LIFE, DEATH, AND RESTORATION

God placed two special trees in the Garden of Eden. Eating from one would cause death, and partaking from the other would perpetuate life (Gen. 2:9). When Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, God pronounced the death sentence: “...for out of [the ground] you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Gen. 3:19). Return to dust—what a fearful and depressing thought!

In order to assure that there would not be an immortal sinner, God cast Adam and Eve out and placed cherubim and a flaming sword at the east of the Garden to guard the way to the life-perpetuating tree (Gen. 3:22–24). Clearly, Adam and Eve were not inherently immortal. What good would it do for God to bar humanity from the tree of life if they already had an immortal soul? Immortality after sin would have to be sought (Rom. 2:7).

When all appeared lost, God gave Adam and Eve a glorious promise of restoration. The Seed of the woman, Christ (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 3:16), would crush the serpent’s head, and humanity would be restored to the tree of life (Rev. 2:7). God had warned that the very day they ate from the forbidden tree they would receive their sentence to death (Gen. 2:17). Why did they not immediately die? Their death sentence was commuted because Christ offered to die in their place: “The instant Adam yielded to Satan’s temptation, and did the very thing which God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying, ‘Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man’s place.’ ” (Ellen G. White, *Bible Echo*, May 21, 1900.)
Review Genesis 3. But now write out Genesis 3:22–24 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 3. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What is the relationship between spirituality and physical health?

How does the recent increase in human lifespan play a part in the argument of this section?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead14-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Why will human immortality continue to be contingent rather than inherent?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead14-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 2:9
Isaiah 66:22, 23
Revelation 2:7
Revelation 22:1, 2, 14, 15
Proverbs 8:22–31

What other parables come to mind in connection with Genesis 3?

Review your memorized verse from Genesis 3.
Describe every way that Jesus is like the tree of life.

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Genesis 3 again and look for where Jesus is.
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this quarter’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you have made and know God has directed you this way?

What are practical applications you have still to make in your family, studies, workplace, and/or church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead14-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What did God place in the Garden of Eden to perpetuate life? Why did the antediluvians live much longer than we do today?

What did God do to assure that there would not be an immortal sinner?

What were the life spans of humans before and after the flood and the time of David? Make a list.

Why didn’t Adam and Eve die the very day that they ate from the tree?

When all is said and done, must the redeemed continue to eat from the tree of life forever? Why?

What are conditions we must meet in order to partake of the tree of life?

What factors have led to the shortening of human life spans?

What have been the most powerful and memorable insights from this entire quarter for you?