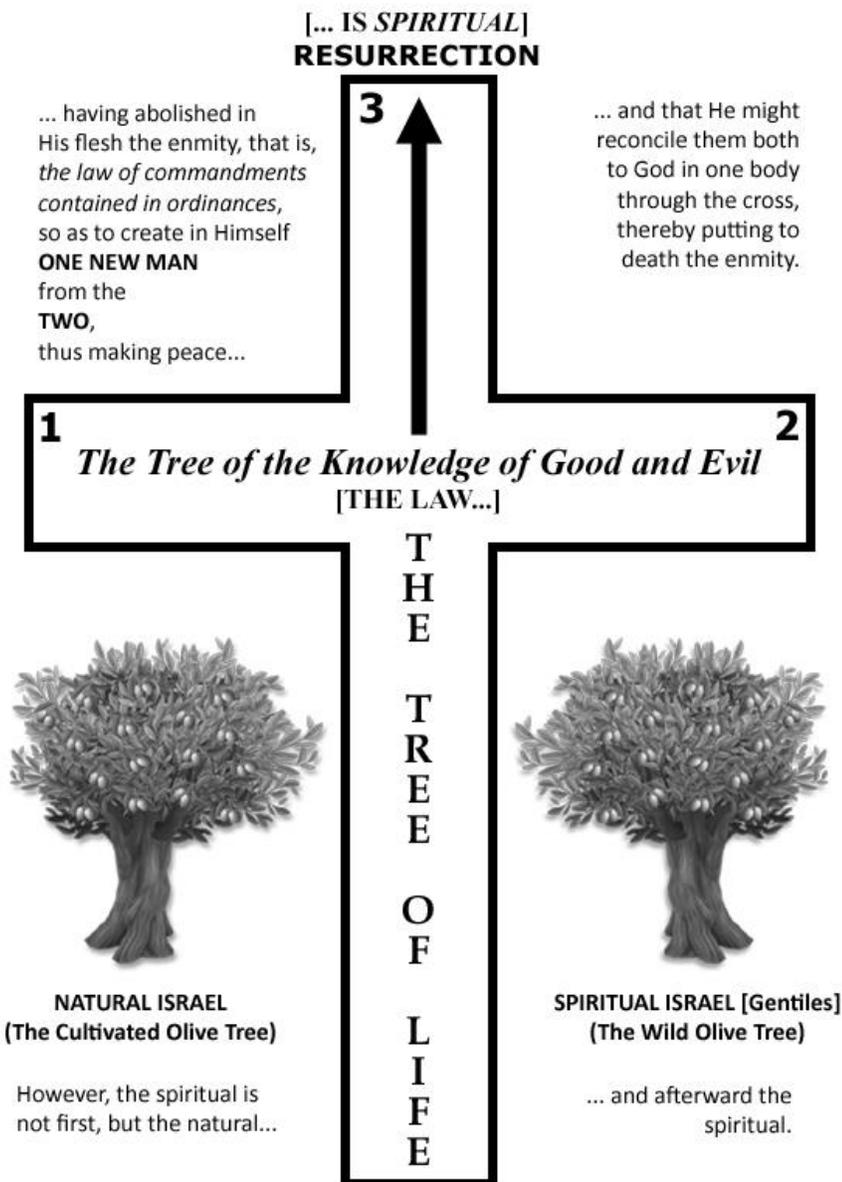


# Two Trees in the Garden



Genesis 2:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> 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**.

Romans 7:14 (KJV)

<sup>14</sup> For we know that **the law is spiritual**: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Ephesians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Romans 11:16-18, 24-25 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the **root is** holy, so *are* the **branches**. <sup>17</sup> And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a **wild olive tree**, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the

olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that* you do not support the root, but the root supports you... <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut out of **the olive tree which is wild by nature**, and were grafted contrary to nature into a **cultivated olive tree**, how much more will these, who *are* natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree? <sup>25</sup> For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

From Dr. Stephen E. Jones and his work, *The Biblical Meaning of Numbers from One to Forty*.

## Two (beth)

### Division, Double Witness

**Beth** is a house or household in Hebrew. God established the household with Adam and Eve, two people in a marriage. This provided direction, a double witness in the family to know the will of God. It takes two points to make a line and establish direction.

The number two signifies either division or a double witness. God established two covenants in the Bible, first as a double witness of truth, but also to establish direction. Going from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant shows a progression of revelation from the lesser to the greater.

This same principle is found with Hagar and Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac, with Jacob and Israel, with David and Saul, and (in the New Testament) in the contrast between Saul and Paul. In each case, there is division with a resulting conflict between the two characters, yet also God establishes the pattern of moving from one point to another.

“Beth is a *house* or *household* in Hebrew,” so in our illustration of “Two Trees in the Garden,” we have the representation of the “household” of God (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19), consisting of natural Israel and spiritual Israel (Gentiles or nations).

The “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” is symbolic of the Old Covenant or law (Rom. 3:20) while the “tree of life” speaks of the New Covenant and the spiritual nature which is exemplified by the law (Rom. 7:14; Hebrews, Chapter 8). Natural Israel received the law at Mount Sinai. Christ embodied the spirituality of the law at the cross.

Our spiritual journey begins with the “natural” to end with the “spiritual” (I Cor. 15:42-49).

The *law* (tree of knowledge of good and evil) is *spiritual* (tree of life).