

Tree of Life



In the Garden of Eden, there were many trees that were good for food and pleasant to the eyes. It was an environment that provided everything that was necessary for life. In the middle of this place of plenty was the **Tree of Life** and the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**. Eating from one tree gave life, eating from the other resulted in death.

It might seem that the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** is a better analogy for wisdom, since wisdom is concerned with what is good and evil, but Proverbs tells us that wisdom is a **Tree of Life**.

I think this lets us know that wisdom is not simply a knowledge of good and evil. Wisdom is the ability to look at all the choices and choose what is life giving. It is not simply following laws, but it is being able to discern what is important, It is something that God is willing to give to us freely.

The Bible presents choices: the choice between life and death, obedience and disobedience and in Proverbs, the choice of Lady Wisdom or Lady Folly.

When Adam and Eve were removed from the garden, the **Tree of Life** was no longer freely available, however images of it pop up again

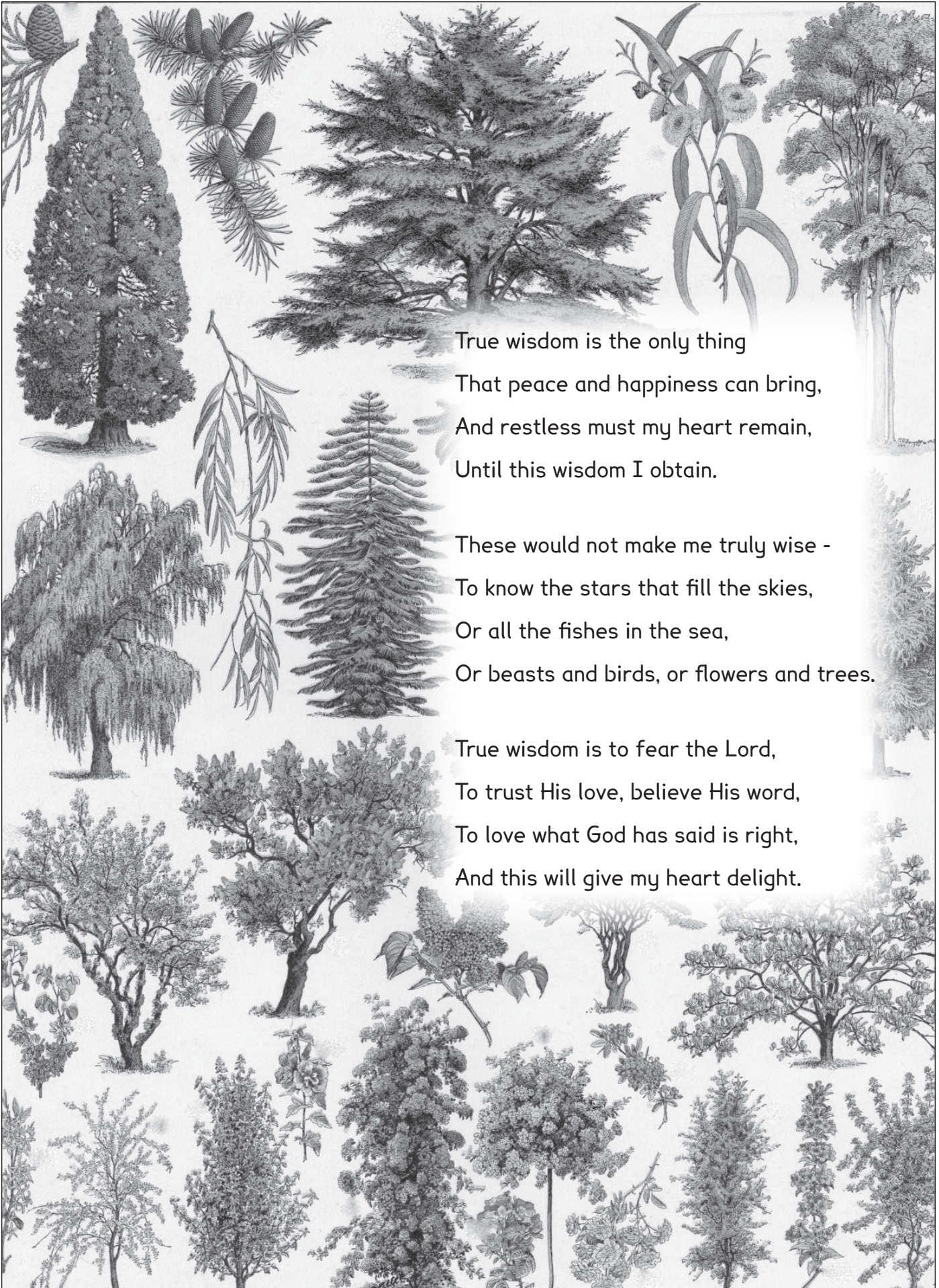
and again in the stories of the Bible, until it is once again growing in the city of New Jerusalem to provide life and healing to the nations.

