifice, he mentions these customs: widespread intoxication; going from house to house while singing [undressed]; rape and other sexual license” ([SimpleToRemember.com](http://SimpleToRemember.com)).



# *The Tale of Two Trees begins in the Garden of Eden*

Genesis 2.8,9

Tree of Life



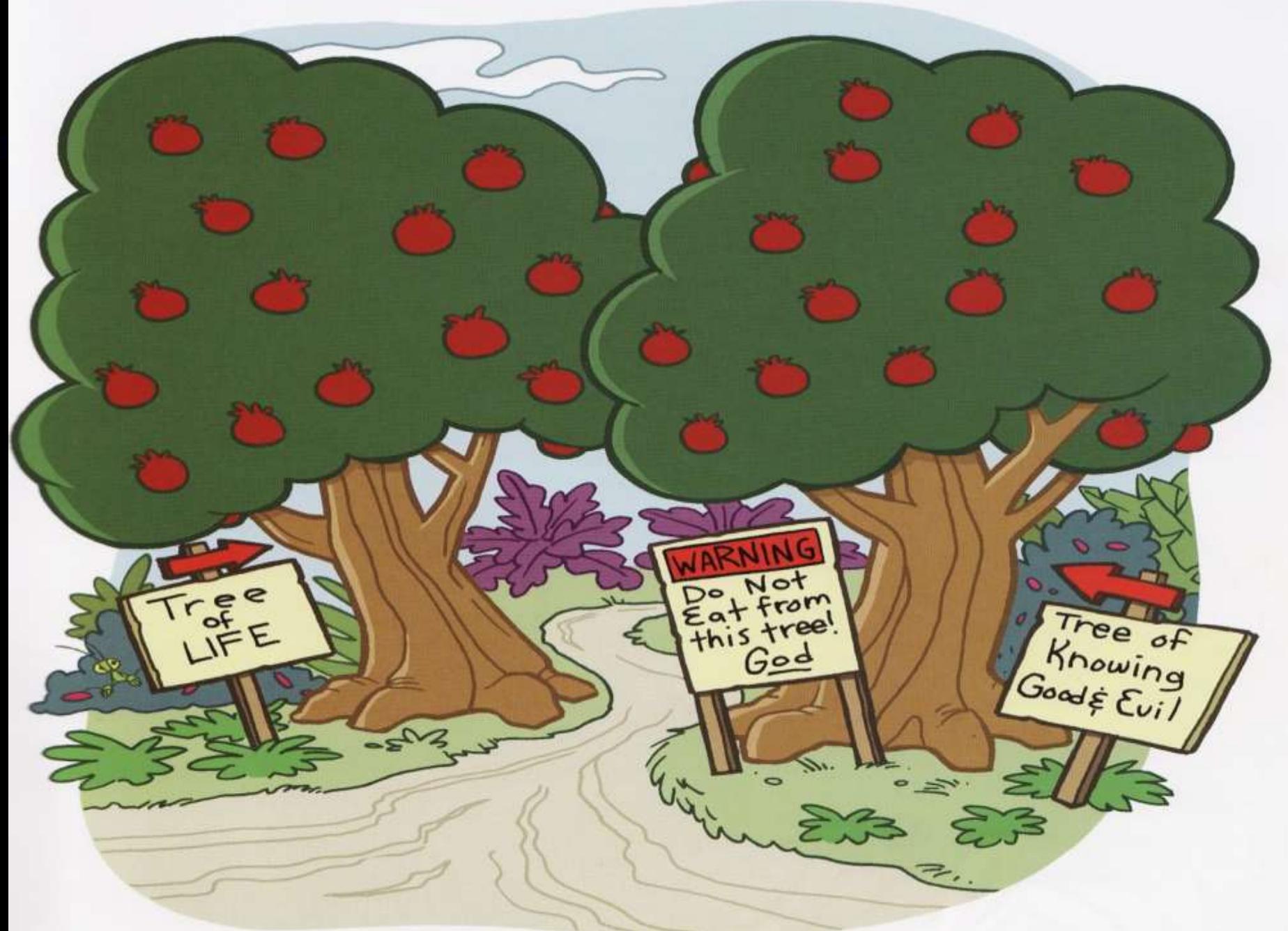
Tree of Knowledge of  
Good and Evil



Trees In The Midst  
of The Garden of Eden

<sup>8</sup> The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

<sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



God tested Adam & Eve about obedience to Him

THE RESULT WAS  
ADAM & EVE  
DISOBEYED AND  
SINNED. THEY  
WERE BANISHED  
TO NOW WANDER  
IN SATAN'S  
WORLD, BUT THE  
MEMORY OF THE  
TWO TREES WAS  
NOT FORGOTTEN.





