

The Vigilant, Wakeful Almond Tree



<https://mallorcantonic.com/almond-blossom/>

“So, Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a staff—one for each of the leaders of their tribes, twelve staffs in all. And Aaron’s staff was among them.

Then Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds”
(Numbers 17:8).

The almond tree is the first of all fruit trees to break out of dormancy after a chilly winter and cover itself with life, a showy display of abundant soft pink and white blossoms.

Keil and Delitzsch point out that God uses the almond tree “as a symbol of the swift fulfilment of His word.” Aaron’s staff sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds over-night symbolized the absolute decision of God’s choice that the tribe of Levi work to lead His ministry on earth and they would do exactly that: initiate the word of God, demonstrate it, and teach all Israel God’s law and ways so that righteousness would be produced.

When God chooses people, miracles happen. He chose Jeremiah before he was even conceived to do an important work for Him. He was appointed “over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:10). Those kingdoms

that would be uprooted would be destroyed and those torn down would be overthrown. And finally, Jeremiah was commissioned to build and plant kingdoms. Jeremiah was young at the time this commission was given to him and he questioned his ability. But, God Almighty assured him. He touched Jeremiah's mouth. "The hand is the instrument of making and doing; the touching of Jeremiah's mouth by the hand of God is consequently an emblematical token that God frames in his mouth what he is to speak," Keil and Delitzsch explain.

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/jeremiah-1.htm>

God confirmed his action by giving Jeremiah a vision. Jeremiah saw the branch of an almond tree. This would not be a mystery for Jeremiah. God confirmed what he already knew. "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled" (Jeremiah 1:12).

"Jeremiah sees in spirit a rod or twig of an almond tree. God calls his attention to this vision, and interprets it to him as a symbol of the swift fulfilment of His word. The choice of this symbol for the purpose given is suggested by the Hebrew name for the almond tree, *דקל*, the wakeful, the vigilant; because this tree begins to blossom and expand its leaves in January, when the other trees are still in their winter's sleep and so of all trees awakes earliest to new life... The figure of the almond rod was meant only to afford to the prophet surety for the speedy and certain fulfilment of the word of God proclaimed by him," adds Keil and Delitzsch to their interpretation.

The next vision Jeremiah sees is a boiling pot pouring out from the north towards Jerusalem. It is not describing the Babylonian invasion, but one that will take place hundreds of years into the future. God said, "I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms. Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah." (Jeremiah 1:15-16).

This imagery is a prophecy still unfulfilled—a future, terrifying event that points to Revelation when God Almighty is pouring out His wrath on the rogue heavenly rulers thrown out of heaven ruling on earth over the nations. They worshipped Satan and the beast because they said, "Who can war against them" (Revelation 13:4). "Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty... Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon" (Revelation 16:13-16). The intent of the nations of the world is to take Jerusalem—God's headquarters on earth, as their sovereign rule. The battle to overthrow the Great God—the Almighty, which began in heaven before the creation of mankind, will rage on earth.

This heavenly battle included luring God's inheritance—the descendants of Jacob, into serving His enemies—the fallen, rogue sons of God. It wasn't a difficult task.

The leaders of faithless Israel and unfaithful Judah lapped up the ways of these rogue gods. The desire for power, self-glory, self-direction, self-reliance is what Israel desired when they told

God, “We want to be like the nations.” Both houses left their God to worship the gods ruling over the nations because they offered the nations rulership that satisfied the carnal desire for control, self-gratification and unbridled drive for super power status. Servitude to God and living humbly before God was out of the question for both houses of Israel. Hence, corruption filled the highest offices like an open, infected sore spreading across the body untreated.

“The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. Therefore, I bring charges against you again... **‘Has a nation every changed its gods? But my people have exchanged me, their Glory, for a god that cannot help them at all! Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror, declares the LORD’**” (Jeremiah 2:8-9, 11).

The guilt of the house of Judah and Israel is treason against their King to serve lesser gods ruling over the nations. The grandeur they saw in Egypt and might in Assyria lured them away into a world of taking instead of giving, controlling instead of serving, hating instead of loving.

God let them go and replied, “Go and serve your idols, every one of you! **But afterward you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols**” (Ezekiel 20:39). After each tribe experiences their day in the sun, they will see their glory fade away as others come to steal the lime-light from them. This decaying world does not bring eternal joy, rather all is vanity, fleeting moments that come and go. Only through serving and obeying the Great God, our Creator and Source of all life can eternal joy and happiness be achieved by giving instead of taking, serving instead of controlling, loving instead of hating.

After a time of great distress, both houses will remember their God. “In **those coming days,**” says the LORD, “**the people of Israel will return home together with the people of Judah.** They will come weeping and seeking the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. **They will come and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten**” (Jeremiah 50:4-5). This will happen in the last days.

After they feel the wrath of the rogue heavenly gods that once ruled over the nations, they will remember their God and beseech him earnestly. “Afterward, the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness **in the last days**” (Hosea 3:5).

God will hear them and appoint “shepherds after his own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:14).

The lampstand of gold in the tabernacle in the wilderness is the artefact that confirms the survival of the seven churches that is comprised of the twelve tribes of Israel. Though their journey has moved like the tide during times of turbulence and peace, the pounding purified them each protected by the flower of the almond—God’s sure word that they would live.

“Then you are to make a lampstand of pure, **hammered gold**. It shall be made of **one piece**, including its base and shaft, **its cups, and its buds and petals**. Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand—three on one side and three on the other. There are to be **three cups shaped like almond blossoms on the first branch, each with buds and petals, three on the next branch**, and the same for all six branches that extend from the lampstand. And on the **lampstand there shall be four cups shaped like almond blossoms with buds and petals**. For the six branches that extend from the lampstand, a bud must be under the first pair of branches, a bud under the second pair, and a bud under the third pair. The buds and branches are to be all of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. **Make seven lamps and set them up on the lampstand so that they illuminate the area in front of it**. The wick trimmers and their trays must be of pure gold. The lampstand and all these utensils shall be made from a talent of pure gold” (Exodus 25:31-39).

Though the candles flicker today with every effort made by God’s enemies to snuff out the light, God’s word is sure and swift. Soon, God’s inheritance—His people will overcome and light the world, burning brightly never to flicker or fade.

Like the almond tree, God’s leadership is the first of all the different leaders in heaven to bring life out of death and repentance from wickedness into desiring righteousness. Such is the symbolism of the vigilant, wakeful almond tree.



pinterest

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich