

## The **TOWERING TALL** Cedar Tree and the **SPLENDID** Cedar Tree in Lebanon

“God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the ‘gods.’ “I said, ‘You are gods;  
**you are all sons of the Most High**” (Psalm 82:1, 6).



The great flood destroyed all but eight people. Mankind began again, but wickedness did not disappear. All the past sins began to reappear at the time of Babel. Vowed never to cause a flood again and destroy mankind, God decided to divide the nations and give rulership over the nations to His divine council—His sons who were to teach mankind to worship God and live His way.

“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when **he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God**” (Deuteronomy 32:8).

Standing tall above them all, the Most High God spoke of him [the heavenly ruler given authority over Assyria], “Of all the cedars in the garden of God; no other cedar could rival him; no pine tree could equal his branches that spread out giving protection and support to all of the nations. He was magnificent. God made him beautiful with many leadership qualities, knowledge, and

wisdom. He was the envy of all the sons in God's government (Ezekiel 31:8-9). God said, "Which of the trees of Eden can be compared with you in splendor and majesty?" (Ezekiel 31:18). The people of Assyria were very fortunate to have such a great heavenly prince ruling over them.

The northern house of Israel looked admiringly upon Assyria, for their prince had gathered the people into a nation, and forged them into a world power with a mighty army. So much glory was given to them that it overshadowed the glory of the regal nation, Egypt. God reminded Egypt, "Who can be compared with you in majesty? Consider Assyria..." (Ezekiel 31:3).

This cedar tree in the garden of God stood high with beautiful branches that were covered with a thick foliage, rooted deep by waters that flowed all around its base and springs that nourished its growth into a height beyond all others (Ezekiel 31:3-9). This great prince gave God much joy and He loved him.

Proud of the height that he thought he had achieved by himself and the display of glory in the nation given to him as an inheritance, he decided to change his focus. His rulership shifted from teaching the people to worship the Almighty God to worshipping him. The princes of the other nations watched the shift take place and followed his leadership. Now, the nations worshiped the gods ruling over them, instead of the Almighty, Supreme—Creator God.

Mankind was taught to take a different road. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**" (Ephesians 6:12). God was forced to act. He "handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to its wickedness" (Ezekiel 31:11). He cast the tall cedar, his prized prince aside, along with all of the princes who taught the nations to worship them.

Intense sadness fell like a heavy weight as God held back the streams and abundant waters, watching His tallest cedar die spiritually. "On the day it was **brought down to the grave, I covered the deep springs with mourning for it**" (Ezekiel 31:15).

"No other trees so well-watered are ever to reach such a height; **they are all destined for death, for the earth below, among mortal man, with those who go down to the pit**" (Ezekiel 31:14).

God lamented, "I clothed Lebanon with gloom, and all the trees of the field withered away. I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall when I brought it down to the grave with those who go down to the pit" (Ezekiel 31:15). Then **all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon—His heavenly counsel, His sons that were most educated on the matters of God—were consoled in the earth below**. "Those who lived in its shade, its allies among the nations, had also gone down to the grave with it, joining those killed by the sword" (Ezekiel 31:15-17).

God will not tolerate rebellion. **Even His prized prince was not above His law**. "Which of the trees of Eden can be compared with you in splendor and majesty? Yet you, too, will be brought down

with the trees of Eden to the earth below; you will lie among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword” (Ezekiel 31:18).

God can no longer trust all of His creation. Iniquity runs rampant both in heaven and on earth.

“Behold, **He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight.** How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:15-16).

“Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker? **He puts no trust even in His servants; and against His angels, He charges error.** How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before the moth!” (Job 4:17-19).

Two hundred years after the sons of God began ruling over the nations, God began working with His inheritance—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**God’s portion are the descendants of Jacob/Israel:** “For the LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:9).

In light of the recent rebellion of His sons ruling over the nations, God taught the nation of Israel that they are to **worship only ONE God**—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **He only is the Almighty God despite the teachings of the gods ruling the surrounding nations.**

“You shall have **no other gods before me**” (Exodus 20:2). “**Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold**” (Exodus 20:23).

Jonah was sent by God to warn the people of Nineveh, Assyria’s capital, to repent of their evil ways. They knew the God of the Israelites—the God of gods and in great humility every man, woman, child and beast fasted in sackcloth. “Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish. When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened” (Jonah 3:10). That was a time in mankind’s history when they knew the difference between the Almighty God and the gods ruling over them.

