

# The Trees of the Bible

The following is a study on the prominent Trees found in the Bible, the Fruit they bear, and the symbolism attached to both. For example, the Nation of Israel is referred to as a Green Olive Tree (Psalm 52:8) when she is in obedience to the Covenant she made with God at Mt. Sinai.

And at other times she is compared to a barren tree that has her branches either falling or being broken off and cast into a fire to be burned when she was in disobedience to the Covenant she made with the Lord at Mt. Sinai.

I cannot possibly cover every similitude found in the Bible comparing Israel to trees, or branches, in this study but I will attempt to show you through many examples the things God is trying to teach us through using such comparisons.

## The Trees of the Garden

### Tree Number One: The Tree of Life

**Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.**

Notice also that there was a river that went out of Eden and watered the garden, and it fed four other rivers. There is also a River in New Jerusalem that we shall see later in our study that is near the Tree of Life in the dispensation of the fullness of times mentioned in Ephesians 1:10. which is the dispensation following the Millennial Kingdom.

### Tree Number Two:

#### The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

**Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

The Tree of Life is the first tree mentioned in the Bible and interestingly enough it is also the last tree mentioned in the Bible. Adam and Eve rejected the twelve types of fruit

that grew on the Tree of Life each month and instead they ate from the one tree forbidden by God (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil).

The two trees stood in stark contrast to one another, at least in what each represented. One represented the life that can come only from God and the other represent a death that comes from sin. (For the wages of sin is death). Romans 6:23

**Why did God put this tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden?**

**What purpose did it serve?**

**Was it a test?**

Why would God place these two trees right in the midst of the Garden in the spot of pre-eminence for Adam and Eve to see every-day? The Bible has the answers.

God in Genesis 2 did not hide a secret in heaven from Adam and Eve concerning the two trees in their midst, nor did he hide the answer across the Sea, so they would have to go in search for their answer, it was as near as it could possibly be to them.

God, through his spoken word, told man not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil so the reason was in both his mind and his heart and man only had to make the right choice to listen to his Creator and choose the tree that God told them to choose, but instead they chose death.

Israel was told to go into the promised land (that was like a garden of Eden) to possess it, but they were afraid, and God did not allow the fearful and the unbelieving to enter into the land. He would, however, allow the next generation who did not yet **know good from evil** to enter into the land:

**Deuteronomy 1:39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.**

Moses tells us about a similar instance with the nation of Israel who started with just one man, Abraham (who Adam is a type of in this story) and there was a land for both of them, and dominion was promised to them both and rest, and eternal life, but mankind in both stories messed it up, and God through his Son Jesus Christ straighten out the messes that both of these men and their descendants made.

**The Choice of Life or Death**

**Deuteronomy 30:11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that thou**

**shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. 15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.**

Adam, the father of the human race, had only one command given to him by God, and he choose not to obey it, and so death passed upon all men.

Israel, on the other hand, had the whole Law and yet they also chose to disobey it, and they were dispersed as a nation from the land, as Adam was from the Garden, and they must now await the Messiah's return to straighten out the mess that they made.

There would now need to be a second Adam (the last Adam) to undo the mess that the first Adam got mankind into. 1 Corinthians 15:45 Jesus Christ is the last Adam.

Adam and Eve had to be removed from the Tree's presence after their choosing to listen to the Serpent, so that man would not partake of the Tree of Life in their lost condition and live forever as an eternal sinner.

### **Comparison Chart**

<b>Adam</b>	<b>Israel</b>
Paradise Lost	Dispersed from Promised Land
Chose to disobey one Law	Chose to disobey all of God's Laws

## Genesis Chapter Three:

**1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked;**

Adam and Eve should have gone to the Tree of Life and partook of that tree as soon as they heard its glorious name, "The Tree of Life" but they didn't, which tells me that they were not in the Garden very long before they ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The question that is often asked is how long was it before they ate of the forbidden fruit, but a better question would be, "How long would Satan wait before tempting Adam and Eve?"