A tree is a habitat, providing what many living things need to survive. Proverbs tells us that wisdom's house is sturdy, life-giving, and full of treasures. I want us to think about trees, and what they can teach us about wisdom.

Connecting the earth and the sky

The tallest living organism is a tree. Although you will not have the opportunity to stand at the foot of Hyperion, you would likely not be able to see its full height anyways. It reaches up into the sky for almost 380 feet and is often shrouded by fog. But a forest of very large, tall trees does make us look up and feel small. This is an important perspective to embrace: before God we are small and really pretty insignificant. And yet, God chooses to have a relationship with us, and let us know Him. Although His ways are far above ours, He shares His wisdom with us.

Trees can be seen as connecting the earth and the sky, man and God. Wisdom is a tree of life that gives us a way of seeing and interacting with the world that is godly and gives life to us and those around us.



True wisdom is the only thing
That peace and happiness can bring,
And restless must my heart remain,
Until this wisdom I obtain.

These would not make me truly wise -
To know the stars that fill the skies,
Or all the fishes in the sea,
Or beasts and birds, or flowers and trees.

True wisdom is to fear the Lord,
To trust His love, believe His word,
To love what God has said is right,
And this will give my heart delight.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Send a note to someone (special anniversaries, someone I am praying for, someone I am thinking of):

Coast Redwood

These lovely trees grow naturally along the south-western coast of North America. They are the tallest trees in the world with a life expectancy of over 2000 years!

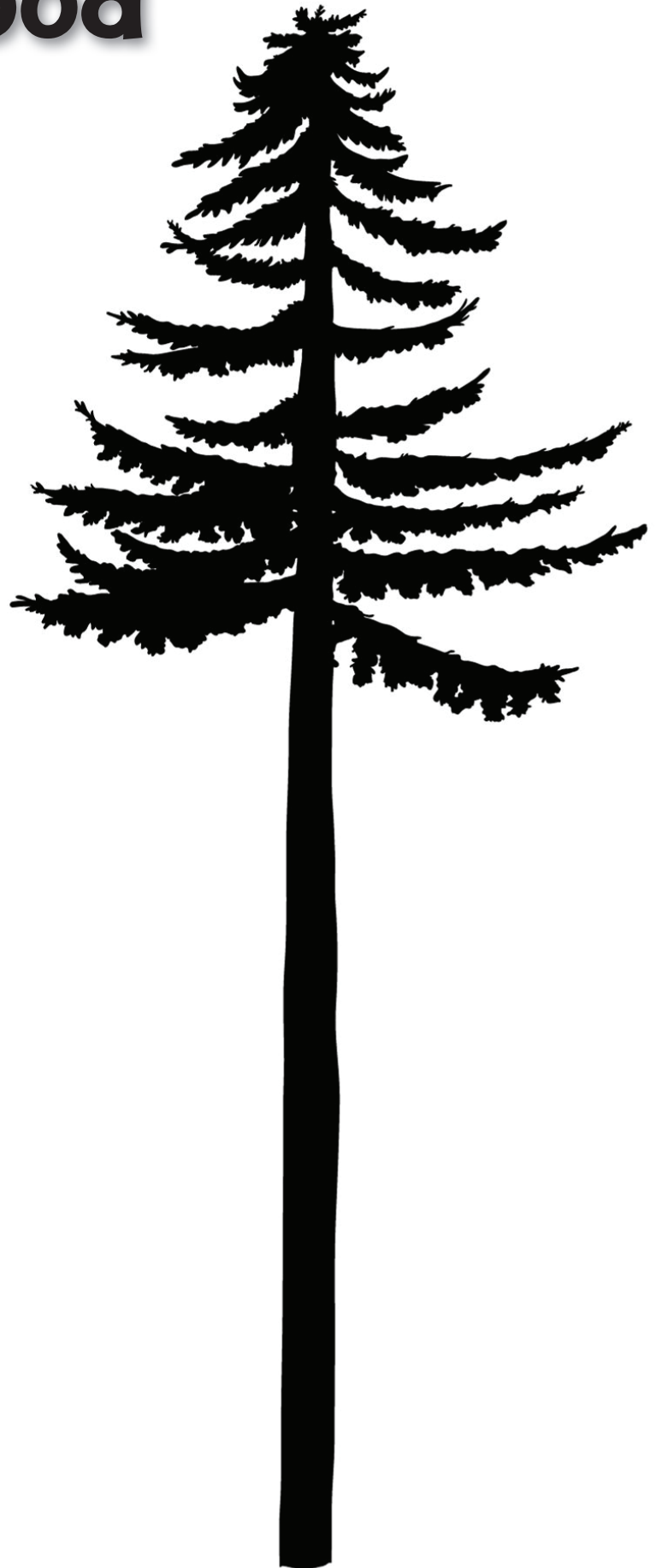
From the start they are beautiful trees, growing straight and uniform. A walk in a grove of Redwoods is awe-inspiring, when the fog rolls in and they seem to reach up to the clouds, or sunlight reaches down in dusty shafts of light to the mossy floor turning the forest into a cathedral. They can even create their own rain as fog condenses on the needles.

