

GOD'S CODED LANGUAGE

is all about

TRANSPARENCY

God's Plan • Creation • Christ's Sacrifice • Salvation • God's People • Mankind • Forces • Battles
Enemies • Light • Truth • Darkness • Deception • Misinformation • Disinformation • Government
Church • National Leadership • Religious Leadership • He, She • Transformation • God's Holy Spirit
Overcoming • The Gospel • God's New Government • Twelves Tribes of Israel • Repentance • Return
to the God of the Hebrews • Law and Grace • God's Garden blossoms • House of Juda • House of
Israel • The Great Multitude from the Nations • The New Heaven • The New Earth • God Wipes
Away their Tears • Transparency in Images, Numbers, Stories, Parables, Reflections • The Exodus
Stories • Foreshadowing • The beast • Seven-headed Serpent • Reflections • Mirroring

IMAGERY

Stories: *His, Hers, Theirs*



NUMBERS 3,000, 1,000, 300, 100, 50, 40, 12, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

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INTRODUCTION

Unlike secret societies and corrupt political and religious leaders, God Almighty is transparent. He has provided all of mankind with evidence of His existence and power. To His people, He has given them all what they need to know about His plan for them and the nations of the world. At the end of the age, God will judge all people; they will be without excuse.

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

The transparency of God is unveiled through His use of imagery, mirroring, parables, parallels and numbers, stories, foreshadows not to mention creation all around us on earth.

God is consistent in His use of His coded language. The imagery in the scriptures can be easily decoded when you understand how to use the key. Unlock the mysteries and enter into the world of Almighty God. You will find treasures never seen before and riveting prophecies lying on our near horizon.

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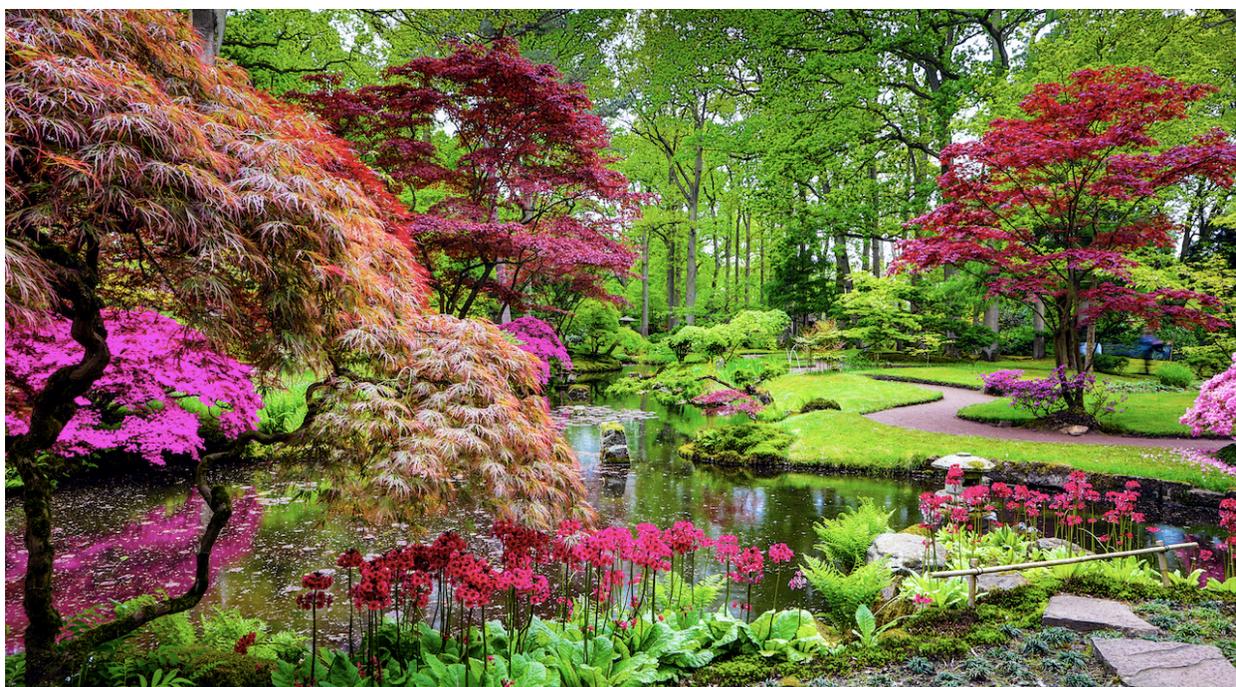
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THE GARDEN

“The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing”

(Isaiah 51:3).

When Adam and Eve were created, they lived in the garden of Eden. “The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed” (Genesis 2:8). God planted His garden in the same direction as His temple. This garden where mankind was planted is God’s penmanship at work painting a picture of beauty and peace. It is an immediate visual for every man, woman and child on earth as cultivated parks, reserved forests and natural wonders of the world that triggers an awe-inspiring gasp.



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God’s penmanship of a cultured, beautiful garden is a painting of His created righteous, holy, royal, ruling family both in heaven and on earth. Located in Eden, God reveals His family home. God is at work. He is molding many different people who, when He is finished, will exhibit exceptional qualities and skills. People with great strength, resilience, compassion, ingenuity, kindness, law-keeping, peace-loving and creation-loving people. Members of God’s family will all be transformed people, but common to them all will be their application of righteousness. Creation on earth was not God’s first creation. Spirit beings were created first and their abode

is in heaven. But not all has gone well in heaven. Many have turned against their Creator, Almighty God. His family in heaven has been darkened and His heavenly court corrupted. Mankind, God's second creation will fill all of the positions of the fallen angels. God is going to rebuild His fallen holy, heavenly court with repentant, righteous people.

A painful image is recorded by Ezekiel of the fall of the sons of God in His court in heaven. They were great leaders who once held critically important positions that required a thorough understanding of God's law. God uses the image of trees because on earth, trees are the tallest living creation. Man is small by comparison. God wants mankind to understand the spiritual growth of these once-great leaders. They had grown to great heights in understanding and knowledge of God's ways and His law, and yet, succumbed to Satan's wizardry; they turned against their Creator of whom, they once humbly loved and served.

The son of God holding the highest position in God's holy Heavenly Court was given rulership at the time of Babel over Assyria on earth. God blessed this son with an outpouring of His Holy Spirit and he matured beyond the heights of the other leaders who could not rival it. "I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches, and all the trees [leaders] of Eden [God's home], which were in the garden [family] of God, were jealous of it" (Ezekiel 31:9).



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18 feet wide and 177 feet tall

This son of God became proud of the height he reached and that pride decayed into arrogance, corrupting his thinking. In grief, God held back His Holy Spirit and watched this once-great heavenly leader become filled with rage and anger. "It was proud of its height, I [God] handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to its wickedness. I cast it aside" (Ezekiel 31:10b). His fall triggered a series of battles by fallen sons to rise and fill his position.

One-by-one, they all failed to rule righteously. To God's deepest sorrow, He sentenced all of the fallen members of His Holy Court to the lowest and darkest prison located inside the earth. God said, "Then all the trees of Eden, the CHOICEST and BEST OF LEBANON, all the trees that were well-watered, were CONSOLED IN THE EARTH BELOW" (Ezekiel 31:16). These leaders were all esteemed members of God's family serving in high positions. They were the best in Lebanon, the location of God's court in heaven. It is not by coincidence that there exists on earth a place called Lebanon where the finest cedar trees grow.

These fallen angels listened and acted on the wizardry of Satan, the highly decorated guardian angel who was once perfect and blameless. When Lucifer was created, he was placed in God's family in Eden and awarded one of the highest positions in all creation. "You [Lucifer] were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created, they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones" (Ezekiel 28:13-14). Lucifer became proud of his beauty and that pride decayed into arrogance causing him to fall out of light into deep darkness. These fallen spiritual beings can be destroyed. They may deceive themselves and think they are invincible, but they are wrong. God is very clear on the fate of wicked spiritual beings.

"God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgement among the 'gods.' "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 82:1, 6).

Satan was once an angel of light who by choice, turned away from truth and adopted crafty thoughts that twisted and turned truth into confusion. He despised God's second creation on earth. He suspected that God would replace him and his followers with the second creation on earth that he was not briefed on. He had to work quickly. He knew that mankind was created by God to grow into spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom of God, as a baby grows into an adult. Before Eve matured to know better, he needed to lure her into his direction before she could see through his trickery. His plan was to capture both of them: Adam and Eve. Adam was created first and was more knowledgeable. Satan would have to formulate a clever narrative one coated in the appearance of doing the right thing.

He saw Adam and Eve in the garden that day and he approached only Eve, while Adam stood by listening quietly. He presented a picture of the importance of having the knowledge of good and evil. This seems like a perfectly good statement and logical when deciding on options and the actions that follow.

