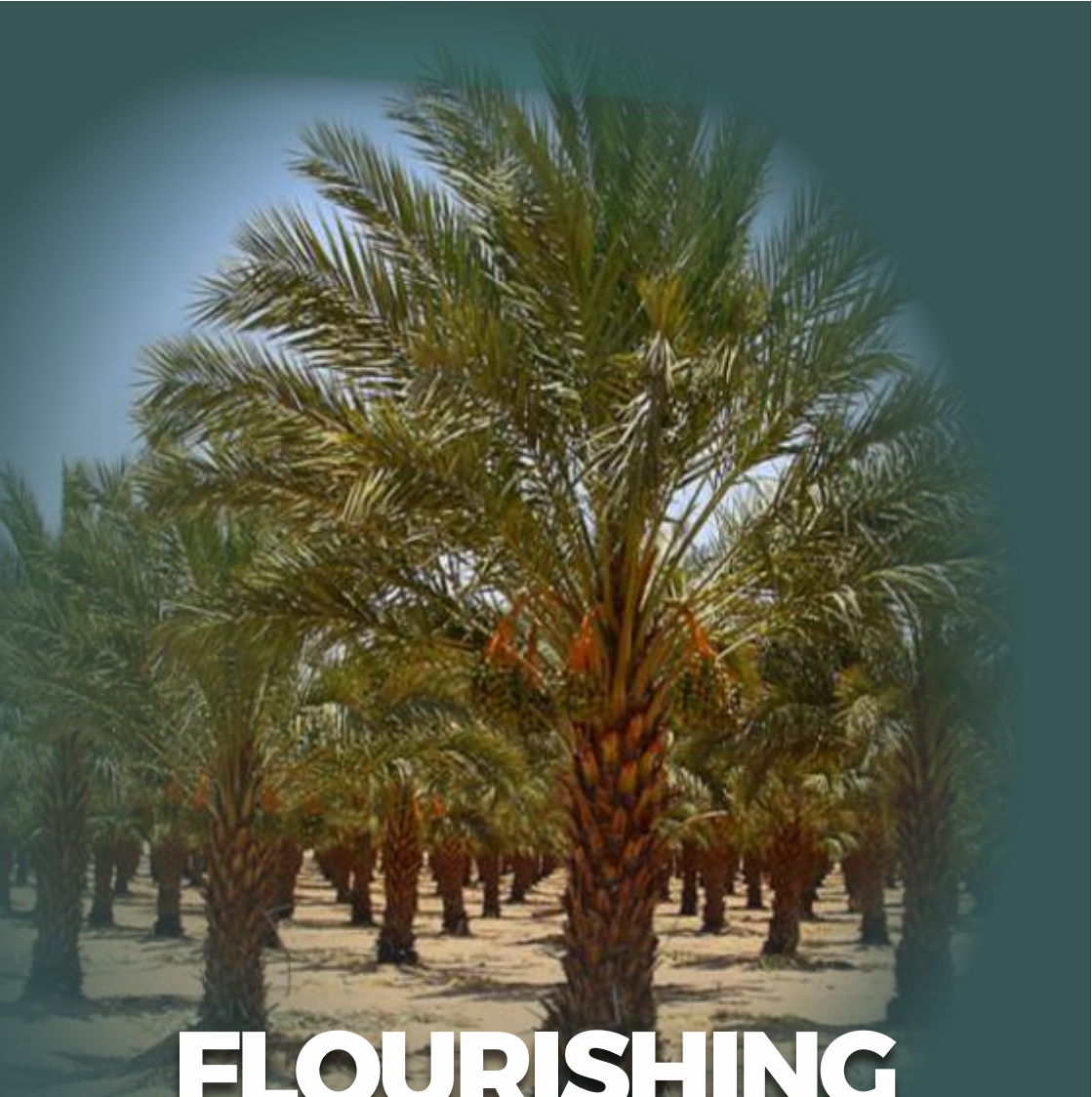
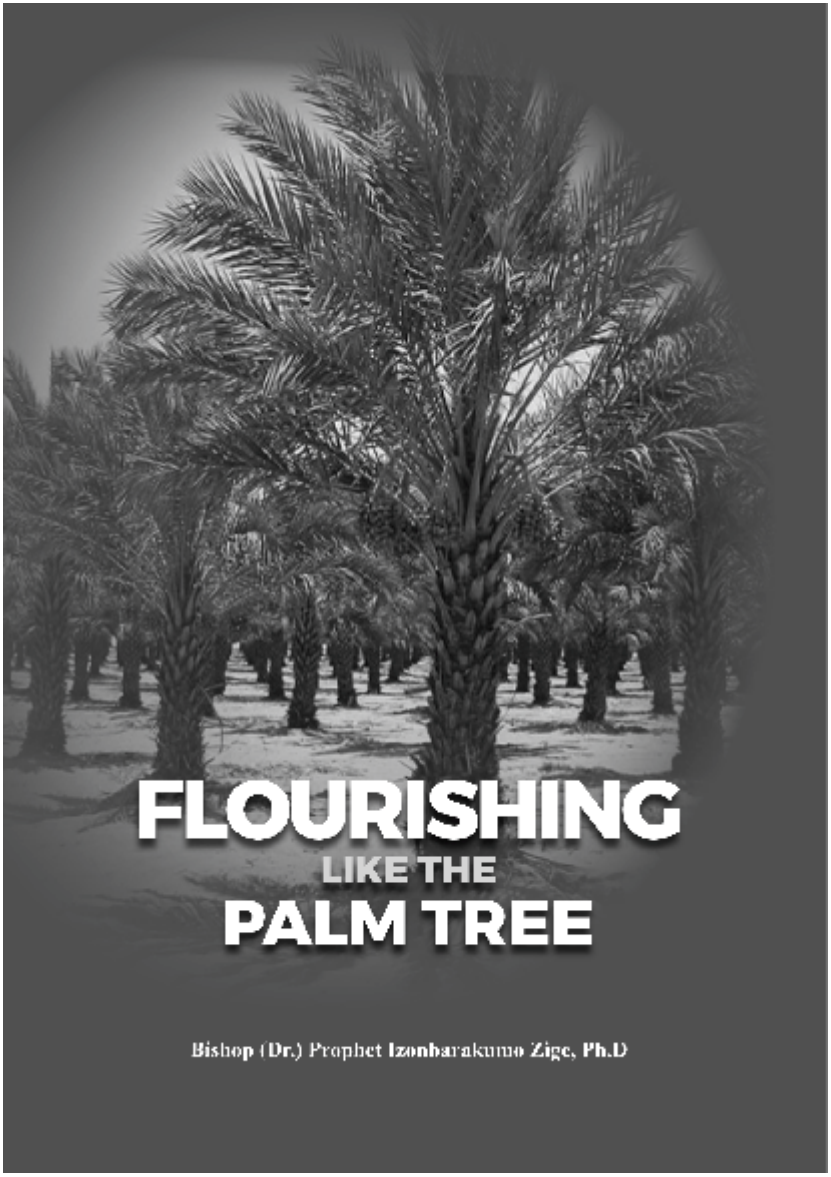


FLOURISHING LIKE THE PALM TREE

Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D



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Bishop (Dr.) Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige, Ph.D

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ABOUT THE BOOK

This is an irresistible book called **FLOURISHING LIKE THE PALM TREE** is a book loaded with divine revelation and inspirational wisdom. Key and or principles that were put in place to better the life and destiny of whosoever that may lay hold of this book and read through.

The book contains nine (10) powerful chapters thoroughly written with simple language with the aim to make everybody in the entire community of readers across the globe to have a clear picture of what is being written and for easy application. This is a must read book.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the entire members of Corresponding Grace Ministries and all the believers of the gospel of Jesus Christ around the globe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to sincerely render my most profound gratitude to God Almighty, who gave me the strength, inspiration, knowledge, vision, foresight, wisdom, revelation and the zeal to put this work into reality with the intention of advancing His Kingdom.

I want to appreciate my beloved wife Dr. apostle. Happiness Zige, who stood by me through thick and thin. Thanks a million times, you are the jewel of inestimable value.

Many thanks, to my children for their understanding while I embarked on this project. You are all Godly children. I love you Emmanuel Zige and Victory Zige.

I want to also thank my beloved father, Mr. Zige of blessed memory and my mother who till date is standing firm by me. I won't forget your fatherly advice and motherly care you gave me which I have kept till date.

To all the members of corresponding Grace Ministry, I say a very big thank you for being such dependable. May the almighty God richly bless you all in Jesus Christ name.

Let me also extend my appreciation to those whom I have worked with over time and have inspired me to write this book. They are as follows:

1. Zige Ebitemebofa
2. Philip God-gift
3. Past. Dr. Engr. Tudou Perewarifagha (Ph.D.)
4. Past. Dr. Surveyor Amos Korutimi
5. Mr. Aputu Boxy
6. Past. James Ogbara
7. Past. Favor David
8. Elder Kereotu
9. Barr. Past. Obio Fear-God
10. Past. Mrs. Fostina Goin

FOREWORD

Many questions do arise when a work is put for the view of the general public. But then, this is an exceptionally researched book written out of love, passion and with great concern for the wellbeing of every believer of Jesus Christ. Flourishing like the Palm Trees is a MUST for everybody around the globe to read.

The author, Bishop Prophet Izonbarakumo Zige (Ph.D.) an erudite scholar, an infallible preacher and teacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is a wonderful, inspirational and motivational teacher, who has taken the time to research and put this work with the intention of growing believers in the deep things of the word of God. From the wealth of experience acquired by the author over the years, he decided to bring standardized information and secrets to boost the growth of the members of Corresponding Grace Ministry and the entire populace of believer around the globe to aid clear understanding on the word of God in this respect.

Again, the author conveyed the message in this book with a simple, readable and understandable language that all the readers will read and comprehend so as to put in practice and apply the key principles and steps appropriately. As such the book will be of interest to the general populace of readers around the globe.

More so, the book FLOURISHING LIKE THE PALM TREES contains ten chapters loaded with wealth of knowledge, experience and wisdom which is capable of activating the blessing of God upon your life which will in turn produce uncommon blessings in all spheres of your life endeavor.

Conclusively, I commend the author Bishop Prophet (Dr.) Izonbarakumo Zige (PhD) for the brilliant efforts for bringing his wealth of experience into reality to salvage the children of God out of bondage and mediocrity. Therefore, without any hesitation, I recommend this book FLOURISHING LIKE THE PALM TREES for your constant and regular studying.

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CHAPTER ONE

MEANING OF FLOURISHING

Palm trees played an important role in the culture and economy of so many countries such as Nigeria, Mesopotamia, which included parts of Iraq, and Syria. The Babylonians considered the palm tree as a symbol of prosperity and beauty. They associated the tree with the goddess Ishtar, the deity of love, fertility and war. Hence, people considered the Palm as a sacred tree. Palm trees provided food, shade and materials for construction, furniture and crafts.

Types Of Palm Trees

There are several known types of Palm trees. Some of these are highlighted below:

- Date palms
- Areca palm
- Trachycarpus
- European fan palm
- Fan palms
- Euterpe
- Oil palms
- Palmettos
- Coconut palm
- Syagrus
- Nipa palmcorypha etc.

According to the Webster's 1828 Dictionary, the term Flourish is derived from the Latin word floresco or floreo meaning:

1. To thrive to grow luxuriantly, to increase and enlarge, as a healthy growing plant.

2. To be prosperous, to increase in wealth or honor.

3. To grow in grace and good works; to abound in the consolation of religion. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree (Psalm 92:12).

4. To be in a prosperous state; to grow or be augmented.

From the above meanings derived from the term Flourish, it is expected that as you grow in grace of God as a believer of Jesus Christ, your growth should be seen and witnessed by all around you. You cannot grow in grace and would not be recognized. Therefore, I pray that as you get to know what flourish is all about, may you grow and flourish like the Palm Trees in Jesus mighty name.

The Old Testament Context of Flourishing

Although **'flourishing'** means to grow and develop successfully in a favorable environment, and also a state of being where people experience positive emotions,

positive psychological functioning, and positive social functioning most of the time. In the Old Testament, the concept of "**flourishing"** is best described as **"shalom",** which means a number of things, such as **wholeness, salvation, righteousness, soundness, connectedness, justice and wellbeing.**

The biblical context of this word which is better explained as **"Shalom", is** a right relationship with God and others. We are called to thrive hard even in harsh conditions and overcome vision killers that may stand on our way. Dreams destroyers, that appears in our lives to be a stumbling block to the wellbeing of our lives. Destiny killers, that surfaces on the pathway to our breakthroughs. From such the bible said we must stand to overcome them all. Because the bible in Luke 19:27 says: Therefore, every enemy that stands on your pathway to flourishing shall be crushed by fire in Jesus' mighty name.

"But those mine enemies, which would not that I reign over them, bring hither and slay them before me."