I believe Satan was there very soon after God left their midst and as Adam and Eve grew hungry very possibly soon after the seventh day came to an end, because the scripture says that everything that God made was good on the seventh day. Remember, Eight, is the number of new beginnings.

Another interesting question is how did Satan know the significance of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Well, since the Tree of Life in the Book of Revelation is also seen in the Paradise of God, and later in the city of New Jerusalem, it could mean that Satan had knowledge of these two trees from his former exalted position in Heaven as the anointed Cherub that covered the throne.

What was Satan doing in the Garden in the beginning? Why was he so interested in getting mankind to disobey God? That answer is simple. He wanted to take dominion away from man to have it for himself. If he couldn't rule in the heavens he would rule here on the earth.

Notice that the importance shifted from the tree itself, to the actual fruit that was on the tree. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells his Jewish hearers to watch out for false prophets and that they will know them by their fruits which represent their works.

## Fig Leaves

**Genesis 3:7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

It is because of the fact that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together that some believe that the fruit that Adam and Eve may have eaten that day was the Fig.

The argument is that once they knew they were naked they didn't casually walk around "shopping" for leaves but immediately sewed leaves from the tree they were standing under. Maybe, maybe not.

An argument against it being the Fig Tree that was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is that since they were wearing fig leaves do you really think they would wear a constant reminder of the disobedience to God? Probably not.

We will look more at the Fig Tree, it's Fruit, and it's leaves when we get to the New Testament portion of this study.

**Genesis 3:8** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Who told you that you were naked Adam? That is the perfect question for God to ask them because they were hiding from his presence in the Garden amongst the trees (This was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ).

Adam and Eve were speaking to God from behind some trees no doubt and God wants to know how they knew that they were naked.

Notice that God asks, "Who told thee that thou wast naked?" This implies that there was probably more than just one possible answer to that question as to whom could have told Adam that he was naked unless they both just ate of the fruit and saw that for themselves afterwards.

Who else could have told them they were naked? The serpent could have told them, but the Bible doesn't say that he did. But the question God asks seems to imply others could have told them as well. Who could they be? Angels, good or bad/fallen. They are referred to as the sons of God and in as gods in the first part of Genesis chapter three.

**12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. 16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. 21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 22 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.**

Again, we see the emphasis on the first tree mentioned in the Bible, **the Tree of Life**, and Adam has to be protected from the tree of life. He has to be removed from the Garden of Eden and taken back to the place where God created him.

Because this is of such importance to the survival of mankind and God's eternal purpose for man God has to place Cherubs at the east of the Garden of Eden so that man does not partake of the Tree of Life in his fallen state and become an eternal sinner.

This is not the last we will see of this Tree of Life in this study, for what begins in Genesis finds its fulfillment in Revelation. Stay tuned. Notice the earth is now cursed and it will now bring forth thorns and thistles.

Not only that, but Adam who came from the dirt will no longer live forever, but he will die because of his fall, and he will go back to the earth from whence he came.

## **The Olive Leaf**

The first time we read about the Olive in the Bible is in Genesis 8:11, and it appears at a very interesting time in mankind's history. It was soon after the flood when Noah sends out a dove for the second time and this time it returns with **an Olive leaf** plucked off a branch in its mouth.

**Genesis 8:11 And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.**

Remember that this is before God divides the people up at Babel and he then calls Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees to make him the father of the Jewish nation.

The Dove and an Olive Branch is a symbol even today that represents the peace and rest mankind would one day have when the Kingdom is established in Mount Zion.

### **Children are called the fruit of the womb**

**Genesis 30:2 And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?**

When Israel is obedient to the Covenant they made with him at Sinai, God has promised that he would open the wombs of the women of Israel, and they would be very fertile. The opposite was also true if they were disobedient.