The Apostle Paul understood God's design of spiritual growth and in disappointment at the spiritual growth of some, he said, "Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to re-teach you the basic principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food! For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. But

solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Unfortunately, mankind is not spiritually mature enough to distinguish between good and evil. Eve was still an infant, still learning God’s word. She was vulnerable and Satan knew it. She listened to Satan and acted on his instructions; Adam followed. He knew better, but Satan won his loyalty in the same way that he caused the heavenly angels to turn from God. Adam and Eve realized they sinned when immediately they lost their shining covering. Their mistakes threw mankind into a 6,000-year spiral of darkness.

The fall of God’s second creation, who were to become members of God’s holy, royal, ruling family, was sentenced to death. Satan was delighted, thinking he had thwarted God’s plan to extend His eternal family. Satan’s delight and claim as a win for him is a delusion. The fallen angels are excluded from the knowledge of God’s plan for mankind; believers are not excluded. Believers have been given the key to understanding God’s plan precisely and clearly.

Satan reveled in the acquisition of his rulership over earth. The great flood was another win for him, he believes. Satan’s confidence has ballooned as he roars, lurking in the shadows seeking who he can devour (I Peter 5:8).

God foresees events and choices eons into time. His plan was designed knowing the outcome before creation. The king ruling over ancient Assyria bragged to the king of Judah of their many conquests and threatened their safety. King Hezekiah prayed to God and God responded directly to the heavenly ruler over Assyria.

“Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it; in days of old I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, that you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble. Therefore, their inhabitants, devoid of power, are dismayed and ashamed. They are like plants in the field, tender green shoots, grass on the rooftops, scorched before it is grown. But I know your sitting down, your going out and coming in, and your raging against Me. Because your rage and arrogance against Me have reached My ears, I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth; I will send you back the way you came” (II Kings 19:25-28).

While the heavenly ruler over Assyria trumpeted his victories and conquests over weaker nations ruled by other fallen heavenly rulers, the God of Israel said that He knew it would happen. He built the aggression of the fallen ruler over Assyria into His salvation of His people. The God of Israel has ultimate control. He turned the king of Assyria away from attacking Jerusalem and the heavenly ruler left without a fight.

The story of gods ruling over the nations is forgotten and what remains is mythicized. God gave the members of His court in heaven an inheritance—rulership over the nations. He wanted them to teach the nations they ruled over His law and His ways. God, himself, participated in this project and chose a people to reign over, descendants of Jacob.

“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 in his heavenly court. But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob became God’s inheritance—rulership; He was their king. Ancient Israel rejected Him for a time. God foresaw the repentance of their children and their eternal commitment to serving Him in the latter days—all the way into the 21st century. God describes these repentant and faithful of Israel in spiritual terms. They are cedars in Lebanon [His heavenly court] and olive trees—His righteous priests.

“I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-6).

“How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel! ‘Like valleys that stretch out, like GARDENS beside the river, like ALOES planted by the LORD, like CEDARS beside the waters” (Numbers 24:5-6).

God foresaw the repentance of mankind as well and their destiny to serve Him and fill the highest positions in His government. “The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will flourish in the COURTS OF OUR GOD. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green” (Psalm 92:12-15).

God is clear in His use of imagery. The cedar trees in Lebanon image the great heavenly members of God’s court in heaven. Their spiritual height is awesome. They are deeply rooted in God’s word; the width of their strength is timeless. They are warriors and guardians of God’s law and preservers of peace. In addition to cedars, God describes other trees of equal importance. He loves the oak, the plain, the palm, the olive, the fig, the flowering myrtle, the pine, the Acacia, the fir, the cypress, and the poplar trees.

God’s plan for mankind is not a secret. It is written in the Bible for all to read, but understanding the depth and breadth of God’s engineering of mankind’s salvation plan requires the key and how to apply it. Journeying into the deep things of God will take you to where He hides His treasures: depth of meaning and understanding, spiritual truths and wonders and the secrets saved only for the relentless explorers.



THE TREES, VINES and FLOWERS

“Open your doors, O LEBANON, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down” (Zechariah 11:2).

What was at one time so glorious, so impenetrable and great is being destroyed. Where is the Lebanon referred to in Zechariah? Who are the cedars, the cypress, the oaks and the glorious trees?

Scriptures reveal God’s use of imagery. These “trees” are the once great and highly honoured heavenly rulers in God’s government and holy court. They have turned against God; they are rogue rebel members being overthrown. God has a plan for mankind. He will fill the positions once held by the “glorious tress” with new members—transformed righteous mortals.

These powerful spiritual rulers and members of God’s government are being brought down. God’s once robust and strong holy court will fall; corruption in heaven will end—justice will return. It is hard for mortals to believe because they cannot see into the unseen world. They cannot fathom the battles that are on-going since before the re-creation of earth and continue to this day. They cannot fathom the vast dominions controlled by fallen sons of God. They cannot fathom the hatred these heavenly rebels have towards mortals on earth, especially those who will be awarded their most high offices. Regardless, in time, it will all be revealed.

“See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is assembling a new government of faithful and loyal children who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving. God sees into the future the birth of a different people—a transformed people who will eternally stand strong loyal and faithful.

“In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?” (Isaiah 29:17). Indeed, very soon God’s holy court will be comprised of new eternally faithful and true leaders and there will be so many that the forest will appear overnight.

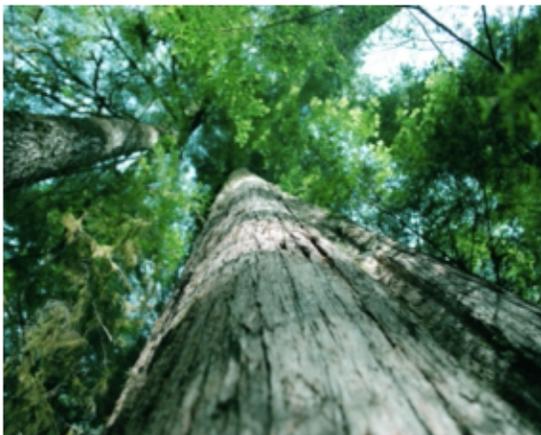
God’s use of imagery was understood by the ancient Israelites. It is evident in the conversation between King Amaziah of Judah and King Jehoash of Israel. On a side point, this conversation is a reminder that God’s people today comprise of two kingdoms: Judah—the Jews and Israel—the West and western Europe. Amaziah, a young king of Judah defeated 10,000 men of Edom in the Valley of Salt; he was proud of his conquest. In his pride, he sent a message to the king of

Israel with an invitation. The king of Israel declined his offer and responded with a comparison of their rulership. The king of Israel viewed his own rulership as strong and accomplished compared to the young Jewish king who he considered to be rough-around-the-edges and inexperienced.

“So, King Jehoash of Israel sent this message to King Amaziah of Judah: ‘The thornbush in Lebanon sent this message to the cedar in Lebanon: “Give your daughter to my son in marriage.” But just then a wild beast from Lebanon wandered by and trampled down the thornbush. You have indeed defeated Edom and now you are arrogant. Glory in your victory, but stay at home. Why ask for trouble and cause your own downfall and that of Judah also?’” (II Kings 14:9-10)

Notice, both houses were considered by the king of Israel to be in Lebanon—in God’s government—His courts. The king of Israel declared himself to be a cedar, that is, a great well-seasoned leader and the king of Judah was described as a thornbush—a prickly, despised weed of a leader with no hope of achieving any fame or glory.

King of Israel—a CEDAR



King of Judah—a THORNBUSH



The use of trees imaged as different leaders was also described by Jotham, the youngest son of Gideon. It was in his declaration to the people of Shechem and Beth Millo before they were to declare Abimelech their king after the death of Gideon. This thornbush of a man killed all of his brothers except for Jotham who escaped, in order to be anointed king over these people. The towns people gathered beside the “great tree.” This was their practice as the “great tree” symbolized Almighty God.

Jotham declared, “Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’ But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’ Next, the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the

trees?’ Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and humans, to hold sway over the trees?’ Finally, all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’ The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’” (Judges 9:7b-15)

The people listening understood Jotham and the imagery he used. Understanding the imagery is critical to understanding the importance of the roles each tree represents and the impact of choosing a thornbush-type of leader. Clearly, the roles of the leaders who are imaged as “oil trees,” “fig trees,” and “vines” are more honourable than national leadership over the people.

THE CEDAR

Imagery of the great cedars bring an immediate rich visual of the most spectacular trees on earth. They have the unique qualities that mirror the great leaders in God’s headquarters—His holy court. These tall, grand trees are dimensionally stable with a built-in thermal insulator. With oils that act as natural preservatives, these trees are resistant to bacteria and fungus. To top it off, they release a fresh aroma that deters pests. God created sons in heaven with all of these eternal qualities and superior strength to lead His kingdom in truth, understanding and wisdom of His law and His way. God created a place on earth that grows the finest cedar trees to mirror His headquarters in heaven, Lebanon, His centre filled with stately and regal leaders—His pride and joy.

