

The Flaming Sword

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Of all the swords mentioned in the Bible, this one – the first one – must surely be the strangest and most cryptic. There have been many attempts through the years to explain what or even who the Sword was or is. Among Bible Scholars there are two usual answers: 1.) This was a supernatural flaming sword (usually) wielded by the Cherubims to guard the Tree of Life. 2.) It was/is the Devil who “keeps the way” or bars the way from “Jesus” the Tree of Life.

Well, I'll tell you what, I think those might preach good, but I disagree. Let's Dive into this text and see what or Who the Flaming Sword is!

1. The Sword Is Aflame Near The Tree
 1. Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.
 2. Deuteronomy 9:3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.
 3. Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.
2. The Sword Is Alive Near The Tree
 1. John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
 2. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 3. Observe the Cherubims do NOT wield the sword.
3. The Sword Is Alert Near The Tree
 1. The Sword Is the ONE (OR THING) That KEEPS the way to eternal life.
 1. Keep means to Guard
 2. The Sword “Keeps” Who from the Tree? Sinful mankind.
 3. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 2. Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
 3. WE HAVE TO PREACH HOLINESS! WE HAVE TO LIVE HOLY UNTO THE LORD!
 1. Jesus SPEAKS THE WORD
 1. Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.
 2. Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
 3. Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
 4. Revelation 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.
 2. Jesus IS THE WORD
 1. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
 3. John 1:9-10 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
 4. John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
 5. John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.
 6. Acts 13:33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
4. The Sword Is Allowing Near The Tree
1. Look at Genesis 3:24 again. Foreshadowed the ARK OF THE COVENANT?
 2. 1 Samuel 4:4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.
 3. 2 Samuel 6:2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.
 4. 2 Kings 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.
 5. 1 Chronicles 13:6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjathjearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.
 6. Psalms 80:1 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.
 7. Isaiah 37:16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.
 8. Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
 1. 1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
 9. Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
 10. JESUS IS THE FLAMING SWORD NOW ALLOWING ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE!

What does this have to do with me? Christ using His flaming sword THE WORD OF GOD must turn every way in our lives to cleanse us, that we can once continually stand in the presence of the Father to hear His voice and come into His image and likeness without spot or wrinkle.

When Man sinned and was judged the Flaming Sword barred sinful man from the Tree of Life, unless he came and ate and then lived forever in sin. Jesus became Flesh and went another Tree, a Tree of the Curse – the Cross – and received our wrath and punishment, making the symbol of death a symbol of life to us, the saved!! Now, we who have Overcome THROUGH HIM will be granted access to THE Tree of Life in Heaven the Paradise of God one day! So raise your Bibles – your flaming swords! Raise the standards in your life so you can be a flaming beacon of hope to someone adrift in the sea of sin!