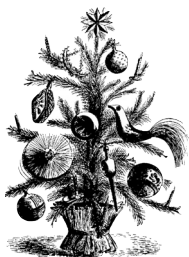


Symbol of Life



Trees were a symbol of life even before Christianity. Ancient Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the winter solstice as a symbol of life's triumph over death.

Romans decorated their homes with evergreens during Saturnalia, a winter festival honoring Saturnus, the god of agriculture. In the Middle Ages, red apples were hung on trees as a symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve. These trees were called Paradise Trees.

Make a Christmas Advent Chain!

Cut 25 strips of red and green paper. Bend a strip into a circle and staple together. Insert a second strip into the center of the circle. Staple second circle. Repeat the process. Hang the chain on your Christmas tree. Beginning on the first day of December, tear off a link each day as you count down the days until Christmas!