THE OLIVE TREE



The fruit from the Olive tree is well-known for the production of oil used in ancient times in the lanterns to shed light, for cooking, and for its medicinal properties. Through a process of grinding and crushing, the olives were pressed into a paste and then crushed again through a woven bag, until the oil was extracted. This process mirrors the journey of a special group of people who are prepared by God to work in His ministry. They are crushed and tried, tested and separated, purified and perfected. God's special servants have all been persecuted, hated and attacked by those serving Wickedness.

The oldest Olive tree on earth is in Greece with an age of around 2,000 years. These trees live a long-time producing fruit well into their old age. The wood from the tree is resistant to decay. All of these characteristics resemble the resilient ministry in God's family.

When Jotham was speaking to the people of Shechem using God's coded language, he knew that the theological leaders are imaged as olive trees who would understandably say, "Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?" The leadership of those specializing in God's word is of greater value than those ruling over people on earth.

Oil is used in the anointing practice when selecting a ruler or priest. These positions are held in high regard, even separated from ordinary leadership positions. The oil from the Olive tree is reflective of that leader's ability to live righteously. They are a shining witness of the application of God's law and living God's way of love.

God referred to His people in ancient times as an olive tree; they are a kingdom of priests who often defiled themselves by worshipping Baal. Jeremiah recorded God's vengeance, "The LORD once called you a flourishing olive tree, beautiful with well-formed fruit. But with a mighty roar He will set it on fire, and its branches will be consumed. The LORD of Hosts, who planted you, has decreed disaster against you on account of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have brought upon themselves, provoking Me to anger by burning incense to Baal" (Jeremiah 11:16-17).

Revelation 14:10 describes two witnesses as two olive trees. These two priests will teach God's pure word to the world during the Great Tribulation. They will witness to all people in all of the nations. They will invite them to repent and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and receive God's Holy Spirit so that they can live. God will conquer Wickedness by



offering grace to all of mankind and inviting them into His eternal, holy, royal, ruling family. God said that this battle will not be won through “might”—military strength but by His Holy Spirit.

Zechariah recorded this incredible revelation. “What do you see?” Zerubbabel responded, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven spouts to the lamps. There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left.” “What are these, my lord?” I asked the angel who was speaking with me. “Do you not know what they are?” replied the angel. “No, my lord,” I answered. So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of Hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (Zechariah 4:2-7).

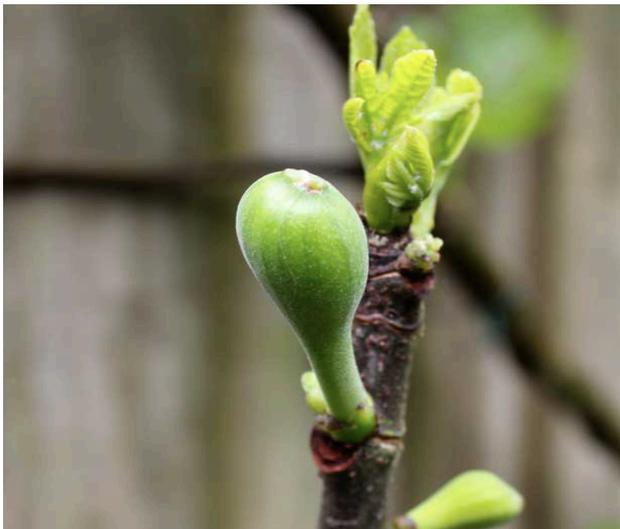
God’s coded language describes the destruction of a great mountain—a world-ruling government that will be overthrown, flattened into a plain.

During ancient times, when the captivity of the house of Judah was complete, Zerubbabel was free to lead the rebuilding of the temple of God. His job remains unfinished. Zerubbabel will be resurrected to lead the building of God’s temple comprised of people filled with God’s Holy Spirit. “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” God says, this temple will be built and they will overthrow the world’s governments and those great governments will be flattened like a plain.

In addition, Zerubbabel will bring forth the “capstone”— the final stone of the temple to be laid, that is, Jesus Christ, with shouts of “Grace, grace to it.” It will be an exuberant time of ceremony and victory.

THE FIG TREE

First fruit in Spring



Second fruit in Summer



The early fruit on a fig tree was the imagery God specifically used to describe Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants. “When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert and when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree” (Hosea 9:10). “Of all the families of the earth, only Israel have I chosen” (Amos 3:2).

So many lessons are wrapped up in the growth of the fig tree. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [return of Christ] is near, right at the door” (Matthew 24:32).

The fig tree images the people of Israel—all twelve tribes. Fig trees produce twice in a year. The first fruits appear in Spring and are produced from the old branches—the Breba crop. The second growth of fruit appears in Summer and is produced from the new growth—the Higos crop.

In Matthew 24, Jesus is describing the crop from the new growth—the tender twigs. The Higos crop. This crop is identifying the repentance and spiritual growth of people not from the old branches but the new.

People from the twelve nations of 21st century Israel will repent. They will acknowledge the God of Israel, desire to obey His commandments and strive to live His way. This turn to obey God and live His way is the picture of the flower of the fig tree. The flower is the fruit inside. This is the beauty of repentant people. Their inner being blossoms into beautiful character.

During their captivity, they will call out to God for their rescue and declare their allegiance to Him. That is the lesson from the fig tree and the sign just before the return of Christ. This will be an exceptional time when millions turn to God sincerely and completely.

The unrepentant people from the twelve tribes of Israel will be judged and destroyed by Jesus Christ. It is seen in the story of the cursed fig tree. “And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, Jesus went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs” (Matthew 11:13). This tree symbolized as a leader/person was covered in leaves [opportunities and resources to mature into God’s ways]. It was not the season for fruit bearing for this tree. This person had gone beyond its fruit bearing season without any sign of fruit, not even over-ripe figs on the ground. It was an early bloomer [called before many others] but that leader didn’t have any fruit [remained unrepentant and ungodly]. That is why Jesus cursed that person, so it will be on Judgement Day.

Jotham reminded the people of the importance of bearing good works by living God’s way. “But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’”

Fruit, that is, good works, strong character, loving one another is the fruit that is good and sweet and is valued higher than rulership over people. Eternal life will be given to those who transform, softening their hardened heart and living righteously.

Prophesied in Micah is the future where nations on earth are released from the oppressive control of Wickedness. Each family will be free to lead and reap the full benefits of their own labour. It is described as “sitting under your own vine, your own fig tree” (Micah 4:4).

“Then He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor will they train anymore for war. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. Though each of the peoples may walk in the name of his god, yet we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever” (Micah 4:3-5).

The futuristic verse foretells of a time when all twelve tribes of Israel—all of God’s covenant people will be committed to living God’s way of love, forever and ever.

THE GRAPE VINE

From the grape vine, wine is made. The imagery in this low growing plant reveals a humble people willing to die for their faith and service to Almighty God, as well, it images a group of people who are unfit for God’s kingdom and destined to be destroyed.

Recorded in Revelation is a fearful story of the destruction of the wicked. “Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe” (Revelation 14:18).

“Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:13).

Two different groups of people are imaged in the grapes from a vine.

Determining who is good and bad is determined by their behaviour, which is visible in how they are harvested. The grapes that are trodden down by foot outside of the winepress are the wicked. The juice from grapes made through the use of the winepress is the wine—the type of people who will serve God.

Juice from the winepress



Grapes trodden down



Jesus Christ is imaged as a vine. It was the spilt blood of Jesus Christ that has given mankind an opportunity for eternal life. The Passover service of the eating of bread and drinking of wine mirrors Christ's humble service to Almighty God as he said, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Jesus' great love for mankind was demonstrated with his death on the cross. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

For centuries, the saints endured persecution, trials and tribulation and in some cases death by those warring against God. These people "triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11).

Humble people, insignificant to the leaders and the renown on earth are mirrored in a low growing vine producing fruit that after being crushed and processed ferments into wine—an image of their blood-covenant with Almighty God.

The righteous angels rejoice when mankind repents. It gives the Great Potter joy to witness the work of His hands as the righteous rise up against Wickedness fearing nothing because they fully trust in God Almighty.

God's enemies are the ruthless, fallen angels who are powerful rulers, powers and principalities (Ephesians 6:12). At the time of Babel, God gave the members of His court in heaven rulership

over the nations (Deuteronomy 32:8), but soon after they received their inheritance, they turned against Him. The worship of these enemies is a treasonous action.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego understood the war in heaven. Certain Chaldeans noticed that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down and worship the statue at the sound of the music. They told King Nebuchadnezzar. "There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said unto them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?'"

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves on this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Therefore, because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

"And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spoke, and said unto his counsellors, did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:12-18, 22-25).

During ancient times, the people on earth had witnessed interactions between the ruling angels over the nations and their appearances. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized the fourth individual in the furnace as different from the other three and singled this being out to look like a heavenly being. It could be that this being was especially bright.

From the house of Judah, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were imaged as fine grapes on that vine. "The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in" (Isaiah 5:7a). Faith and trust in Almighty God are His great delight.