*Sumerians worshipping the tree of life under the solar god's influence*



*Egyptians worshipping a sacred tree*

**Society vaguely knew about a Tree that had offered eternal life. But they did not want to obey God, so they have followed Satan and have been symbolically partaking, not of the tree of life, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

Through their disobedience  
they degenerated their  
spiritual lives by  
worshipping the creation  
instead of the Creator  
(see Rom. 1:18-32).

## **animism-**

Belief that nature has soul:  
The belief that things in  
nature, e.g. plants, mountains,  
animals and the sky, have  
souls or consciousness.



Sir James Frazer: “In the religious history of the Aryan race in Europe, the worship of trees has played an important part...When a tree comes to be viewed, no longer as the body of the tree-spirit, but simply as its abode which it can quit at pleasure, an important advance has been made in religious thought. Animism is passing into polytheism” *The Golden Bough*, Chap. 9, “The Worship of Trees,” 1922).

With the Second Commandment, God prohibited worshipping nature, including trees or the sky:

Deut. 5:8-9, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Deut. 12:2 You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations...served their gods...under every green tree.

Deut. 12:30 “...do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way.”

Deut. 16:21 “You shall not plant for yourself any tree, as a wooden image, near the altar which you build for yourself to the Lord your God.”

At least six O.T. scriptures mention the Israelites disobedience by worshipping sacred trees:

1. 1 K. 14:23, “For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.”
2. 2 K. 16:4, “And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.”
3. 2 K. 17:10, “They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.”

4. Is. 57:5, “Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys, under the clefts of the rocks.”

5. Jer 3:13, “Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the Lord your God, and have scattered your charms to alien deities under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,' says the Lord.”

6. Jer 10:2-8 is a key scripture: “Thus says the Lord: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles...For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree...they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves...they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; a wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.”

“The exact origin of the Christmas tree seems under debate, but it is safe to say that this symbol evolved from pagan traditions.

The Norse pagans and Celtic Druids revered evergreens as manifestations of deity because they did not "die" from year to year but stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead and bare. The trees represented everlasting life and hope for the return of spring” (The History of Christmas by Cheri Sicard).