The New Testament Context of Flourishing

From the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, the word **'Flourish'** appears once only in the King James

Version of the bible as translation of the Greek word '**Anathallo',** which means, **'To put forth anew,' 'To Flourish anew' or 'To make forth anew'.** That simply means, as a believer of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you are expected to grow constantly in newness of his word and bearing fruits in all ramifications of life endeavors. You are not expected to experience a lingering stagnation, limitations, disappointment, frustration, backwardness, promise and fail, near success syndrome, delay in progress and the likes.

Difference in view between Biblical and cultural Examples of Flourishing

1. The biblical view of flourishing stands apart from all others in that it provides not only a vision, but also the means by which a person can achieve flourishing. Christianity provides not merely a set of values or a vision that we should pursue and which thereby promises flourishing; it provides the heart cure and renewal in our souls that enables us to actually pursue and experience flourishing. This is good news indeed. Flourishing can only be achieved because we receive something from outside of ourselves – salvation imparted to us by God's Holy Spirit, which restores our original relationship with the creator.

2. A right understanding of biblical flourishing leads us to direct all glory to God as the source of that flourishing. He is glorified when his creation flourishes. This stands in stark contrast to the cultural vision of flourishing that elevates and glorifies man.

3. Biblical flourishing is missional, priestly, and outward focused, motivated on spreading God's glory throughout the earth. **We flourish when we help others flourish (Jeremiah 29:4-7).**

4. Biblical flourishing encompasses all of our being, including our material, psychological, spiritual and emotional aspects. The cultural vision of flourishing focuses primarily on our material prosperity with its false hope of happiness. Biblical flourishing is also distinct from all other views because it is consciously made available to all people: men and women, children and adults, educated and illiterate, rich and poor, slave and free (**Galatians 3:28).** Within Christianity there is no "special" group of people that alone have access to flourishing.

Finally, biblical flourishing needs to be understood as inevitably incomplete because of God's ongoing mission in the world. The story of redemption and full flourishing will only be finalized at the end of this age with the second coming of Christ and the consummation of his Kingdom.

CHAPTER TWO

BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PALM TREE

Palm trees are a common sight in tropical and subtropical regions, known for their iconic appearance and symbolic significance in various cultures. However, in the Bible, palm trees hold a special meaning that goes beyond their physical beauty.

The word Palm from Webster's 1828 Dictionary is described as superiority, victory and triumph. It is an emblem of victory. As someone who loves nature and studies the Bible, I've always been intrigued by the meaning of palm trees in the sacred texts.

The references to palm trees in the Bible bring a sense of peace and calm to my soul, like a gentle breeze on a warm summer day. From their presence in the Old Testament to their significance in the New Testament, palm trees teach valuable lessons about faith and resilience.

Palm Tree according to Easton's Bible Dictionary is obtained from the Hebrew word **'Tamar'** which is described as **'flourishing'** (psalms 92:12), tall, **'upright'** (Jeremiah 10:5). Its branches are a symbol of victory (Revelation 7:9).

Therefore, from the explanations above, as a believer of Christ, you are a carrier of uprightness, victory, triumph and superiority. No wonder the bible clarified in Deuteronomy 28:13 "**And the Lord shall make thee the**

head, and not the tail; and thou shall be above only and not beneath:

In biblical times, palm trees were considered symbols of victory, righteousness, and they often represented an oasis of peace and abundance in the desert, providing shelter and sustenance to travelers and communities.

Symbolism and Significance of Palm Trees in the Bible

The palm tree holds significant symbolism in the Bible, representing victory, triumph, prosperity and righteousness.

In **Psalm 92:12**, it is written:

"the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

This verse highlights the symbolic connection between the righteous and the palm tree. It is a metaphor for spiritual growth and prosperity. Just as the Palm trees stands tall and strong, so too shall the righteous stand firm in their faith and convictions.

The palm tree is often associated with beauty, fruitfulness, and prosperity as mentioned in **Song of**

Solomon 7:7-8:

"Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit."

The branches of palm trees were used to welcome Jesus during His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, symbolizing His royalty and sovereignty.

Biblical References to Palm Trees

As I explore the biblical meaning of the palm tree, it becomes evident that numerous references are made to palm trees throughout the Bible. These references serve as a rich source of biblical symbolism and provide valuable spiritual lessons for believers.

The palm tree is often associated with victory and triumph. In Psalm 92:12, it's said that 'the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree.' This imagery conveys the idea that those who remain faithful to God will ultimately be victorious. Palm branches were used as a symbol of joy and celebration. During Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crowds waved palm branches, symbolizing their recognition of him as the Messiah (John 12:13).

The palm tree also represents righteousness and uprightness. In the book of Judges, Deborah, a judge and

prophetess, held court under a palm tree, symbolizing her righteous and wise leadership.

These biblical references to palm trees provide deeper insights into the spiritual significance and lessons that can be drawn from these majestic trees. They remind us of the victory, joy, and righteousness that can be found in our relationship with God.

Palm Trees in the Old Testament

In my exploration of the biblical meaning of palm trees, I find that the Old Testament contains significant mentions of the palm tree.

The palm tree symbolism and significance in the Old Testament are rich and meaningful. One of the most notable references to palm trees is found in the book of Exodus, where the Israelites camped near palm trees after their escape from Egypt. The palm tree became a symbol of rest, provision, and paradise. In the book of Psalms, the righteous are compared to palm trees, emphasizing their strength, longevity, and spiritual growth.

Additionally, the palm branches were used in various religious ceremonies, such as the Feast of Tabernacles, symbolizing victory, joy, and praise.

Palm Trees in the New Testament

In my exploration of the biblical meaning of palm trees, I discovered that the New Testament contains significant references to palm trees as well. The cultural significance of palm trees in biblical times played a significant role in shaping their symbolism in the New Testament.

Here Are Some Key Points To Remember:

- Palm trees represented a sense of prosperity and abundance in the ancient Near East, making them a symbol of blessing and favor from God.

- Palm branches were used as a symbol of victory and triumph, especially during the time of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where people laid palm branches on the ground to honor him.

- The book of Revelation mentions palm trees in the context of the heavenly paradise, symbolizing eternal life and victory over sin and death.

These references highlight the enduring symbolism of palm trees as signs of victory, triumph, and eternal blessings in the New Testament.