Isaiah recorded God's delight in His people sometime still in the future. "In that day: 'Sing about a fruitful vineyard. I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it continually. I guard it night and day so no one can disturb it'" (Isaiah 27:2-3).

The first miracle Jesus did was to turn water into wine. "Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim... the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants

who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, ‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now’” (John 2:7, 9-10).

This first miracle is pointing to those who come out of the Great Tribulation—Jacob’s Trouble crushed and repentant. Their sincerity, loyalty and faithfulness will rate higher than that of ancient Israel who were given the first opportunity into God’s kingdom, but they rejected it.

THE PALM TREE



The Palm tree can survive in harsh environments because it stores water in its roots, trunk and fruit.

It is a picture of leaders who remain strong and upright living in godless societies. God’s Holy Spirit fills these leaders who live applying God’s knowledge, understanding and wisdom daily as every day presents a different challenge.

As ancient Israel began their journey in the wilderness, God was already teaching them about their spiritual journey during this godless evil age and their spiritual story preserved in every camp and every

event along the way.

“Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water” (Exodus 15:27).

The twelve springs are representative of the twelve tribes of Israel and the seventy palm trees are the umbrella of God’s perfect council of seventy. God was hoping ancient Israel would respond to His instruction. It was a struggle with many ups and downs. His plan for the establishment of His kingdom with His people as a kingdom separate from all the other nations as a holy, royal kingdom of priests will still prevail.

Special counsellors will rise up during a time of great distress and provide the spiritual protection the 21st century nations of Israel will need to survive this evil age.

THE MYRTLE TREE

The Myrtle tree is an evergreen flowering shrub. Its aromatic branches are used in ancient times in celebrations and festivals. This tree has healing properties. The leaves contain essential oils used for antibacterial and antiseptic products.

Zechariah begins his writing with a man standing among the Myrtle trees in a ravine. The Myrtle tree is a beautiful ornamental tree. The ravine is figurative and could be describing a time when God's people—all twelve tribes are in a low point, but beautiful and full of blossoms imaging repentance and goodness.



Three times Zechariah records the man among the Myrtles trees. This is indicative of a significant marker in events by God. The man among the Myrtle trees received the reports from the riders of the horses. God's people are described as beautiful Myrtle trees takes place when the man receives reports that the world is at peace. It is after God's people have been invaded and scattered and Jerusalem is in great distress. Four rulers scatter God's people: Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. God declares his anger towards the nations, "I am angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry but they added to the calamity" (Zechariah 1:15).

While the nations feel safe and at peace, God's people are in great distress and during this time still in the future, they will humble themselves and call out to God. God's people will return to Him. Pictured as beautiful Myrtle trees with healing properties, God calls them. "Come! Come! Flee the land of the north for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven. Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon... be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you. Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will

become my people... The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling” (Zechariah 2:6-13).

The Myrtle tree is an image of humble, beautiful people with priest-like responsibilities in that they have healing properties. God’s commandments and His word are the properties that heal people from spiritual death. Righteous leaders will replace the wicked leaders of this evil age.

God foresees the beautiful changes to come. “Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow” (Isaiah 55:13).

“And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month. 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’” (Nehemiah 8:15).

Nehemiah recorded the celebration of God’s final Holy Day, the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth. Their temporary homes were covered with the branches imaging leaders: priests, righteous people, Godly counsellors, and all leaders who are capable of protecting and covering them spiritually from rogue heavenly rulers, powers and principalities.

THE POPLAR TREE

The Poplar tree is a fast-growing tall tree that quickly provides shade and a haven for undergrowth. Just one tree has a vast root system, many form a web of underground roots.



These trees image the many people who will quickly mature spiritually into leadership roles providing immediate stable governance, appropriate resources and provisions for people to come to know God and learn to live God's way. A vast network of resources will be developed and established through these leaders. Quickly, the health and strength of organizations will be corrected and vitalized.

The Millennium will be a time ripe for spiritual growth and a full display of leadership styles.

THE CYPRESS TREE

The evergreen Cypress tree is a fast-growing tree that loves water and is often planted in wet areas.

The Cypress wood is weather-resistant and needs no treatment to protect it from the environment.

The wood from the Cypress tree can be used in making musical instruments. Singing and praising God will be a talent admired and cherished.

King David was blessed with musical talent. "Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating and dancing before the LORD with all kinds of instruments made of fir or cypress wood, with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals" (II Samuel 6:5).

This tree images eternal leaders growing rapidly, craving God's Holy Spirit and maturing to fill important responsibilities in His kingdom. This leader is especially strong and devoted to God's law and His ways. Temptations of any type to rebel are quickly resisted. They are tested leaders who will not deviate from God's way.

Isaiah recorded God's vision of the future. "I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the CEDAR and the ACACIA, the MYRTLE and the OLIVE. I will set PINES in the wasteland, the FIR and the CYPRESS together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it" (Isaiah 41:19-20).



God will place each leader in an office and location where they serve best.

THE ALMOND TREE

The Almond tree images a very special group of people. It was the almond branch that God used to settle a grievance among the twelve tribes of Israel over which tribe should be the priestly tribe.

“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 a showy display of abundant soft pink and white blossoms.

To understand more about the meaning of Aaron’s staff budding out over night from a dormant



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

staff into a blossomed branch with almonds, Keil and Delitzsch offer their insight. The complete life cycle of the branch appearing overnight “is 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 would 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.

We can see God's use of the almond branch in Jeremiah's commission made absolute by God. 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, *טקש*, 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.

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:12).



THE POMEGRANATE TREE

The fruit from the Pomegranate tree is large and filled with juice encapsulated seeds. The image of the pomegranate on the hem of the robe of the ancient Israelite priest was an intentional design of God to remind His people that keeping His commandments produces good behaviour (fruit) that is rich and bountiful like the many seeds inside the pomegranate.

It is also symbolic of virility when national leaders keep God's commandments, they seed through the church the environment that will produce many righteous people maturing spiritually and fit for God's kingdom. God said, "Multiply and replenish the earth." This is all about producing righteous God-fearing and God-serving people within a structure that promotes spiritual maturity and strength.

The juice from the pomegranate is known to reduce inflammation, improve memory and brain cognition because it is filled with powerful antioxidants. Magnesium in the juice relaxes muscles, protects them from stress, lowers cholesterol and blood pressure classifying it as a potent cardiovascular protector. It is no surprise that Solomon's temple had two columns, one on each side of the entrance, with a huge bronze pomegranate on top. God designed and created the pomegranate before creation to be a fruit with a message.

THE FOREST OF THE CEDARS OF GOD



The Forest of the Cedars of God. Source Wikimedia Commons

“The Cedars of God, located in the Kadisha Valley of Bsharre, Lebanon, are one of the last vestiges of the extensive forests of the Lebanon cedar that anciently thrived across Mount Lebanon. All early modern travelers' accounts of the wild cedars appear to refer to the ones in Bsharri; the Christian monks of the monasteries in the Kadisha Valley venerated the trees for centuries. The earliest documented references of the Cedars of God are found in Tablets 4-6 of the great Epic of Gilgamesh, six days walk from Uruk.” (Wikipedia)

King David recorded, “The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, *the cedars of Lebanon that he planted*” (Psalm 104:16).

The great trees today are few; the grandeur of this wonder in Lebanon is forgotten along with the spiritual connection that King David understood—the cedars of Lebanon, those great heavenly leaders, that God planted are forgotten.

Cedar trees in ancient times were used for the most prestigious developments. King Solomon understood their great value and he ordered the finest cedar timber from Lebanon to be used in the construction of God’s temple. This was understood by Solomon to be a mirror of the heavenly structure comprising of eternally strong leadership. Through King Hiram of Tyre, Solomon obtained the cedar from the location of the same name as the location of God’s heavenly court, Lebanon.

King Hiram said, “I will do what you desire concerning the cedar and cypress timber. My servants will bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; and I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place where you direct me, and I will have them broken up there, and you shall carry them away” (I Kings 5:8-9).

God’s great cedars in His heavenly court in Lebanon are leaders holding the highest most prestigious positions. They serve in God’s centre of law providing instruction and judgement.

Unfortunately, something terrible happened in ancient times. These once-great leaders one-by-one fell and allied with Satan to overthrow Almighty God.

“Then all the trees [leaders] of Eden, the CHOICEST and BEST OF LEBANON, all the trees that were well-watered [filled with God’s Holy Spirit], were CONSOLED IN THE EARTH BELOW” (Ezekiel 31:16).

This tragedy is a painful reality of the destructive ability of allowing power to control you instead of using power to serve. Even those filled with God’s Holy Spirit were not immune to the death blow of having power.

Among the cedars, those very great leaders, God declares a splendid cedar.

Few details of the battles in heaven are recorded. What is known is the fall of God's heavenly court, and the leader that God, himself, has chosen to replace all contenders for rulership over His kingdom.