# A Roman Feast

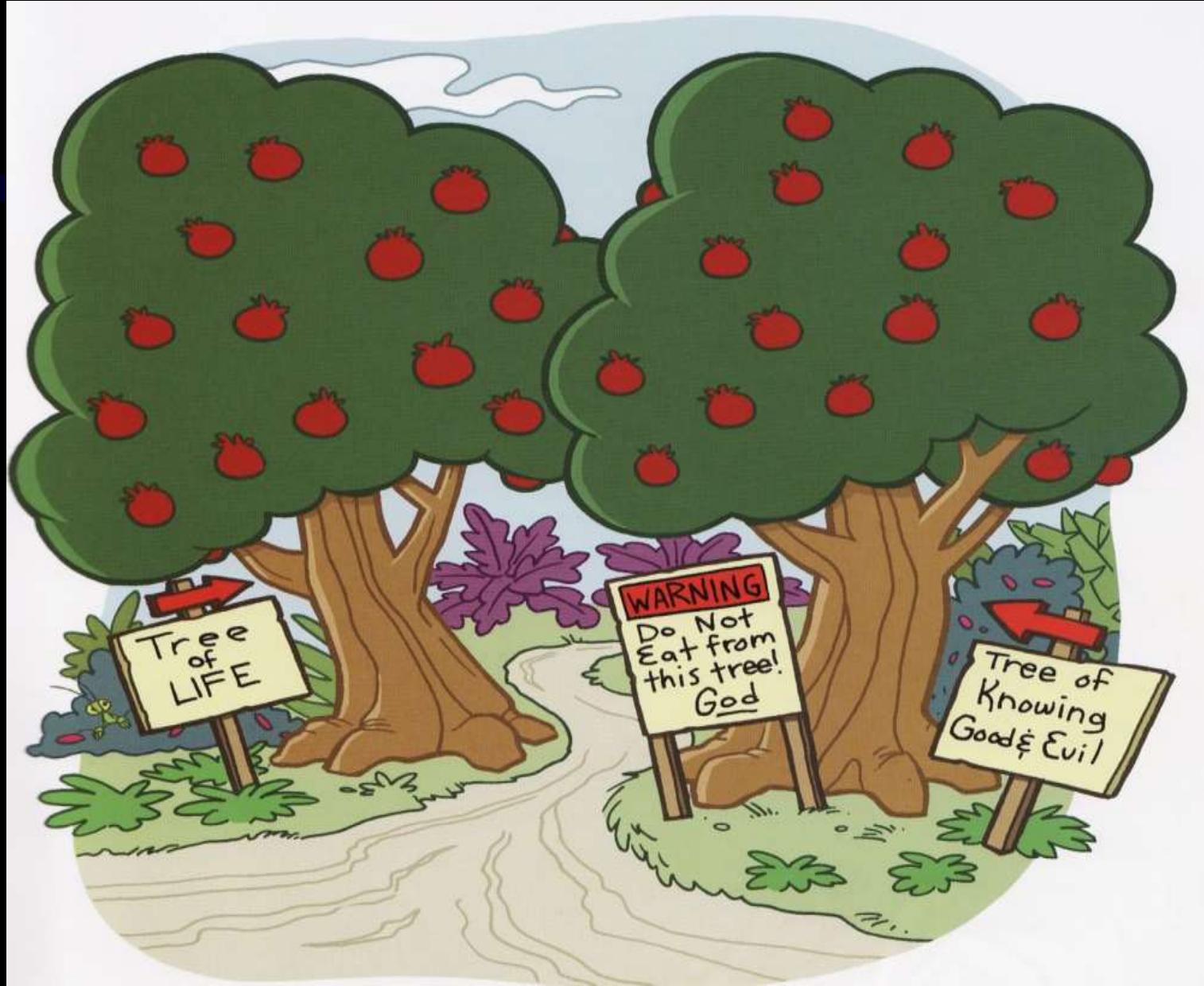
'Saturnalia' (1821-1908)

by Robert Bompiani -  
Paul Getty museum.

Notice the holly wreaths  
hanging on the walls and  
the heavy drinking going  
on.



“Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called the Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Romans knew that the solstice meant that soon farms and orchards would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs” (The History Channel, Christmas)



*Which tree are we going to be partaking of?  
The Tree of Truth or the Tree of lies?*



## The Tree of Life New Jerusalem

Twelve Different Fruit  
Revelation 22:2

*This is the tree we want to partake of one day! It is the tree of life in God's kingdom when the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven!*

# PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER ABOUT CHRISTMAS:



1. Remember, don't celebrate it, for it displeases God. He has His own holy days that we should keep and not these counterfeit holidays that He detests!
2. But be prudent and don't offend others. Remember Col. 4:5-6: "When you are with unbelievers, always make good use of the time. Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions" (CEV).
3. Remind yourself when among the unconverted, you are only responsible for your own space among them and can't change what they do.

4. Remember that “no lie is of the truth” (1 Jn. 2:21).  
Something “pagan” cannot be Christianized, for you can  
disguise a horse to look like a cow, but it is still a horse!



5. The principle is you can accept gifts to avoid offending  
when that is the case, but not give them during this time  
to avoid being made an accomplice of a lie God detests.

6. Bear in mind that we celebrate the Feast of  
Tabernacles, where gifts are given. Besides, it is biblical  
and much better than any pagan Christmas!

7. Thus, this ends The Tale of Two Trees – so let’s keep  
our eyes on the right tree – the Tree of Life!