Lessons and Teachings of Palm Trees in the Bible

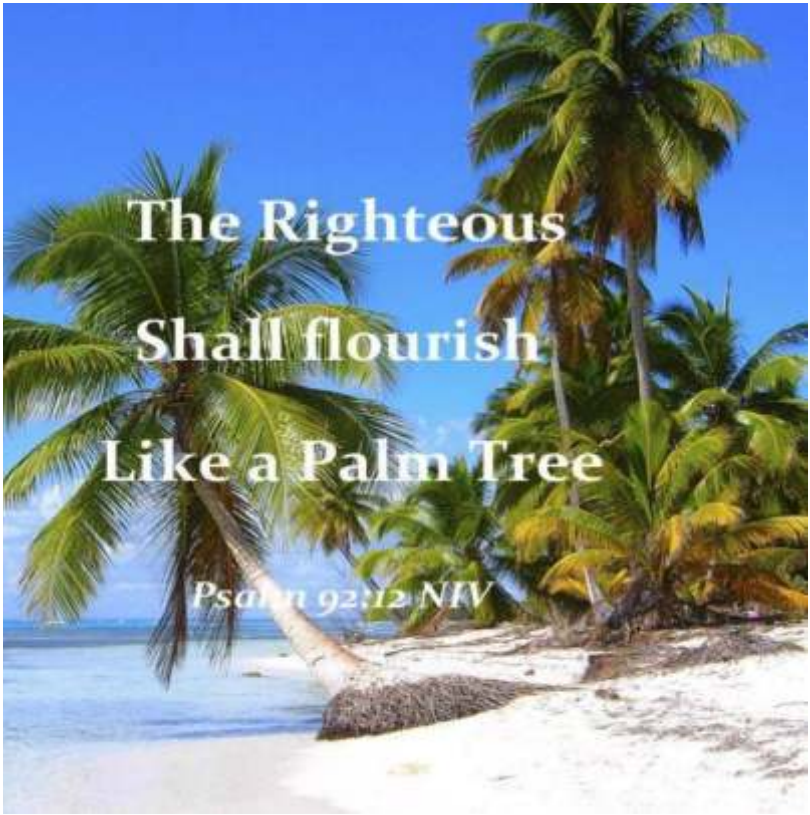
Growing up in a coastal region, I've always been fascinated by the lessons and teachings that palm trees offer in the Bible. These majestic trees can provide us with valuable insights into spiritual growth and divine

provision.

In the Bible, palm trees are often associated with prosperity, righteousness, and stability. They're a symbol of victory and triumph, reminding us of God's faithfulness and provision in our lives. Just as palm trees can withstand harsh conditions and continue to grow tall and strong, we too can find strength and resilience in our spiritual journey.

The palm tree's ability to bear fruit, even in the desert, teaches us the importance of relying on God's provision and trusting in His timing. Through their presence in the Bible, palm trees serve as a reminder of the lessons we can learn from nature and the wisdom that God has embedded in His creation.

CHAPTER THREE



PALM TREES REPRESENT THE COMING KING

The word of God made mention of Palm sixty two (62) times and Tree two hundred and fifty two (252) times, carrying different symbolic meanings; Palms play a significant role in the New Testament as well.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey shortly before His arrest and crucifixion, the people placed palm branches on the road before Him, crowds waved palm branches as a sign of honor and celebration, paving the way for him as the Messiah.

> ***"So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna!*** Blessed ***is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:12-13).*** Matthew 21:7-8).

The palm branches depicted joy, celebration and welcome to the King. Sadly, shortly after giving Him a royal welcome, the same people supported His arrest and brutal murder.

They didn't internalize the palm branch welcome.

We as Christians today need to be ready to surrender the rest of our lives to Jesus Christ. We must surrender to Him as our Lord and soon-coming King and focus on the time when He takes the reins of this earth and rules as

King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Matthew 6:33; Revelation 19:16).

In these traditions, the palm tree also represents peace, righteousness and prosperity.

(**Psalms 92:12-15)** emphasizes the fact that,

"the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to show that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" is a biblical phrase that means the beauty; erectness, stateliness, and growth of the palm tree which are an emblem of the condition, prosperity, and happiness of a righteous man. The Hebrew word "flourish" used here means to bloom or blossom, to spread or grow, to fly, to break forth, to beak out, and to spring up. Palm trees are known for their long life, and to ***"flourish like a palm tree"*** means to stand tall and to live long.

A righteous Christian will flourish like a palm tree, strive to be upright by keeping God's commandments, bear fruit while developing a closer relationship with God, and should not be easily shaken by the storms of life.

The even*t,* known as Palm Sunday*,* symbolizes Jesu*s'* victory over sin and death, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament and ushering in a new era of salvation for humanity.

Palm trees remind us of rest in God's Kingdom

What image do palm trees evoke in your mind? Perhaps one of two images come to mind—an oasis in a dry desert or a tropical island paradise.

Palm trees often inspire images of rest and reprieve from the harsh realities of this world.

In this way, palm trees can serve as a symbol of the Kingdom of God.

After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they came to a place where they rested and were refreshed under palm trees (Exodus 15:27). It was a reprieve from the harsh desert. After crossing the Red Sea, they would see Egypt no more (Exodus 14:13). For Christians, this depicts leaving the world behind and moving toward God's Kingdom.

Christians are to continue seeking the rest of the Kingdom of God that is pictured every week by the seventh-day Sabbath (Hebrews 4).

Palm Trees Teach Genuineness and Sincerity

The more you study palm trees, the more you discover how truly unique they are.

Did you know palm trees are not made of hard wood? Instead, they consist of spongy, fibrous tissue that helps them be flexible.

Christians are to be characterized by genuineness and sincerity. Another interesting thing about palm trees is that what's on the outside is the same material as what's on the inside. Most trees have an outer layer of bark. But not palm trees. What you see is what you get.

Palm trees are genuine and sincere. Their outside is the same as their inside. Likewise, Christians are to be characterized by genuineness and sincerity.

The opposite of genuineness and sincerity is hypocrisy. Jesus often corrected the Pharisees for their sin of hypocrisy (Luke 12:1-3). Instead of desiring to please God, they did righteous works only for show, to impress others. Jesus was basically calling them actors or stage players when He called them hypocrites. Instead of being genuine, they put on a show for others.

But their hearts were far from God (Matthew 15:7-8).

In contrast, Joshua instructed the Israelites to serve God "in sincerity and in truth" (Joshua 24:14). Like palm trees, Christians should be genuine and sincere. Instead of putting on a show of righteousness, they should seek to be righteous through and through.

Palm Trees Teach Humility

Palm trees are not the grandest or most impressive trees.