### **The Olive Oil for the Tabernacle**

The second time we see the word Olive in the Bible is also at an interesting time in Israel's history, it is when God is instructing Israel how to set up the Tabernacle to serve in their worship to him:

**Exodus 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. 21 In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.**

Notice that the Oil for the Menorah (Lamp) was to be **pure oil olive** that was beaten to serve as the source of light there and it was to burn continually as a statute forever of the eternal covenant between God and the children of Israel.

God promised that he would bless the fruit of the land of Israel and the fruit of their wombs, if they would keep the Covenant they made with him.

## Fruit is Symbolic of God's Blessings in Scripture

**Deuteronomy 7:1** When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; **2** And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: **3** Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. **4** For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. **5** But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. **6** For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. **7** The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: **8** But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; **10** And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. **11** Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. **12** Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: **13** And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. **14** Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. **15** And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. **16** And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee. **17** If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them? **18** Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; **19** The great temptations which thine

eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid. 20 Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed. 21 Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible. 22 And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. 23 But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. 24 And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them. 25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. 26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

### **He that is hanged on a tree is accursed of God**

**Deuteronomy 21:22** And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

God through Moses told Israel that anyone that was hanged on a tree was accursed of God. So, when Israel saw Jesus hanging on the Cross, they would be reminded of the verses here in Deuteronomy that say that person was accursed of God.

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law having become a curse for use according to Galatians chapter three which we will look at later in this study. Galatians 3:13

### **The Olive Tree was to be a Blessing to the Gentiles**

**Deuteronomy 24:20** When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.

The Gentiles, the fatherless, and the widows that came upon a Vineyard of Olive Trees belonging to a child of Abraham was supposed to be able to find relief at the Olive Tree as a picture of how God would bless the Gentile Nations, and the poor, when Israel was obedient to the Covenant she had made with God at Mount Sinai.

## Jotham and the Olive Tree

### Reign thou over us

**Judges 9:8** The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, **Reign thou over us.** **9** But the olive tree said unto them, **Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?**

Jotham was the only surviving son of Gideon (who is represented in this story by the Olive Tree), and he tells the people that they went and asked Gideon to be their King and reign over them, but Gideon refused to reign over them (the trees).

Gideon represented Israel and he was a full-blooded Jew while Abimelech was the son of a concubine, and he was represented by the bramble in this story. Abimelech was a usurper and had no right to rule Israel, represented by the Olive Tree.

**Judges 9:10** And the trees said to the fig tree, **Come thou, and reign over us.** **11** But the fig tree said unto them, **Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?** **12** Then said the trees unto the vine, **Come thou, and reign over us.** **13** And the vine said unto them, **Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?** **14** Then said all the trees unto the bramble, **Come thou, and reign over us.** **15** And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon. **16** Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands; **17** (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian: **18** And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;) **19** If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you: **20** But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

Notice the similarities between Abimelech's comments to the men of Shechem in verse fifteen and the words of Jotham in verse twenty as you try to discern the meaning behind Jotham's parable.

This is the first time we see a direct connection of Israel and the Olive Tree. Trees also represent Kings and Kingdoms in the Bible as we have seen, and shall see in future verses.

### **Dwelling safely under Vine and the Fig Tree**

**1 Kings 4:20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. 21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life. 22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal, 23 Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl. 24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphseh even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him. 25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.**

Dwelling under your own vine and fig tree was symbolic of God's blessings on Israel for obedience to the Covenant they had made with him at Mt. Sinai. Solomon's reign was the greatest time of Peace Israel ever experienced even unto this day.

It was a picture of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ which will far exceed anything seen in Solomon's day. See Micah 4:4 and Zechariah 3:10 also.

### **The Cherubim Angels and the Olive Tree**

**1 Kings 6:23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. 24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits. 25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size. 26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. 27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold. 29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without. 30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.**

If the Cherubs were carved out of Olive Trees and we just learned that the Olive Tree represents Israel, then we can assume that Angels have a very prominent role in the affairs of Israel on this earth as they are seen in connection here with Israel's place of

worship. Over and over again you see in scripture that Angels come to the aide of Israel. Angels do not have the same ministry to the Body of Christ.