The book of Ezekiel records the judgements of all in heaven and on earth who are sentenced for punishment. God continues to use His imagery when addressing the creation in heaven. God has put an end to the battle for rulership over His kingdom. He chose a splendid cedar and that leader will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Enough God said, "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." Then, God adds as He turns to speak to His creation in heaven, "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 to be transformed into immortality] grow tall. I dry up the green tree [the eternal rogue leaders] and make the dry tree [transformed mortals] flourish" (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

God's discussion of bringing down the tall tree and raising up the dry tree applies to the transformed saints and Jesus Christ who is the splendid tree among the dry trees to be raised up and flourish as great leaders in God's *new* Lebanon in the making.

God chose His trusted Son through whom heaven and earth was created. That Son of God did not fail. He proved to be again and 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).

Christ is the shoot that God took from the very top of a cedar in His garden [family] and planted it; it became a splendid cedar. He does the will of his Father in heaven and he will restore all things as they were before iniquity was found.

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).

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).

Christ is a unique Son of God. “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 His first born 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. Matthew recorded Jesus’ declaration of supremacy. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (Matthew 28:18).

The upcoming battle will be the cutting away of dark lies to release truth and freedom. The image of a sword—a double-edged sword illustrates how the battle will be won. “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).

Christ will reign until all enemies are destroyed. Living in sin will end; righteousness will reign, hence, there will be no more death. “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] who 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. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

THE TWO TREES IN GOD'S GARDEN

The tree [leader] who specializes in the knowledge that brings eternal life is Jesus Christ; he is the Word—the tree of life. Jesus Christ is well tested. He has never failed—never sinned. What he says is the pure word of God. Listening and acting on what Jesus Christ has said is eating from the tree of life. Bread is food that symbolizes spiritually Christ's body, because listening and acting of his teachings brings eternal life—perfection because he thoroughly understands God's word, hence the title of being the Word.

CHRIST, the Word

SATAN, the Deceiver



“While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take it; this is My body’” (Mark 14:22) and “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:54).

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:28) and “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him” (I John 4:9).

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were open to see the face of Wickedness. Eating from a tree is imagery for acting on what you have heard from a specific leader imaged as a specific tree. Listening to Satan and acting on what he has said is eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan knows what is good, but often, he will mix truth with falsehood to lead his victims onto a foggy path.

Both Mark and John recorded Jesus' teaching his disciples the imagery of his body and sacrifice. "While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is My body'" (Mark 14:22) and "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54).

The spiritual teaching is all about living the word of God, eating the bread, and accepting the sacrifice of Jesus that will include persecution during this evil age.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were opened to see the face of Wickedness. Eating from a tree is imagery for acting on what you have heard from a specific leader imaged as a specific tree. Listening to Satan and acting on what he has said is eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan knows what is good, but often, he will mix truth with falsehood to lead his victims onto a foggy path.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil may seem like a logical choice, but the problem fully known to Satan, is that mankind grows in grace and knowledge. Only through continued growth and discipline can mankind learn to distinguish between good and evil. Satan always saw mankind as an easy target. Satan may have thought that he won the battle with the fall of man, but he is was never included in God's briefing. The fall of man is all part of their spiritual training. God is showcasing His love in grace to His creation in heaven and on earth. Repentant mankind will reach perfection. They are destined to fill every highly valued position lost by Satan and his rogue coalition.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is rapidly dying. People are waking up and the great witness of the faithful saints, the two witnesses and the whole kingdom of Israel—all twelve tribes will bring an end to this evil age when the people of the nations, understand that God is offering them grace.

GOD IS CONSISTENT IN HIS USE OF IMAGERY

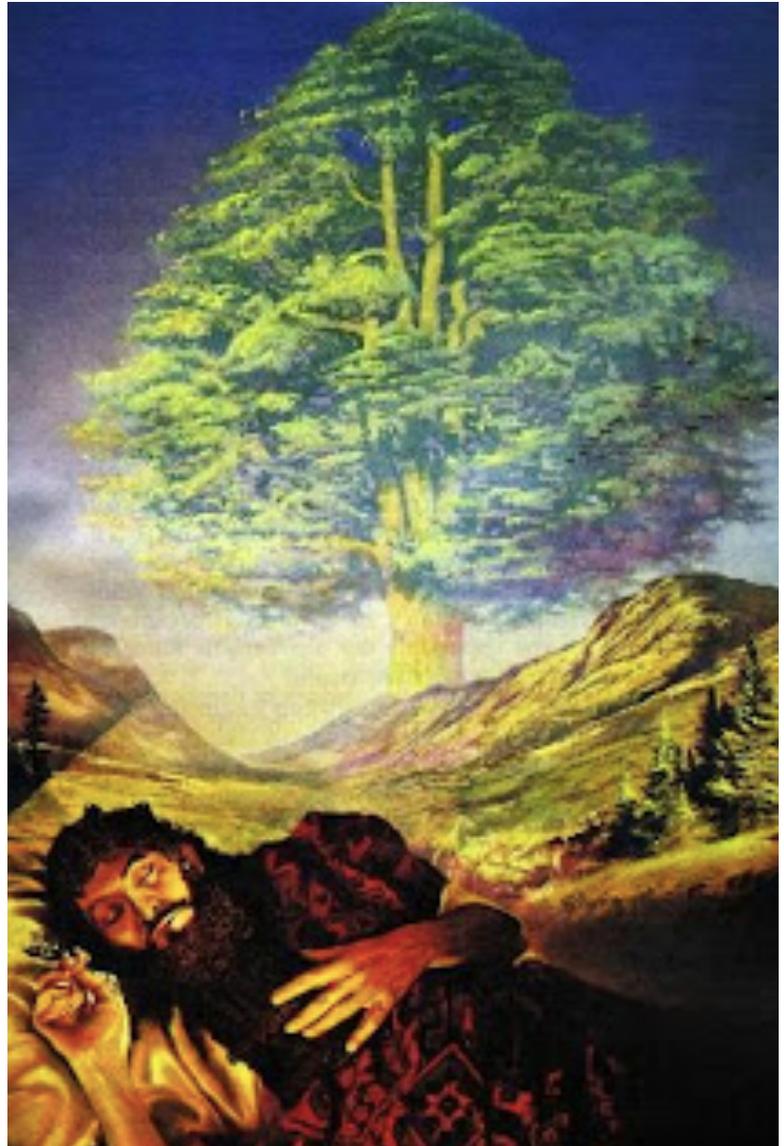
King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a tree. This is a clear example of God's coded language applying the use of a tree to represent a leader—a ruler—a king.

"Here is my dream; interpret it for me," King Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel (Daniel 4:9). "I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth... a holy one, coming down from heaven called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field'" (Daniel 4:10-11,13b-14).

Daniel replied, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth... you, O king, are that tree!” (Daniel 4:19b-20, 22a).

King Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom had grown to reach a world-ruling, superpower status because the God of Israel had given it to him. Unfortunately, King Nebuchadnezzar forgot who blessed him and Almighty God had to humble him to remind him. In a single moment, King Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to living as a beast for seven years in the field.

After seven years, King Nebuchadnezzar was reinstated as king and he gave glory to the One, true Great God praising the Most High and trumpeting, “His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35).



Indeed, God does what He pleases. The fallen angels—rogue sons of God in heaven will be brought down from their lofty thrones.

God’s heavenly court is falling and He will take it down completely. The members of God’s heavenly court were once the greatest and finest leaders ruling in heaven, but they all rebelled. God will displace, judge and sentence them.

“Open your doors, O LEBANON, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down” (Zechariah 11:2).

“See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is replanting His garden—His family. “I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the CEDAR and the ACACIA, the MYRTLE and the OLIVE. I will set PINES in the wasteland, the FIR and the CYPRESS together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it” (Isaiah 41:19-20).

God’s new government will be comprised of all the ancient prophets and prophetesses and the saints throughout all generations. Mortal mankind will be made immortal and they will fill the highest positions in God’s new government.



THE DELICATE, STUNNING, EYE-CATCHING FLOWERS

In contrast to robust trees, God has created delicate flowers to showcase something gentle and sweet that pleases Him. The variety of perfumes from the delicate flowers, likely images all the different prayers offered up to God by people. Some are short, some long, some in sadness, many longing for a better country—a heavenly one whose architect and builder is God.

Walking through a garden, the perfume from flowers is like incense. “And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people” (Revelation 5:8).

King David prayed, “May my prayer be set before You like incense, my uplifted hands like the evening offering” (Psalm 141:2).

Flowers are crowns of dazzling colour. They image the exquisite beauty of individuals and their expressions of love, one for another. God sees the heart of each person and their goodness and kindness do not go unnoticed. God’s repentant people will blossom like a lily.

Hosea record God’s promise to His people. “I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-6).

God is growing His garden—His family and when He is finished, it will be glorious! The imagery God uses to be transparent is consistent. Trees are leaders. From the characteristics of the different trees different roles are identified. Fruit-bearing and flowering trees describe the eye-catching qualities of repentant, righteous and loving people living God’s way, keeping His commandments. The low-growing gentle flowers vividly image the humble prayers of the saints that release a fragrance that brings the eyes of our Great Lord to look down and remember us.



FORCES OF NATURE

“They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?’” (Luke 8:24-25)

So many scriptures recorded in the Bible reveal the deeper picture that is so often missed. The disciples shook Jesus awake terrified that they would die in the storm. Jesus rebuked the wind and the surging waves silencing them. Then he turned to his disciples and asked, “Where is your faith?” What forces did the wind and surging waves mirror that would enable the disciples to silence them? The disciples responded to each other now referring to the winds and water as “they”—entities who obey. Awestruck, they were amazed at the power Jesus wielded. If they only knew what Jesus knew, they would have known the forces attacking them and would have silenced them themselves, if they understood their calling.

The forces of nature on earth exist because God created them for a purpose on earth and a mirror of the unseen forces in heaven.

THE RAIN

The great flood was necessary to cleanse the earth of wickedness that was layers deep, far and wide. Water is God’s symbol for cleansing, so too, God’s Holy Spirit imaged as water that cleanses mortals of their carnal spirit and fills them with a holy spirit—the special and unique essence of Almighty God. Water brings growth to life on earth; God’s Holy Spirit brings growth spiritual life.

Packaged with sunshine, rain causes all plants on earth to grow, blossom and produce fruit. God is the great provider of all things essential to mankind. The engineering of mankind was planned before creation and all things fundamental to their physical and spiritual life are provided by Him and used to teach mankind about all matters spiritual.

“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy” (Acts 14:17).

God uses everyday life to mirror the process of growing in knowledge and righteousness. Morning showers cleanse the old night away and rejuvenate feelings of renewal and strength. This is the same experience of the faithful when God showers His righteousness on them.

The prophets recorded God’s instructions peppered with imagery of farming the land.

“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you” (Hosea 10:12).

God is teaching mankind that they need His Holy Spirit to mature spiritually. Almighty God is the Great Teacher, Designer, Engineer and Architect of mankind’s journey into spiritual maturity. He has the power to give life. Jesus Christ provided the mechanism for mankind to access the Father in heaven. Look to Him always and do not be tempted and fall like ancient Israel and believed the lies of fallen angels who pretend to be saviours.

Jeremiah trumpeted to Ancient Israel beseeching them to put away the idols that were used to call on the fallen angels, rogue sons of God for help and favours. “Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, LORD our God. Therefore, our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this” (Jeremiah 14:22).

Yes, even the gods ruling over the nations, though they had power to cause severe weather changes, God prevented them from controlling the weather.

God will provide for mankind on earth. Strange weather patterns of the 21st century are a direct result of man’s weather experiments and warfare. God will call everyone eventually. God mirrors His work on earth through nature and no rogue spirit being or beings can prevent Him from cleansing mankind of their sins. He has an unrelenting drive to embed His ways of love into the lives of this very special creation on earth. He has plans for mankind and He will not step back until His work is done.

“Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before” (Joel 2:23). These rains mirror seasonal spiritual cleansing taking place throughout the year.

THE WIND

God’s Holy Spirit is imaged as water because it cleanses, but it is also described as wind because it is a powerful force. Recorded in Acts, it has the sound like a violent, rushing wind.

On Pentecost, the day 3,000 people received God’s Holy Spirit, they experienced and witnessed a riveting act of God. “And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole



house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2).

On that most memorable day, at the birth of a church when all present were given God’s Holy Spirit, people heard a loud and powerful noise of wind filling the room. God’s Holy Spirit mirrors a great wind, something unseen and yet, felt with all its power and drive.

God Almighty is in charge. He calls; He chooses. Spiritual birth is a born-again phenomenon. When we receive God’s Holy Spirit after baptism, God as the Great Potter, begins molding. He presses and pushes; He crushes and creates; He purifies and perfects. Like the wind He works, mankind cannot see from where it came and where it will go. “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). Finally, those with God’s Holy Spirit become pliable and God is free as the wind to do His great work in mankind.

The wind remains an image of God’s power. His Holy Spirit is a unique Spirit and only Spirit that can open the mind of creation made in His image into the world of Almighty God to learn and understand His deep things, to foresee His eternal plans of future creations and dominions and His glory replicated in every God-fearing and God-serving soul.

THE EAST WIND

The story of the east wind is an awe-filled picture of great power and supremacy. The east wind is well renowned in the deserts of the Middle East.



Hosea recorded God’s warning to arrogant and proud Ancient Israel. “Though he flourishes among the reeds, an east wind will come, the wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness” (Hosea 13:15).

The wind from the north, the south or the west cannot compare to the power of the east wind. Only the east wind can totally destroy because only it is imaged as the all-powerful hand of

Almighty God, our Creator. God chose the east wind because His temple is in the east pointing to the release of His power being done in righteous.

In Pharaoh's dream, he saw the east wind scorch seven heads of grain. "Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them" (Genesis 41:6, 23). The seven thin and scorched heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. This is the action of Almighty God who gave Joseph the interpretation, "God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do... the worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind; they are seven years of famine" (Genesis 41:27b). It is the act and will of God Almighty who brought the severe seven-year famine. It was so bad that there was no trace of the seven years of rich abundance.

Grain is food and mirrors a spiritual image of information, knowledge. God prophesied to Pharaoh that He will cause a severe food shortage. It will be unrelenting and people will eventually sell everything to survive. So much so, that all of the reserves the people housed will be used up and they will buy from Joseph. The famine will not bring relief until everyone has sold everything to Joseph, even themselves.

This story lived by Joseph in his time will occur in the latter days not on a physical level but as a spiritual awakening. Through the image of the east wind that caused the drought those thousands of years ago, that same force will completely absorb the succulence of traditional thought and knowledge that people hold onto so dearly and it will be replaced with God's word, His truth, His knowledge. The puffed up lies will be exposed. People who want to live will exchange falsehood with truth. They will sell everything for truth, pay their tithe and become indentured slaves to Almighty God.

The east wind is a powerful force throughout the Bible, used to teach and correct God's people. The house of Judah in rebellion against Almighty God, the God of Israel, tried to escape from God's punishment that brought them into a treaty of bondage with Babylon. They sought the help of the superpower kingdom of Egypt. Ezekiel recorded God's response to this rebellious action. "Even if it [the house of Judah] is transplanted [relocated], will it thrive? Will it not wither completely when the east wind [God Almighty] strikes it—wither away in the plot where it grew?" (Ezekiel 17:10) This verse is only a small portion of the allegory recorded in Ezekiel 17.

The use of allegories is a powerful tool for God to direct attention to beings and their actions in the heavens when they are intertwined with leaders and activities on earth. Explained by God Himself, He said, "Do you not know what these things mean?" (Ezekiel 17:12)

God then, explained the meaning of the two great eagles, the vine and the east wind. The King of Babylon is the first great eagle, Pharaoh of Egypt is the second great eagle, the vine is the house of Judah and finally, the east wind who will strike the rebellious house is Almighty God, himself. He declared, "As surely as I live, I will bring down on his head my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke. I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgement upon him there because he was unfaithful to

me. All his fleeing troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to the winds. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken” (Ezekiel 17:19-21).

It should be noted at this time that God is using Babylon to punish the rebel house of Judah and also Egypt later on. The heavenly ruler over Babylon was at this time loyal to God. Over time, to God’s bitter disappointment, all of the heavenly rulers who inherited rulership over the nations fell away from ruling righteously and allied with Satan to battle for God’s kingdom.

The Two Great Eagles



God is using the king of Babylon to overthrow rogue kingdoms on earth. There may be mirrored activity in heaven, as well. God said, “I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put *my sword* in hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a mortally wounded man” (Ezekiel 30:24).

God describes the fall of Egypt against Babylon like a “mortally wounded man” emphasizing how weak the heavenly ruler over Egypt will be against the heavenly ruler over Babylon. This comparison illustrates the strength difference between mortals and spirit beings, as well as, spirit beings and Almighty God. This comparison also reveals that these kings are spirit beings and one will be wounded at the level likened to that of being mortal.

Often passed over is a preserved story of the king of Babylon being rewarded by Almighty God for his service in his work for God.

God dealt with Tyre through the king of Babylon. “Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will carry off its wealth, seize its spoil, and remove its plunder. This will be the wages for his army” (Ezekiel 29:19). These wages were due because “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor

strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every shoulder made raw. But he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the labor they expended on it” (Ezekiel 29:18). Tyre was never destroyed, rather agreed to recognize Babylonian hegemony after a long and labouring 13-year siege.

God said, “I have given him the land of Egypt as the reward for his labor, because it was done for Me, declares the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 29:20).

Another example of God’s use of the east wind is recorded in the story of the plagues of Egypt. By the power of Almighty God, locusts were brought to plague Egypt prior to the exodus of the ancient Israelites. These locusts were carried by the east wind. “So, Moses stretched out his



staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts” (Exodus 10:13). These locusts consumed what little grain was left in Egypt. Grain was a staple food. The word of God is imaged as bread made from grain. The complete consumption of their staple food by the locusts was symbolic of destroying the last of Egypt’s core teachings, their beliefs, their God-of-Israel opposing theology. Through God’s power imaged as the east wind, opposition will be destroyed.

God is a relentless force driving his rebels far from Him.

“Like an east wind I will scatter them before the enemy; I will show them My back and not My face in the day of their calamity” (Jeremiah 18:17). God’s temple is located in the east. When God pushes His people away from Him, they moved westward. They are identified into the 21st century as Westerners from Western Europe. They moved west because God’s powerful hand from the east pushed them away from Him. He scattered His people but never rejected or lost sight of them despite their rebellion against Him. He sifted them through the heathen nations but did not lose one of them.

“Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, *I will not forget you*” (Isaiah 44:21) and “For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and *not a pebble will reach the ground*” (Amos 9:9). Though scattered, never forgotten, never lost.

The imagery of forces from the east wind by the Almighty God is declared by God himself as His own. God was angry with the ten tribes of Israel led by the tribe of Ephraim. He vowed to withdraw His Holy Spirit and any means of obtaining His truth because they had rejected Him. These ten tribes appeared to be flourishing with wealth and success, but God brought an end to their status and pride. “Though he [the ten tribes—house of Israel] flourishes among the reeds, an *east wind* will come. The wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness; and his fountain will become dry and his spring will be dried up; it [the powerful force of the east wind] will plunder his treasury of every precious article” (Hosea 13:15).

Under the leadership of Ephraim, the ten tribes turned away from the God of Israel to serve the gods of the nations and all Godly knowledge was forgotten. They worshipped rogue, fallen angels—fallen sons of God. These ten tribes saw the great kingdoms built by the nations of the world ruled by rebellious heavenly rulers and they craved that power and the glory these nations wielded. The ten tribes were consumed with the drive for superpower status, moving west where immeasurable resources lay untapped.

“Ephraim feeds on wind, and pursues the east wind continually; he multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt” (Hosea 12:1).

The power of God’s hand, through the east wind, was sent to dry up their resources, their power and strength and humble them. They would be later overthrown and taken into captivity for their sins and corrupt behaviour.

The bad and rebellious behaviour of the ten tribes of Israel caused God to act and forcefully push them to the borders of the west, far from Him.

One of the most remembered stories among the Judo-Christians is the story of the Exodus. The great hand of Almighty God dried up the bottom of the Red Sea with the power of the east wind, so that the ancient Israelites, all twelve tribes, would walk across a dry surface. “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided” (Exodus 14:21).

This display of immense superhuman strength could not be duplicated by the warring Egyptians. Their god could not do the same as the whole army of Pharaoh who pursued the ancient Israelites became enchained in soft mud and drowned by rushing return of the waters closing the pathway to life. All of the pursuing Egyptian army died; their god could not save even one of them.

The last verse written by the Apostle John in the book of John concluded, “Jesus did many things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” (John 21:25).

This would indicate that the stories preserved in the Bible would be the most important ones to remember, since countless stories were not recorded. Doubly important, like a legal witness, would be a story recorded in both the Old Testament and the New Testament—both testaments. Such was the story of the saving of the people living in the ancient city of Nineveh.

Jonah was selected by God to complete a job, but Jonah was reluctant. His task was to warn Nineveh of God’s plan to destroy them for their wickedness. Jonah walked the full width and length of the city warning them; they listened, believed and repented. The king took off his royal clothes and humbled himself in sackcloth and sat in dust proclaiming to all Nineveh by decree, “Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with 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” (Jonah 3:7-9).

The king called for both man [men and women] and beast to be covered with sackcloth. There could have existed at that time, a type of hybrid animal with a level of awareness to clothe themselves in sackcloth understanding the crucial moment of the time. The herds and flocks fasted along with men, women and beasts, but were not clothed in sackcloth. The king of Nineveh knew the God of Israel as having supreme power over all gods in heaven and he repented to the only God who has the authority to command or take back a command.

When Nineveh repented, God extended His grace and they were saved. Jonah was not happy with God’s compassion. He demanded, “Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live” (Jonah 4:3).

Jonah knew the God of Israel would forgive Nineveh the moment they repent because he knew that his God is “a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion—One who relents from sending disaster” (Jonah 4:2). Unlike humans, who want to see the wicked suffer and die before offering first an opportunity of repentance and a return to living righteously, God Almighty wants people to repent and live.

While Jonah was determined to sulk, God was determined to teach him about loving his enemies, spreading the gospel of repentance and being joyful when the wicked hear and fall to their knees before Almighty God, the Great God of Israel.

While Jonah sat in a make-shift cover, hoping to see the destruction of a large number of people, God caused a vine to grow and cover him from the hot sun. Jonah liked the cooling cover of the vine. The next day, God caused the vine to wither and a *scorching east wind* and blazing sun beat down on Jonah and soon he became faint (Jonah 4:8). Always, it is the east wind God uses to blow to authenticate His great power.

Jonah fulfilled the job of warning a wayward people. They listened to him, though he did not care for them nor did he want them saved. Jesus, who loved the Jews and wanted them to humble themselves and repent, cried, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37). With all of the miracles done in Judea, Jesus was rejected by many, unlike the people of



Nineveh who believed an insignificant man and repented. "The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgement day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent" (Matthew 12:41). The crux of this story was recorded twice because a legal witness took place that will be used in God's heavenly court on Judgement Day.

The east wind is imagery for an instrument of great power. It was characterized in ancient times by great dryness and heat, tempestuous and destructive. Almighty God used the imagery of the east wind to reflect His relentless drive and great power used in love to correct and direct His people onto a journey back to Him.

THE FIRE

Perfection is not achieved without the purging by fire of everything worthless and wrong. God is at work; much of mankind is asleep but not for long.

Jacob's trouble is at the door. A time like no other nor ever to be again is knocking. The forces and powers behind it are supernatural and mankind will awaken in a fright. Foreseen long ago, God wove the plans and actions of Wickedness into His work of purging the dross from His precious people. God sends His people a message of warning and hope.

"And in all the land, declares the LORD, two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God'" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

God's church is not a building but a people purified and righteous. One-third of the angels in heaven have fallen away to join Satan's great rebellion. There is no saving plan for these spirit

beings; they are destined for destruction. God loves His creation. The destruction of life is painful for God; He is doing all He can to save His creation.

God's second creation on earth, made mortal, is the very element that allows God's creation to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom—God's word and live. Mortal mankind is the essence of grace and the essential companion for God's law for it to be loving. It is the adjective to the noun—righteous leadership. Overcoming is the burning journey mortals walk towards our LORD that purges, purifies and perfects. God knows best.

“As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him” (II Samuel 22:31).

God's second creation on earth is special. Their suffering on earth will forge an unrelenting desire for righteousness and an iron sceptre against wickedness. God's family-kingdom is still in the making. Rogue and rebellious sons of God in the first creation will be destroyed and righteous mortals from the second creation will be transformed into eternal children of God. God our LORD is the way.

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). God will test with severity the actions of mortals. Work done in righteousness will prevail, but work with a covering of righteousness will not prevail. “Their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work” (I Corinthians 3:13).

Governments pretending to care for their people will be uncovered; charities pretending to give to the needy will be revealed; news media pretending to give you the truth will be exposed; “experts” pretending to give the people an understanding of specialities will be shamed; and Christians pretending to serve God will fall away. Soon, everyone will be seen for who they are. God Almighty is the Commander of change. Baptism by water is only the beginning. It will take the commitment of a blood covenant with our Father in heaven. Then, a transformation will come from severe testing, persecution, standing up against Wickedness and its lies. Those who enter into a blood covenant with God cannot be drawn away. Attacks and persecution will only draw them closer to God with a stronger will to serve love instead of hatred.

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’” (Luke 3:16).

The righteous will burn against Wickedness. “He [God] makes the winds His messengers, flames of fire His servants” (Psalm 104:4). The Apostle Paul understood and said, “Now about the angels He says: ‘He makes His angels winds, His servants flames of fire’” (Hebrews 1:7).

God's angels are winds of great power and transformed mortals are purifying flames of fire. Transformed mortals will preach righteousness, God's word destroying untruth, misinformation and disinformation.

God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). In earthly terms, He is in a constant state of purity and purifying all that is around Him. While God is using Wickedness to test both creations during this evil age, He will burn and destroy Wickedness in heaven and on earth at the end.

"Therefore, the Lord GOD of Hosts will send a wasting disease among Assyria's stout warriors, and under his pomp will be kindled a fire like a burning flame. The Light of Israel [Jesus Christ] will become a fire, their Holy One [Almighty God] a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars [the wicked] (Isaiah 10:16).

The "Assyrian," who God allows to test with fire His people, is not a mortal man but a fallen and very wicked leader—"a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue" (Daniel 8:23). He goes by different names: the Antichrist, the Little Horn and the Assyrian.