One of my favorite parks is Cornwall Park in Auckland, New Zealand. The park contains centuries-old trees. Some of the large oak trees are grand and incredibly impressive, with large root systems bulging out of the ground, large branches extending in all directions and a blanket of foliage covering the whole tree. Some of the other trees there are truly beautiful, including the cherry trees that blossom in springtime.

In contrast, palm trees are only covered by branches at their top. These branches are skinny with very little foliage. In fact, they are pretty bare from the ground to the top. Palm trees don't have the usual type of flowers either. So, in contrast, palm trees may seem humble indeed.

But palm trees' humble appearance is closely related to the attribute of stability covered in the earlier chapters. The lack of branches on palm trees reduces the wind load on the trunk. When strong winds blow on trees with many

branches, the force on the branches can be transferred to their trunks. If the force is too strong, the trunk will snap or the tree will be uprooted. But because palm trees have fewer branches and are flexible, they can often withstand some of the heaviest winds nature can throw at them.

This is why after a tempestuous storm, many of the large and grand trees are damaged or fallen—yet most palm trees continue to stand.

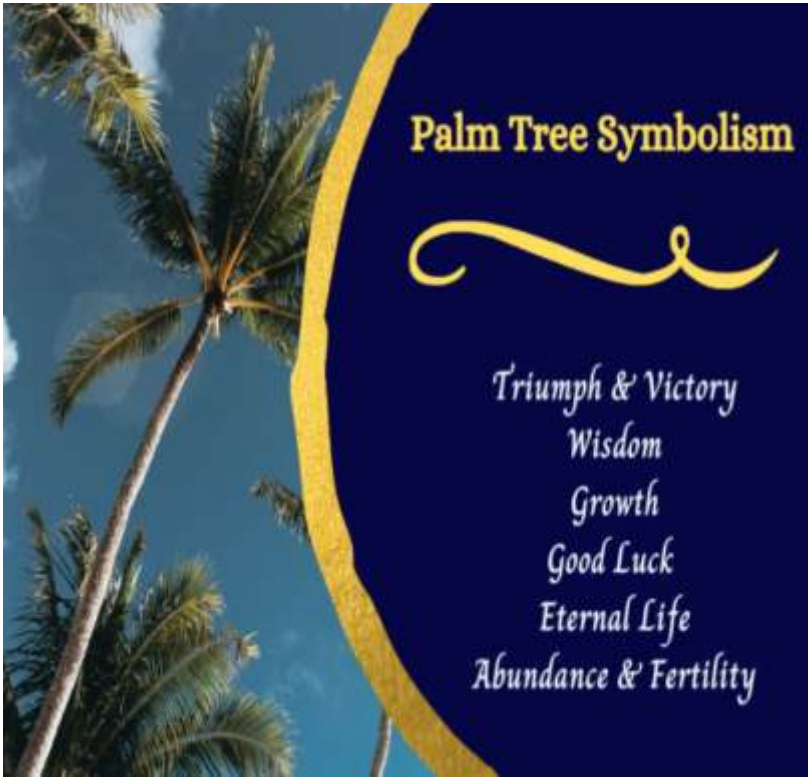
Likewise, we Christians must develop humility and not trust in ourselves. It is this humility, trusting in God, that helps Christians stand strong and tall in turbulent times.

Consider how King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was depicted as a strong tree of great height, lovely with branches, abundant fruit and covered in foliage (Daniel 4:10-12, 20-22). His pride was depicted through the grandness of a tree. But God humbled him by stripping off all his branches, leaves and fruit and leaving his "tree" bare until he realized that all "those who walk in pride He [God] is able to put down" (verse 37).

Palm trees are humble compared to other trees. So, too, all those who want to follow God must be humble and not trust in their own strength

(Isaiah 57:15).

CHAPTER FOUR



SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE PALM TREE

Palm trees hold profound spiritual meanings across different cultures around the world. In Christianity, palm branches symbolize Jesus entering Jerusalem or Palm Sunday, showing victory and triumph. Palm trees are being revered and are considered as a gift from God and a source of blessings. In both instances, palm trees embody resilience, faith and the ability to thrive even in difficult times. That is why **Psalms 92:12** admonishes believers to be like the palm tree.

Each part of the palm tree carries its own symbolic meaning. The trunk, with its tall and straight structure, symbolizes **strength and stability**. This reminds us as believers to stand firm in the word of God and your work with the Lord even in the face of adversity.

The leaves or fronds of the palm tree represent **peace**, **abundance and victory**. Their fan-like shape represents a sense of **openness**, welcoming optimism to our lives.

The spiritual meaning of palm tree symbolism is deeply rooted in various cultures and religious traditions throughout the world. With their tall, slender trunks and elegant, fan-shaped leaves, palm trees have long been associated with **strength, resilience, and a sense of peace.**

In Christianity, the palm tree holds significant symbolism, particularly during the celebration of Palm Sunday. This annual observance commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, symbolizing **victory, peace, and eternal life.**

In many spiritual traditions, palm trees are seen as symbols of **wisdom and enlightenment.** The tree's ability to bend without breaking in strong winds is often associated with the concept of **resilience and adaptability** in the face of challenges. Just as palm trees sway with the wind, spiritual seekers strive to remain grounded and steadfast while navigating life's ups and downs.

Today, palm trees continue to hold deep spiritual meaning for many people. Their presence evokes feelings of tranquility, tropical paradise, and a connection to nature's beauty. Whether it's witnessing a palm tree gently swaying in the breeze or finding solace under its shade, these trees remind us to stay rooted in our inner strength and find inner peace amidst the chaos of everyday life. Palm trees hold a deep spiritual meaning as symbols of **divine growth and resilience**. They teach us to reach for higher spiritual heights, adapt to challenges, and embody abundance and generosity. By connecting with the spiritual significance of palm trees, we can find

inspiration and guidance in our own spiritual paths.

As mentioned above the various significant meanings of the palm tree, some other meanings are highlighted as follows:

- Patience
- Ability to withstand Pressure
- You are valuable
- You are growing
- All hope is not lost
- It reminds you of your faith in Jesus Christ
- Good news is coming
- Spiritual grounding
- You are doing the right thing etc.

CHAPTER FIVE

QUALITIES OF THE PALM TREE

The word of God likening us to flourish like the palm tree signifies that, there are certain qualities embodied in the palm tree that may be lacking in us as humans or are in us that is traceable to the palm tree. That is why the people of Jerusalem dropped the palm fronds on the roads for the King of kings and the Lord of lords to pass. Some of these qualities of the palm tree are:

- Flexible: this means Palm trees can be bent to any direction but will always regain its strength no matter how powerful or tough the tempest or storm that tries to bend it over.