### **The Doors of the Oracle and the Olive Tree**

**31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall. 32 The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees. 33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall.**

Notice that on the doors of the Oracle were Cherubims carved into the Olive Tree wood, this should help you understand the ministry of angels in and to the nation of Israel.

Angels were often times called to defend Israel from her enemies. Michael is Israel's chief angel, not yours, mine or ours in the Body of Christ. Angels had a much different ministry to Israel than they do with the body of Christ today. We are not Israel!

What else was made of Olive Tree? The Doors to the Temple which signified that Jesus was both God, represented by the Gold, and Man, represented by the Olive wood.

Jesus was both fully man and fully God. He said that he was the door, and that if any man would enter in by him that he shall be saved. John 10:9.

### **People are often compared to Trees**

**Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

If Israel was obedient to God's word, then they would be like a tree planted by the river, but if they were not, they were compared to the chaff instead that is gathered up and burned, which is symbolic of unbelievers perishing in Hell for rejecting God.

### **King David and the Olive Tree**

**Psalm 52:1 To the chief Musician, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech.**

### **David's Psalm concerning Saul and Himself**

**Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually. 2 Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. 3 Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. 4 Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. 5 God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. 6 The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: 7 Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness. 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. 9 I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.**

David said that he was not like King Saul (the mighty man), whose tongue devised evil against him. Saul loved evil more than good, and lying rather than to speak righteousness when it suited his quest to stay in power.

God destroyed Saul, and his family, from ever reigning again in Israel because of this and uprooted him from the land of the living as you would do with a fruit tree that would not produce fruit.

The people would from then on look at their first King and laugh at his foolishness because he trusted in his riches, and his might which all came from God, instead of trusting in the God who gave him his position and riches.

David, however, was not like the corrupt dried-up tree that was King Saul, for **David was a green olive tree** that produced fruit because he trusted in the mercy of God forever.

King Saul, however, had no problem running to the Witch of Endor to get guidance from the Devil's servant, instead of from the God of the Universe.

We will look at the subject of trees being up rooted, and their branches being broken off, as well as trees that are cut down because they did not produce fruit, because God often compares Israel to a tree and expects it to bare much fruit.

### **Israel and the Vine**

**Psalm 80:14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine; 15 And the vineyard which thy right**

**hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. 16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. 17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. 18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. 19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.**

**The Olive Tree was a Symbol of fruitful blessings to Israel for their obedience the Covenant.**

**Psalm 128:1 A Song of degrees. Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. 5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.**

As long as Israel remained obedient as a nation to the Covenant they made with God at Sinai then God would bless the work of their hands and their wives would be fruitful and their children would be like many blessings around the table.

**Fruit represents the works a person does in the Bible**

**Proverbs 31:16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.**

**Proverbs 31:31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.**

**Isaiah 3:10 Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.**

**The BRANCH of the LORD**

**Isaiah 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. 2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. 3 And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: 4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. 5 And**

**the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. 6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.**

What is a branch? It is an extension of the tree which comes from the root which came from a seed. We see here that this BRANCH is the BRANCH of the LORD which means it is an extension of the LORD and that the BRANCH produces the Fruit.

Israel will be judged in the time of Jacob's Trouble and after that terrible day is over and God has made an end of Israel's sins (Daniel 9:24) that at the onset of the Kingdom seven Jewish women who survived the that terrible time will say to one Jewish man, "**Let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach**" because many of the men will have died in the time leading up to that great day.

The BRANCH of the LORD is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ and he will be glorious in his reign during the Kingdom and will produce fruit for those who have escaped in Israel that terrible time of judgment.

The BRANCH will care for them, and he will build a tabernacle/Temple for them that will be a blessing to all that come to it. And the assemblies will have above them a cloud of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night just as the Tabernacle once did in the wilderness which was the Shekinah Glory of God as a defense.

**Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord**

shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. 15 And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Isaiah chapter eleven is all about the future Millennial Kingdom when the BRANCH will rule on the earth for a thousand years of righteousness.