Many have been cut down due to human need or greed so that there are only 5% left of what was there a few hundred years ago. The wood is highly prized due to its durability, lovely grain and colour. The wood itself imparts no flavour and is therefore useful in storing liquids such as wine, and is strong for its weight which makes it useful for building.

Coast Redwoods have very thick bark (up to 12 inches). This combined with a lack of resin makes them able to withstand forest fires. They are also very resistant to insects and fungi.

The tallest known tree is 380 feet tall (as tall as a 37 story building). The widest known is 29.2 feet (the length of two VW Beetles). The cones are very small (only an inch long) and contain a few dozen seeds each.

Notice the trees around you, how they grow toward heaven, and let it be daily reminder to lift your eyes that way, receive His wisdom, and praise Him!





For the LORD
giveth

wisdom:

out of his mouth cometh

knowledge



and



understanding.

January

TO DO THIS WEEK:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Write out Proverbs:

SUNDAY

31

MONDAY Proverbs 1:1-4

1

TUESDAY Proverbs 1:5-7

2

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 1:8-9

3

Write out Proverbs:

THURSDAY Proverbs 1:10-14

4

FRIDAY Proverbs 1:15-16

5

SATURDAY Proverbs 1:17-19

6

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WEDNESDAY Proverbs 1:28-30 **10**

Write out Proverbs:

THURSDAY Proverbs 1:31-33 **11**

FRIDAY Proverbs 2:1-2 **12**

SATURDAY Proverbs 2:3-5 **13**

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January

TO DO THIS WEEK:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Write out Proverbs:

SUNDAY Proverbs 2:6-8

14

MONDAY Proverbs 2:9-10

15

TUESDAY Proverbs 2:11-12

16

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 2:13-15 **17**

Write out Proverbs:

THURSDAY Proverbs 2:16-17 **18**

FRIDAY Proverbs 2:18-19 **19**

SATURDAY Proverbs 2:20-22 **20**

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January

TO DO THIS WEEK:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Write out Proverbs:

SUNDAY Proverbs 3:1-2

21

MONDAY Proverbs 3:3-4

22

TUESDAY Proverbs 3:5-6

23

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 3:7-8 **24**

Write out Proverbs:

THURSDAY Proverbs 3:9-10 **25**

FRIDAY Proverbs 3:11-12 **26**

SATURDAY Proverbs 3:13-14 **27**

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