- Few branches

- Withstands heavy storm: this means palm trees are resilient.

- Growing upright: Palm tree grows straight up. It has no branches. Always looking up towards heaven, the palm tree grows to a very great height, sometimes up to a hundred feet. In the same way, a true Christian always looks up towards heaven, trying to know the will of God and fulfill divine will. Rooted in a land whether fertile or not, it grows, sucking the moisture from the earth. Our

lives on this earth should be nurtured by our good deeds. This is because; it gives us the moisture to grow thereby. That is why the Psalmist says, the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree (Psalms 92:12). By the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is upon you, everything you lay your hands on to do shall flourish in the name of Jesus Christ.

- Each part of the Palm tree is useful: Palm tree is known for its usefulness. It gives the cooling effect by its shade as well as its products. It is used for medicinal purposes in many countries. Palm leaves are known for their cooling effect and thatched roof are made from these leaves. This is applicable to Christians; we are expected to live for each other. A Christian is expected to be a witness of love in his heart, words and deeds. As Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, the Christian life is a life of sacrifice (1corinthians 10:33).

- A Palm tree is not affected by drought: no matter how tough or tempestuous the weather condition may be, palm tree is not affected in any way. Also the life of the palm tree is not affected by any surface injury. In the same way, a true Christian

life is not affected by trial or tribulation in life. He is completely dependent on God and takes everything according to the will of God. He draws his strength of life through his trust in God and always says:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalms 23:1-3).

- Evergreen tree: the palm tree is green at all seasons. Life flows within its being continually and keeps it fresh always. Rain may fall. Storms may shake and sway the tree with great force. Yet the palm tree remains strong. Christians are likened to the palm tree because they never change their mind about who Jesus was, is and is to come. They are always vibrantly witnessing about Jesus.

They always learn to say:

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength" (4:12-13).

- Inability to Graft: it is an interesting quality of a palm tree that it is impossible to graft a palm tree into another palm tree. A Christian, likened to a palm tree cannot be grafted to any other identity (Matthew 6:24)

- Emblem of victory: palm branches were carried as a token of victory. This was witnessed in the triumphant entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. It is mentioned in the book of revelation as a token of victory.

- Palm tree shows the place of water: palm tree has a very acute sense of finding water resource. Its roots go deep to find out water even in a dry place. A child of God finds his livelihood in Christ the living water. He is the living water that can quench any thirst.

Jesus *said:*

"Those who drinks of the water I shall give will never be thirsty (John 4:14).

CHAPTER SIX

PROPHETIC LESSONS FROM THE PALM TREE

I The palm tree remains strong

The Palm tree grows to a great height, up to **100ft (30m)** tall, and reaches the age of **100-200 years**. The bible clearly tells us of God satisfying us with long life and showing us mercy (**Psalms 91:16**). Therefore, receive by the power of the Holy Spirit long life and mercy in the name of Jesus Christ.

ii. Abundant Fruitfulness

Throughout the life of a Palm tree, the fruit of the palm is produced on a yearly basis, and in great quantity or abundance of clusters. The bible explains this point thus:

> ***"I am the vine; ye are the branches. If ye abide in me and my word abide in you, ye shall bear much fruit; apart from me ye can do nothing"*** (John 15:15-16).

Abide in the Lord always. Connect to the grace of God set before you and bear the needed fruits as expected of you. Let the word of the Lord abide greatly in you.

iii. Nothing Wasted on the Palm Tree

An amazing fact about the palm tree is that every part of it is useful. The palm leaves are used to cover homes and as

materials for fences. They are also useful for making baskets, and other items. Even the seed when ground, produces food for animals and human. It is also used as cream etc. nothing is wasted on the palm tree and that is why the word of God says:

> ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"*** (Romans 8:28).

In the way that nothing is wasted in the palm tree, so you shall never be a waste in Jesus' name.

iv. The Palm Tree as a Testimony of Praise

The Palm Tree represents Praise, Victory and Salvation. These are depicted as follows:

- Palm Tree were carved into the temple décor (1kings 6:29)
- Their branches were used in the feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40)

- Palm Tree were thrown upon the ground before Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem (john 12:13)

- In revelation, the great multitude wear white robes and hold Palm branches in their hands (Revelation 7:9)

As believers, we can draw spiritual lessons from the symbolism of palm trees in the Bible. Like the palm tree, we are called to stand tall in our faith, rooted deeply in the truth of God's word.

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; they which are planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God."(Psalm 92:12-13).

By seeking God's presence and nourishing our souls with His truth, we can bear fruit in every season and remain steadfast in our Christian walk.

CHAPTER SEVEN

PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Planted in the house of the Lord is a phrase from Psalms 92:13 that describe the righteous who are members of God's church and spend their days in his presence. The phrase uses the metaphor of a tree to show how the righteous will flourish, bear fruit, and stay fresh and green. The phrase also implies that the righteous will praise God for his faithfulness and justice.

"But they which are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to show that the LORD is upright: He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." (Psalms 92:13-15).

Similar to the tree needing fertile soil to survive and grow, It is essential that as believers, we are planted in a place that will feed and nurture our soul. The same is true when we are planted in the house of God; it's like a tree being planted in the best possible place and the most fertile soil.

You need to be planted where you will be fed

When you are planted in the house of God; it's like a tree being planted in the best possible place and the most fertile soil.

Psalms 1:2-3 says:

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank…" (ESV).

Water is essential to the vitality of a tree. Trees must have water to create nutrients that become the energy source for the tree. If plants and trees lack enough water, they become weak and struggle to survive. On the other hand, if plants are positioned near a stream, it will have a continuous supply of water and therefore become stronger and more vibrant. The same is true when we are planted in the house of God. Because God's house provides a place where we are constantly being filled, and where our faith is consistently being watered by the word of God and His presence. The word of God is our source

of strength as a believer. It is our spiritual food that strengthens us as we hear and feed on it. Like water to a tree, the word of God provides life to every believer. It is not an option, but it is a necessity. We need to be planted in place where we can discover our purpose for living.

You need to be planted where you can discover your purpose for living

Psalms 1:3 says:

"They are planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season" (ESV).

There are various types of fruit bearing trees. Each tree bears its own unique type of fruit. The same is true for you and I. like the palm trees; you and I have a specific purpose here on earth to fulfill. And God has equipped us with special gifts and talents to fulfill the calling He has on each of our lives. The way we discover our purpose and develop our gifts is by being with the Lord and his people. In fact, bearing good fruit is completely impossible any other way as a believer with God.