**Isaiah 60:21** Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

**Jeremiah 23:5** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

**Jeremiah 33:15** In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

The BRANCH of the LORD is none other than Jesus Christ the righteous. He will rule during the Millennial Kingdom and execute justice in all the earth.

### **Israel is to be shaken as a barren Olive Tree**

**Isaiah 17:4** And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. 5 And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. 6 Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel. 7 At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. 8 And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither

shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images. 9 In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation. 10 Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips: 11 In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. 12 Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! 13 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

There is a time spoken about in many of the Prophets about a shaking that will happen in both the heavens and in the earth. Satan's fallen ones will be shaken out of their places in the heavenlies, and they will be cast down to the earth at the mid-point of the time of Jacob's Trouble and then the LORD will shake the earth terribly and level the mountains of the world.

### **The Shaking of the Olive Tree**

**Isaiah 24:1** Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. 4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. 7 The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh. 8 The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. 9 They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. 10 The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in. 11 There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. 12 In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction. 13 When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done. 14 They

shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea. 15 Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea. 16 From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. 17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. 18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. 19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. 23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

The host on high is speaking about the principalities and powers in high places that are usurping the thrones in the heavenly places as they are shaken from their place in the heavens and cast down to the earth in the middle of the seventieth week of Daniel.

### **Israel shall blossom and bud**

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. 2 In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. 3 I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. 4 Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. 5 Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. 6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. 7 Hath he smitten him, as he smote those that smote him? or is he slain according to the slaughter of them that are slain by him? 8 In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind. 9 By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up. 10 Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a

wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down, and consume the branches thereof. **11 When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them,** and he that formed them will shew them no favour. **12** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. **13** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Israel will suffer greatly as God makes an end of her sins as Daniel 9:24 says. The seventieth week of Daniel is a week of Tribulation such as the world has never seen nor ever shall see. But when he has made an end of their sins, when the seventy weeks have been completed for Israel's punishment from the LORD then shall the LORD usher in ever-lasting righteousness.

### **Israel was the Green Olive Tree**

**Jeremiah 11:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, **2** Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; **3** And say thou unto them, **Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant,** **4 Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace,** saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God: **5** That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD. **6** Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them. **7** For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice. **8** Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not. **9** And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **10** They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers. **11** Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them. **12** Then shall

the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. 13 For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal. 14 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble. 15 What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest. 16 The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken. 17 For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal. 18 And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings. 19 But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

This is a similar prophecy of the Messiah that was read by the Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip helped him to understand what he was reading it is also found in Isaiah 53:7. See Acts 8:32

**Fruit is associated with a man's ways and his doings:**

**Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.**

**Kingdoms are represented in the Bible as trees:**

**Ezekiel 31:1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness? 3 Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs. 4 The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field. 5 Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth. 6 All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great**

nations. 7 Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters. 8 The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chesnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty. 9 I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him. 10 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height; 11 I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness. 12 And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him. 13 Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches: 14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit. 15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him. 16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth. 17 They also went down into hell with him unto them that be slain with the sword; and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen. 18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

The Assyrian was like the Cedars of Lebanon. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude. Leaders are described as Trees in the Bible.

### **The Tree of Life in Ezekiel**

**Ezekiel 47:6** And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. 7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. 8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea:

which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. 9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. 10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. 11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. 12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Revelation 22 speaks of this prophecy as well in regards to the Tree of Life. Notice that in Revelations it says that the leaves will be for the healing of the nations, what do you use to heal things? Medicine.

### **Nebuchadnezzar Dreams he is a Tree**

**Daniel 4:1** Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. **2** I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. **3** How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. **4** I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: **5** I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. **6** Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. **7** Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. **8** But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying, **9** O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof. **10** Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. **11** The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: **12** The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had

shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. 13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; 14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: 15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: 16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. 17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. 18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee. 19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies. 20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; 21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: 22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. 23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; 24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. 27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. 28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end

of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. 34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Nebuchadnezzar was the tree whose height reached the heaven and God humbled him. In the dream the tree was cut down and for seven years he was a mad man until that time had pass and he had realized that God did everything according to the counsel of his will and he only let Nebuchadnezzar be the ruler at that time.