21<sup>st</sup> century Christians are well acquainted with the scriptures of worshipping only ONE God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but they have mythicized the ancient gods, allowing their dark plan to continue in the shadows, as they devise their surprise attack in **our** very near future. Daniel wrote, “The king will do as he pleases. **He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.** He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed” (Daniel 11:36) and “I saw a beast coming out of the sea, he had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and **on each head a blasphemous name...** The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. **One of the heads of the beast seems to have a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed**” (Revelation 13:1-3).

This final beast has blasphemous names on each head; one head was healed from a fatal wound—the Assyrian will be revived.

The beast from out of the sea in Revelation comprises of seven heads and ten crowns. This coalition has an ancient well-kept hidden plan. God's plan will not be thwarted; He continues without interruption. God will replace every rogue heavenly ruler with repentant mankind. God will rebuild His headquarters beginning with Christ as King of Israel, His new ruling government.

**“I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from the topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel, I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar... All the trees of the field will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree [those leaders in the heavenly creation] and make the low tree [mortal man resurrected immortal] grow tall. I dry up the green tree [the eternal leaders] and make the dry tree [mortal leaders] flourish”** (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

God chose His trusted Son through whom heaven and earth was created. That Son of God did not fail. He proved to be again the trusted and sure leader. “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, **a firm and tested stone**. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken” (Isaiah 28:16).

God's plan cannot be thwarted. What He says will happen. God has secret plans. “None of the **rulers of this age** [the principalities and power in high places] understood it, for if they had, **THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY**” (I Corinthians 2:8).

The prophecy of the overthrow of the world's empires and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth was given to Daniel. “O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them... it became like chaff... the wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:31-35).

“And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man, and a sword not of man will devour him so he will not escape the sword, and his young men will become forced laborers. ‘His rock will pass away because of panic, and his princes will be terrified at the standard,’ declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 31:8-9).

“For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, when He strikes with the rod. And every blow of the rod of punishment, which the LORD will lay on him, will be with the music of tambourines and lyres; and in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them” (Isaiah 30:31-32).

In the garden of God [God's government] there was a tall cedar tree—the tallest of all the trees

and God loved him. But—he became proud of his position, stature and the glory that came from being at the top of the heavenly creation caused him to fall into iniquity. He became proud and arrogant; he will die like a mere man. “I said, **‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler’**” (Psalm 82:6); such a big loss for the desire to be worshiped—by mere men.

God loves a meek and humble spirit. The desire for self-glory and worship is the core problem of these rogue heavenly rulers and authorities and wicked mankind.

“Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and **made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed**. And he performed great and miraculous signs even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. **He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived**. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause **all who refused to worship the image to be killed**” (Revelation 13:11-15).

The temptation to be worshiped comes from a proud spirit and a self-glorying desire as Satan knows well. Satan tempted Jesus, “All this I will give you, if you will **bow down and worship me**” (Matthew 4:9).

Jesus replied, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: **‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’**” (Matthew 4:10). As much as Jesus wanted to rescue mankind from the grips of Satan, he chose to continue serving God. He would have to wait, suffer on the cross before what he wanted dearly could come into fruition.

Christ is the shoot that God took from the very top of a cedar in His garden [government] and planted it; it became a splendid cedar. He does not desire worship. He does only the will of his Father in heaven.

**Christ is a humble servant of God, His beloved Son and himself—a God.** “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8)

**Christ does not speak from his own words, but directs mankind to listen to the words of his Father.** “I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it” (John 12:49).

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? **The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, carrying out His work**” (John 14:10).

**Christ is loved by God.** “After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”** (Matthew 3:16-17).

“For to which of the angels did God ever say: **‘You are my Son; today I have become Your Father’?** Or again: **‘I will be His Father, and He will be My Son’?** And again, when he brings **supreme Son** into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him’” (Hebrews 1:5-6).

**Christ has been given all authority to overthrow wickedness.** “Then Jesus came to them and said, **‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’**” (Matthew 28:18).

“And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and **He will rule them with an iron scepter.** He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God, the Almighty. **On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords**” (Revelation 19:15-16).

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Christ], and through him [Christ] to **reconcile to himself ALL things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross**” (Colossians 1:19-20).

**Christ will reign until all enemies are destroyed.** “For He [Christ] must reign until He has put **all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death**” (I Corinthians 15:26).

“**He [Christ] will swallow up death for all time,** and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 25:8).

**The final task for Christ will be to hand back all authority and become subject to his Father in heaven who will rule over all and through all.** “When he has done this, **then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all**” (I Corinthians 15:25).

Christ, the splendid cedar tree [the greatest leader in God’s holy council] does not seek self-glory. He is the humble tested stone, Son of the Mighty One of Jacob, the Rock of Israel, the servant angel of God and loyal co-creator of heaven and earth and all things in them.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*