You need to be planted where you can stand strong against the storms of life

Most trees lose their leaves in winter. Bitter cold weather is not conducive to growth. However, that is not how it is for those who are planted in the house of God. Psalms 1:3b teaches us that;

"They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither."

Meaning there is never a time where we will be overtaken by the storms and trials of life if we are anchored in God. Although we may face different seasons and withstand different trials if we are planted in the house of God, those trials and tests will only make us stronger. Romans 8:37 teaches us that;

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

When we are planted in the house of God, we are chosen to position ourselves in a safe, protected place that strong and stable in times of the stormy trials that can come our way.

You need to be planted where you can be Prosperous

Psalms 1:3c says:

"They are like trees along the riverbank bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."

What a statement, **"And they prosper in all they do."** God desires that our lives would overflow with His blessings so that whatever we do, we would be prosperous. And that is what exactly happens to those who plant themselves in His house, and who make His church a priority. His desire is that we would experience the blessing of the lord on our lives in such a way that we would not be able to contain it.

There is not one area of your life that God does not want to bless. Psalms 31:19 says:

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men."

It is God's desire that you and I would be planted in His house so that we would become the Palm tree flourishing and never stop growing.

In the New Testament context, being planted in the house of God speaks of being firmly rooted and established in the Christian community in a particular ministry. We flourish not in isolation, but together. The power of God in Acts 2:1-4 in the form of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Jesus and they began to flourish in their respective ministries simply because they were together in one accord. They flourished together and not in isolation.

"Not forsaking the assembling ourselves together, as some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"(Hebrews 10:25).

Again, The House of God is the dwelling place of God's presence. To be planted in the House of God means to be brought into the established presence of God. The Psalmist was speaking prophetically about the blessings to be enjoyed by the believer in Christ.

We are planted in the house of the Lord the day we receive Jesus into our hearts. This means we are brought into the very presence of Almighty God. And God is the One, like the Gardener of His own Garden, who does the planting!

The scripture says in 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."***

He calls the process **"my planting."** God Himself has planted us in His House. He has brought us into His presence. This truth is so vital to understand. The believer in Christ has been brought into God's presence. There is no more wall of separation.

CHAPTER EIGHT

STRONG AND FRAGRANT LIKE THE CEDAR TREE

The Psalmist King David in his words also likened Christians to the cedar, a tall evergreen tree that produces a fragrant (very sweet smelling) gum. Its wood is very strong and long lasting. So it has many uses, including, furniture and ship masts. Due to its qualities, Cedar wood was used to build the temple.

Numbers 24:6 says**:**

"As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloe which the LORD hath planted and as cedar trees beside the waters". KJV

Again verse 7 of the above scripture from the Good News Bible, says thus:

"***They will have abundant rainfall and plant their seed in well watered fields. Their king shall be greater than Agag, and his rule shall be extended far and wide."***

God wants his children to grow and flourish, not only like the palm tree, but also like a cedar in Lebanon;

Psalms 92:***12:***

"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Both trees: The palm and the Cedar are known for vitality in old age. The Hebrew word grow, (sagah) means: to enlarge- especially upward; to grow up; to increase, and also symbolizes spiritual growth. The amplified bible says, the righteous shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon – Majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible. The words Cedar, cedars or cedar wood are found nearly 80 times in the bible, and cedar trees were very significant in the Bible days.

"He will strike root like the Lebanon cedar, and his shoots will go forth. His splendor will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like Lebanon cedar" (Hosea 14: 6-7).

We can graciously embrace the passing of years when we read what God has declared in His word. Like the Cedar built into the temple and the palm tree, we have the

privilege of being used by our creator and Father to help build His Church, establish His kingdom and remain strong where he has placed us throughout our lives.

Cedar is considered to be a symbol of strength and prosperity and often used in the construction of temples and palaces. It is known for its longevity and resistance to decay. Also the cedar tree represents protection and wisdom (spiritual meaning). For centuries, cedar trees have been revered for their spiritual significance. Cedar is known as a powerful medicine which is celebrated for spiritual protection and its ability to heal and purify.

Qualities of the Cedar trees that illustrate the uniqueness of the Righteous in Christ

There are peculiar qualities of the cedar trees that illustrate the uniqueness of the righteous in Christ, namely:

- Cedars are large, evergreen trees, which live a very long time and grow very sturdy and tall. They usually grow to height of 36m tall and 9 to 12m around the trunk, solid, strong and immovable.

- Cedar trees are common in forest areas that have a good deal of annual rainfall.

- Cedar trees can live very long period of time, approximately 1000years. The older they live, the

better they become.

- The wood of cedar tree is durable and very resistant to disease.

- Cedar wood has a very pleasant smell, which comes from natural oils in the wood that are toxic to insects and fungus.

- Cedar wood is also an excellent source of fuel.

The noun **'cedar'** (*erez*) means **'to be firm'** The cedar lives up to its name. It can grow up to 45 meters in height! Firm and stable too! Cedar wood is durable! Cedar wood is fragrant. Cedar wood is functional and useful, especially in the building industry. Each of these traits **'fits'** the saints of God! These honorable **"Cedar Christians"** are solid, stable and immovable. Cedars express the ideas of durability, incorruptibility, stability, and majesty. The uncompromisingly righteous grows up like a cedar in Lebanon – incorruptible, solid, stable, useful, and majestic. In the face of challenges, they keep on going and keep on growing. They endure through times and seasons of life. They have resisted the onslaught of sin, devils and demons. They have withstood sickness and disease. They only improve and never degenerate with age. They are clothed with strength and dignity.

They will stand before kings and be held in honor. The righteous are upright, strong, and unmoved by the adverse winds of circumstances and situations.

Balaam was commissioned by Balak to curse Israel, but all he could do was to bless Israel. In doing so, he compared the lovely tents of Jacob and the dwellings of Israel to: *"**CEDARS beside the waters"*** (Number 24:5-6). The Cedar tree is a Dominion Tree: ***"Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion…"*** **(v.19a).** Balaam declared:

> ***"For there is no sorcery against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'Oh, what God has done."*** **(Number 23:23)**.

The Cedar displays strength to stand and vitality of life. The Cedar-like Believer keeps on growing. Growing has become a habit! It's now in their new nature! As you place your faith firmly in God, then you too can experience and enjoy 'Cedar-like' strength and vitality which will only get better with age.

As you get to understand the biblical mysteries of the Cedar trees, may the almighty Lord, cause you to GROW like a CEDAR in Lebanon – incorruptible, solid, stable, useful, and majestic, in Jesus Christ name.

CHAPTER NINE

BEARING FRUIT IN OLD AGE

The scriptures, in psalms 92:14-15, says thus:

"They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to show that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

What does it mean to bring forth fruit in old age? Being rooted and established in him by God's grace through faith, we produce fruit that glorifies God and honor His name. Christians flourish and bear fruit because of the gracious, loving and faithful work of our God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit even in old age.

Being thus planted and watered, they shall not only bring forth the fruits of righteousness, but shall continue, and go on to do so, and even when they are grown old; contrary to all other trees, which, when they are old, cease to bear fruits. But to the righteous, it is not so to him. Rather the righteous grows and bears innumerable fruits even in old age. This is where grace is often in the greatest vigour when nature is decayed, when all hope seems to be lost, grace surfaces and grace says, it is not about your old age, it is not about your experience or skills, but it is about

me (grace), who is much more able to liberating you. Take for example, Abraham, Job, David, Zechariah, and Elisabeth, and good old Simeon, who went to the grave like shocks of corn, fully ripe or green, full of sap and moisture, and abound with green leaves and precious fruits. In other words, when grace abounds in your life, you become fruitful in every good works. It does not matter, whether you are young, middle age or old. What you are expected of is to be engrafted into the true olive, the church of God. Because being engrafted into the true vine will enable you to be a partaker of the root and fatness of it. When you are planted in the house of the Lord or when you have a place in the house of the Lord, you will surely be satisfied with the goodness and the fatness thereof, and you are going to be made to drink of the river of divine pleasure even in old age. And being in the court of the Lord, where a feast of fat things are provided for them that genuinely seek the face of the Lord, you will not be left out of it. Only continue in the faith and fervent work with the Lord Jesus Christ so shall the power from on high will speak for your victory and dominion always. So thrive and flourish, the allusion is to fat and flourishing palm trees.

Biblical Meaning of Bearing Fruit

If your life is not producing fruit, it is a sign that something is wrong. Jesus tells us that if we abide in Him, if our hearts are fixed on Him and we are filling our minds

and heart with His word, we will bear fruit. A fruitless Christian is a contradiction, an indication that something abnormal is going on.

Because you have been saved by God, you are filled with Him, and in Him you become more Christ-like. As a Christian, you represent a life willing to be lead for Him, rather than for yourself, others, or for earthly possessions.

Bearing fruit is to trust in His plan, and fearlessly following it, each and every day. So, to be fruitful means to live a life that produces good works and reflects the character of Christ. It means remaining connected to Him and allowing Him to work through us to accomplish His purposes.

In the natural world, fruit is the result of a healthy plant producing what it was designed to produce (Genesis 1:11-12). In the scriptures, the word fruit is often used to describe a person's outward actions that result from the condition of the heart. Good fruit is that which is produced by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples,

"I choose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

Righteous fruits have eternal benefits.

Jesus Christ told us clearly what we must do to bear good fruit. He said in the chapter of John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abide in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

A branch must stay firm to the trunk to stay alive. As Christians we must stay firmly connected in Him to remain spiritually and physically productive. A branch draws strength, energy, protection, nourishment from the vine. If it is broken off, it quickly dies and becomes unfruitful. In the same way, when we neglect our spiritual life, ignore the word of God, skimp on prayer, and withhold areas of our lives from the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit, we become like a branch broken off the vine. Our lives become fruitless. We need daily surrender, daily communication and daily- sometime hourly repentance and connection with the Holy Spirit in order to walk in the spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians

5:16).

Staying intimately connected to the True vine is the only way to bear fruit in old age (Psalms 92:14), to run and not grow weary (Isaiah 40:31), and to not grow weary in well-doing (Galatians 6:9).

One counterfeit to bearing fruit is pretense. We can become like the acting Christians while experiencing no real power and bearing no eternal fruit. Our hearts remain self centered, angry, and joyless even while we go through the motions of serving God. We can easily fall into the sin of the Pharisees of Jesus' time judging ourselves by how we think we appear to others and neglecting that secret place of the heart where all good fruit germinates. When we love, desire, pursue, and fear the same things that the rest of the world does, we are not abiding in Christ, even though our lives may be filled with church-related activities. And, often, we don't realize that we are living fruitless lives. God knows what He has entrusted to each of us and what He expects us to do with it (Luke 12:48). Our responsibility before God is to faithful with little so that He can trust us with much (Matthew 25:21).

CHAPTER TEN

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PALM TREE

Jericho a city called the city of Palm trees

"And the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city palm trees, as far as Zoar" (Deuteronomy 34:3).

Palm trees represented in carved work on the walls and doors of the temple of Solomon.

"Then he carved all the walls of the house round with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees and open flowers inner and outer sanctuaries" (1king 6:29).

"He carved on it cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the engraved work" (1kings 6:35).

"He overlaid the main room with cypress wood and overlaid it with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains" (2 Chronicles 3:5).

Palm trees are also used to illustrate the church. This is clarified with the word that says in the book of Songs of Solomon 7:7-8

"Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. I said, 'I will climb the palm tree, I will take hold of its fruit stalks. 'Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of your breath like apples"

Palm trees described as Tall

Songs of Solomon 7:7

"Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters."

The fruit of the Palm tree, called dates

2 Chronicles 31:5:

As soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of all.

Palm trees the branches of, were carried at feast of tabernacles

Leviticus 23:4:

"Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days."

Palm trees the branches of, were the emblem of victory

Revelation 7:9:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands"

Palm trees the branches of, were used for constructing booths

Nehemiah 8:15:

"So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

Palm trees Illustrative of The upright appearance of idols

Jeremiah 10:5***:***

"Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good."

Palm trees described as Upright

Jeremiah 10:5:

"Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, for they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.

Palm trees » Requires a moist and fertile soil

Exodus 15:27:

"Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters."

Palm trees » First mention of, in scripture

Exodus 15:27:

"Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters."

Palm trees Illustrative of The righteous

Psalm 92:12:

"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Palm trees » Described as » Fruitful to a great age

Psalm 92:14:

"They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green,

Palm trees described as Flourishing

Psalm 92:12:

"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Tents are often pitched under the shade of the Palm trees
Judges 4:5:

"***She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment."***

Palm trees Spread before Christ

John 12:13

"Took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."

Palm trees Blasted as a punishment

Joel 1:12:

"***The vine dries up and the fig tree fails; the pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up from the sons of men."***

The Righteous Compared to the Palm trees Psalms 92:13
"***He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."***

Palm trees compared to Saints

Psalm 92:12:

"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

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