### **Israel will be as the beauty of the Olive Tree**

**Hosea 14:1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. 2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. 3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. 4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. 5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. 6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. 7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the**

wine of Lebanon. 8 Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. 9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Israel's beauty was as the Olive Tree, and it would be restored when Israel would return unto the LORD.

### **The Vine and the Fig Tree**

**Micah 4:1** But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. 5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

Sitting safely under the Fruitful Vine and Fig Tree was a sign of blessing from God for obedience to the Covenant and a sign of the Peace that he would provide to those who loved him and kept his word. This has its ultimate fulfillment in the Millennial Kingdom, but Solomon's reign of peace and prosperity foreshadowed it.

### **The Olive Tree in the Kingdom**

**Haggai 2:1** In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying, 2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, 3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? 4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: 5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. 6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the

**sea, and the dry land; 7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.** 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. 9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. 10 In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, 11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, 12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. 13 Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. 14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean. 15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD: 16 Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty. 17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD. 18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it. 19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you. 20 And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying, 21 Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth; 22 And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. 23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

The Temple will be rebuilt in the Kingdom by the Messiah and the Olive Tree (Israel will be blessed in that day.

### **The BRANCH**

**Zechariah 3:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. 8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows**

**that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. 9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. 10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.**

The BRANCH will save Israel on the Day of Atonement and after that day they shall call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree. Israel will not have any enemies in that day for the Messiah shall make his enemies his footstool.

Only under the reign of Solomon was it ever recorded that every man in Israel could sit under his vine and under the fig tree in safety and call every man his neighbor for there was peace in all the land of Israel all the days of Solomon.

It was in Solomon's glory days like it will be in the Millennial Kingdom as prophesied using these same analogies of sitting safely under their vines and fig trees. Micah 4:4 and Zechariah 3:10

### **The Two Olive Trees**

**Zechariah 4:1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, 2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: 3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. 4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? 5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. 7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. 8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. 10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. 11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest**

**thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.**

The Two Olive Trees are the two Jewish witnesses that will minister during the first half of the Tribulation Period. Moses and Elijah. Enoch was not Jewish.

### **The BRANCH**

**Zechariah 6:9 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 10 Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; 11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; 12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. 4 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. 15 And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.**

The BRANCH (Jesus Christ) shall build the Temple in the Millennial Kingdom and the Anti-Christ will build the Tribulation Temple. When Jesus came in his Father's name Israel did not receive him, but when the Anti-Christ comes in his own name, Israel will receive him as their Messiah to their detriment.

### **Unbelieving Israel as a Barren Tree**

**Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up**

children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

People are referred to as trees here and any tree that did not produce good fruit was to be cut down and cast into the fire which is symbolic of Hell.

**Trees are known by their Fruit, just as**

**Men are known by their works**

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

False Prophets are known by the fruit or works they produce in their lives.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. 33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. 34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

**The Parable of the Fig Tree**

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then

shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **The Fig tree is cursed. Why?**

Mark 11:12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: 13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. 15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; 16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. 17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My

house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. 18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. 19 And when even was come, he went out of the city. 20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. 22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? It clearly states that it was not the time for figs and yet Jesus wishes to give his disciples an object lesson that will stick with them and us forever. First of all, let's remember some things about the Fig Tree.

The Fig Tree was first mentioned in the Bible in the Garden as the tree that Adam and Eve used to cover their nakedness once they had disobeyed God's command not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, as a result of their disobedience the fall occurred, and both mankind and the earth were cursed.

The Fig Tree's leaves were man's attempt at religion to cover their sin and it didn't work just like Judaism at that time it wasn't working. Being fruitful as we have seen in this study many times was a sign of God's blessings on Israel, and here we find a barren Fig Tree. Israel's obedience to the Covenant they made with God was barren, useless.

We must also look at the context of this story. What happened just before the story or just after it, and in this story, what happened in between the cursing and the withering so as to understand better the object lesson?

First of all, they were in Jerusalem and Jesus was soon to be crucified by Israel's leaders. This was not a picture of God blessing Israel for producing the fruits of righteousness in the land, in fact, the opposite was true.

Jesus goes into the Temple immediately after seeking fruit on the Fig Tree and he is seeking Fruit from the Nation, but he finds none after three years of coming to the Vineyard.

Jesus saw that there were leaves on the tree and he approached the tree expecting to find fruit on it. God expected to find spiritual fruit in Jerusalem and especially at the Temple, but he did not.

All though Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, he did not use his divinity to make his life easier. For example, he could have used his omniscience to determine whether there was any fruit on the tree, but he did not.

Fig Trees actually grow the Figs before the leaves sprout and then, when you see the leaves appear you know that the Figs would be ripe. Jesus and his disciples saw the fig leaves and naturally expected to find Figs on the Tree even though it was not the time for figs yet. The leaves tricked them into thinking it was a tree that was good for food.

Both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark record the story of the cursing of the Fig Tree while Luke and John do not, that is very interesting for many reasons especially since John's Gospel takes place mostly in and around Jerusalem.

### **Israel as a barren Fig Tree**

**Luke 13:1** There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? **3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. **4** Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? **5** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. **6** He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. **7** Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? **8** And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: **9** And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

### **The Fig Tree represents Nations**

**Luke 21:29** And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; **30** When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. **31** So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. **32** Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. **33** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. **35** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

**Jesus compares himself to the vine, and believing Israel to the branch.**

**John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

**4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.**

### **Hanged on a Tree**

**Act 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.**

There was a tree that condemned all of humanity which is of course the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and now we have a tree with no special powers in and of itself.

What was lifted up on this tree, however, could undo everything that hurt mankind from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If people would simply look unto Christ in faith, then they could have the evil that Adam passed down to us removed. And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me.

**Act 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

### **Israel and the Wild Olive Tree**

**Romans 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, :3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. 7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded 8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto**

them: 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. 11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. 12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

### **Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree**

**Galatians 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

### **The Final Tree in the Bible**

**Revelation 2:1** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast

laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 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.

Here John brings up the Tree of Life that we first learned about in the Garden of Eden back in Genesis 2:9. This Tree is the very same tree that was in the midst of the Garden that God planted eastward in Eden.

It is again next to a River just as it was when it was in the Garden. This is no coincidence. Notice that this time the tree is alone in the midst of the paradise of God. No Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil anymore to try Mankind:

**Revelation 22:1** And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **4** And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. **5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. **6** And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. **7** Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. **8** And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. **9** Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. **10** And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. **11** He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. **12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. **13** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. **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. **15** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. **16** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these

**things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

We in the body of Christ already have eternal life indwelling us from the moment we first trusted in what Christ accomplished for us on another tree two thousand years ago.

We are not Israel, under the Law, we today are the Body of Christ. We have an eternal dwelling place in heavenly places while Israel has a heavenly city that will come down from heaven (New Jerusalem).

Israel, who was under the law had to keep the commandments under the Law in order to one day have right to eat of the tree of life. We are not under the Law and have never been under the Law but are under Grace.

What is meant by verse fifteen that outside of New Jerusalem in Eternity on the New Earth will be dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie? It means exactly what it says. But you need to read all of the Bible verses on this to understand what is being spoken about here.

**Isaiah 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.**

There will be a place outside of New Jerusalem where the carcasses of the lost of all ages will be able to be seen as their worm will not die which will be abhorring to all flesh that see this terrible reminder of mankind's rejection of God's love and which have transgressed against God by rejecting that love. Mark 9:43-48 have a lot to say about this as well as other places in the Bible.

There will not be any lost people walking around on the New Earth but Hell that existed in the Old Earth will be cast into the Lake of Fire which must be in the heart of the New Earth because its entrance is located outside the city of New Jerusalem according to Isaiah 66 and Mark 9 and other places. Whether that fits what you want the New Earth to have or not. It's not up to you.

**Just as Adam lost Paradise for mankind in the Fall by his disobedience, so Christ, the second Adam, will restore Paradise by his obedience at the Cross, in the future Kingdom.**

**The End**

**Trees in the Bible Tests**  
**The Dispensation of Grace Bible Institute**

To submit a test simply copy and paste the test questions **along with the answers in bold font** into the body of an email and send them to:

**tests@dofgbi.org**

**Trees in Scripture Test**

1. What does the green olive tree and its fruit symbolize in Psalm 52:8?
2. How is the nation of Israel symbolized when she is not in obedience to the covenant she made with God at Mt. Sinai?
3. What is the first tree mentioned in scripture?
4. What is the second tree mentioned in scripture?
5. According to Deuteronomy 30:15, what choice did God give Adam by putting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden?
6. According to Deuteronomy 1:39 who did God say he would allow to go into the promised land and why?
7. Why did Adam and Eve have to be removed from presence of the tree of life?
8. Why was the serpent so interested in getting mankind to disobey God?
9. What did Adam and Eve sew together to make aprons for themselves?
10. Where does the olive leaf first appear in scripture?
11. What are children called in Genesis 30:2?
12. Where is the first bush in scripture, and what is significant about it?
13. Where do we find olive oil used the first time in scripture?
14. What was fruit symbolic of in Deuteronomy 7?
15. What does Deuteronomy 21:23 say about a person that is hanged on a tree?
16. Why did Jesus die on a tree according to Galatians 3:13?
17. Who was to be blessed by the olive tree according to Deuteronomy 24:20?
18. What tree was Gideon compared to by Jotham in Judges 9?
19. Who was compared to the bramble?
20. What was dwelling safely under a vine and a fig tree a symbol of?
21. What king of Israel's reign was a picture of the millennial kingdom?

22. What tree was used to make the Cherubims in the temple?
23. What is compared to a tree in Psalm 1:3?
24. What did David say he was like in the temple of God?
25. Who is the vineyard in Psalm 80:15?
26. Who is the man at God's right hand in verse 17?
27. What are a woman's works in Proverbs 31:16 compared to?
28. What is Jesus called in Isaiah 4:2?
29. Who does Isaiah 5:7 say the vineyard of the LORD of host is?
30. Who is the branch that grows out of Jesse's roots in Isaiah 11:1?
31. Israel is to be shaken as a barren what in the tribulation period according to Isaiah 17:6?
32. What will happen when God causes Jacob to take root?
33. What did the LORD call Israel in Jeremiah 11:16?
34. Who and what are represented as trees in Ezekiel 31?
35. What is the fruit and the leaves of the tree of life used for in Ezekiel 47 in the future?
36. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream he was in Daniel 4?
37. Who are the two olive trees in Zechariah 4:14 and in the book of the Revelation?
38. Who will build the temple of the LORD in the kingdom according to Zechariah 6:12?
39. What did John the Baptist say would happen to the trees that did not produce good fruit?
40. In Matthew 21:43 Who was going to have the kingdom of God taken from them, and who was the nation that it was given to for bringing forth the fruits of righteousness?
41. In Matthew 24 what does the parable of the fig tree teach concerning Israel?
42. What did the cursing of the fig tree represent in Mark 11?
43. What did the dresser of the vineyard tell the owner of the fig tree that was barren in Luke 13:8-9?
44. Who is the true vine and who are the good branches in John 15?
45. Who are the natural branches of the good olive tree in Romans 11?
46. Who gets broken off?
47. Who is grafted in?
48. What is the firstfruit of them that slept according to 1 Cor 15:20?
49. If the firstfruit is holy who then make up the lump that are also called holy?

50. What is the final tree in scripture?

51. Who gets to eat of it according to Revelation 2:7?

52. Who does Revelation 22 say has the right to eat of the tree of life?