This wicked leader is doomed. "The splendor of his forests and fertile fields, it [the fire] will completely destroy, as when a sick man wastes away. And the remaining trees [leaders] of his forests [governance] will be so few that a child could write them down" (Isaiah 10:17-19).

God is prophesying about the day of the destruction of the fallen heavenly angels. His once majestic heavenly rulers—angels—sons of God, who may think they are invincible, will be destroyed. In their place, He will ordain righteous people from the second creation on earth.

God is assembling a new government of faithful and loyal saints. Men and women who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving. Isaiah recorded God's vision, "In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?" (Isaiah 29:17).

The Psalmist knew those thousands of years ago and recorded, "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will flourish in the COURTS OF OUR GOD. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green" (Psalm 92:12-15).

The righteous, molded through forces imaged as wind, the east wind, fire and rain, transforms mortals who will be anointed into highly esteemed positions in God's eternal family.

WATER and OIL

“A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and fountains and springs that flow through the valleys and hills”
(Deuteronomy 8:7-9).

God uses the physical elements and objects to illustrate the spiritual, unseen world critical to our learning. God’s promised land to His people is an image of the abundance and richness of eternal life.

Water is used to image God’s Holy Spirit that works as a cleansing agent that flows and fills us.

WATER



“But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Baptism is the image of repentance and being washed clean through the inflowing of God’s Holy Spirit.

God preserved in the stories of the Bible forgotten history. The story of the prodigal son points to the story of Naaman, the Gentile general.

It is a historical marvel that the house of Israel—the ten tribes, came to repentance, sometime during their wandering among the nations. They were a stubborn group, short tempered, proud and obstinate. Upon their release from captivity, a small voice reminded them to return to their God, for He is compassionate and forgiving. They listened and came before the Almighty God but—with attitude. There was no repentance of their evil ways; they were indignant and demanding. God sentenced them an additional seven times their original punishment, so they withdrew from God angry and resentful.

History is mirrored in Naaman, the Gentile general who sought to be healed of leprosy, a chronic infectious disease. Naaman's name means "who prevails with God" which is by no surprise. Our Great Creator is infamous in His use of names and the importance He places on them. A little slave girl pointed Naaman to Elisha, a prophet from the ten tribes of Israel. He went to Elisha and was directed to wash seven times in the Jordan River. He was insulted by the instructions, thinking the rivers in his homeland would suffice. He became angry and left.

God was driving a point home. Healing comes only out of God's Holy Land. There is a distinction. Only the God of Israel can heal; the gods ruling over the nations cannot forgive sins. Gentiles cannot be healed spiritually in their lands while ruled by rogue heavenly rulers.

During the days the ten tribes spent wandering and suffering searching for a home, they grew tired. With their heads down, this time, they approached the Almighty God for forgiveness. Their sinful behavior had deformed them and they could finally see what they had become. God told them to wash in the baptismal waters. This time, they obeyed His voice and to their amazement, they became a new man filling up with God's Holy Spirit. Now, they could walk in ways of God. These rebellious and stubborn people became transformed into a God-fearing people—a wonder to the nations watching. The grace the ten tribes of Israel received then, still amazes their descendants today. With gratitude, they continue to give thanks to God singing, "Amazing Grace" and "Your Grace Still Amazes Me."



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The healing of Naaman, the Syrian general, was a physical re-enactment of the spiritual healing of the national leadership of the ten tribes of Israel. The story Jesus reminded the Jews in Nazareth many years ago, made them very angry. He said, "'And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.' All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way" (Luke 4:27-30). Gehazi, Elisha's assistant from the tribe of Judah, ran back to Naaman and took payment. His actions mirrored the Jews' reaction to Jesus who was healing and bringing the lost ten tribes back into the covenant family. If the Gentiles—our fallen brothers are to return, the Jews thought, then they must pay.

There is lots of imagery used in the story of Naaman. The healing of Naaman and the lost ten tribes of Israel is one of the same. Parallels are clearly visible.

- Naaman was a gentile general like the leading tribe of the gentile ten-tribes.
- Naaman came with payment. Though the history of the repentance of the lost ten tribes is not recorded, stories in the Bible all point to their repentance and eventually re-union with their brothers from the house of Judah. The imagery of Naaman's payment is Hebraic practice for grace.
 - 6,000 shekels of gold followed the Hebraic sacrificial system of the guilt offering. This mirroring story records the repentance of the ten tribes who knew how much is required and what denomination. The payment in gold was better than the required payment in silver. They were determined to show God their sincerity.
 - The 10 talents of silver mirrored each tribe with one talent returning to God with fear and respect. It follows the parable of the talents in the Gospels.
 - 10 sets of clothing imaged each of the ten tribes desire to change their behaviour into new clothing—new behaviour.
- Naaman came for healing and like the ten tribes, turned away angry when told to wash seven times in the Jordan River as if any river would do. This mindset reflected the same carelessness of the ten tribes.
- Naaman was encouraged to return, like the ten tribes, he humbled himself following the instructions carefully and he was healed back into youthful days.
- Speaking to the Jews, Jesus spoke of only one story where a Gentile was healed from leprosy. He was mirroring the story of Naaman with the divorced brothers of the covenant family. Christ came only for the lost sheet of Israel. To them, his priority to save, heal and redeem was made plain. Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24).

A deeper look at the ten talents brought by Naaman is revealed in the parable of the talents. It provides clues to the imagery used in the story of Naaman. The parable of the talents images the spiritual growth of a believer. When God calls people, they are automatically given one talent. Some people are called to undertake heavy responsibilities, which is imaged in the receiving of more than one talent. The parable recorded by Matthew is a story of "a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master returned and settled accounts with them... To the servant who was given five talents, his master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' The master replied the same for the servant who gained two talents. But the

servant who buried his one talent was cast out into darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:14-30).

Coming into the knowledge of God’s way, requires overcoming the ways of the world to willingly choose God’s way, repent, seek righteousness and change. There should be no superficial apologies or self-righteous appearances. Change will demand a painful recognition of our sins and an agonizing tearing out of every part of the cancer that is killing us. A sincere believer will enter into the race described by Paul and run that Olympian-style competition, training daily by studying the word of God and applying the way of God, putting every effort to disciple themselves without exception.

That believer, filled with God’s Holy Spirit, will produce greatly like a well-watered tree. Not everyone will choose that level of discipline and commitment, unfortunately. The people given heavy responsibilities to do God’s work during this evil age, will suffer more than those following behind. But, shame to the person who hears the word of God and does nothing. That person remains in sin, void of any desire to love God, His ways or even their fellow man. People who remain in wickedness will be destroyed.

The prodigal son is another mirror of the repentant lost ten tribes. He returned and was welcomed back like the lost ten tribes. God welcomed them back even while they were in the distance. Right then, joy filled His heart.

The Apostle Paul trumpeted, “All of Israel will be saved.” No longer only the two tribes, but now all twelve tribes of Israel will be saved through the grace of Almighty God. “For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them ALL” (Romans 11:32).

Washing healed Naaman and washing through baptism heals all people from spiritual uncleanness that leads to death.

God preserved the history of the repentance of the national leaders of the ten tribes through the story of Naaman. Traces of recorded history are found in Josephus and other historians, but the healing of these national leaders is preserved in the Bible.



The church of the ten tribes repented as well. Her story was also preserved in the Bible in the story of the woman at the well recorded only by the Apostle John in chapter four. This church came into repentance and accepted God's Holy Spirit at the 18th hour. The Apostle John recorded that Jesus met the woman at the well around noon. With the day ending at sunset, noon would be the 18th hour in a 24-hour day. God uses time in many ways. A timeline surfaces of a repentance and healing of the ten-tribed church taking place right at noon, when the heat of the day is hottest and people are thirsty.

Jesus and his disciples traveled out of Judea. They arrived in the Gentile town of Sychar in Samaria. Sychar as recorded in John 4:5 states that it was near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. The Samaritan woman who had come to get water was living there because she was from the house of Joseph. She had returned to the original land given to her forefather, Joseph. This is by no coincidence; God has left His people without excuse.

"Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour" (John 4:6).

Jesus asked the woman for a drink. The woman responded surprised that a Jew would be talking to an outcast and a woman. She said, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9)

Little details need to be highlighted as we review this story. The woman immediately wonders why a Jew would be talking to a Gentile. She was not only an outcast at a national level but being a woman, she was brought down to yet another degrading level. Jesus ignored her response.

Jesus immediately responded to the woman at a spiritual level. "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). Jesus is offering her, God's gift of the Holy Spirit. He is speaking at a spiritual level where this woman images the ministry of the church of the ten tribes. They sought physical water and were offered spiritual water—God's Holy Spirit.

It took a little time for the woman to understand and come up to Jesus' level. "Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" (John 4:12). She identified herself as a descendant of Jacob. She was not a Jew but a Gentile from the lost ten tribes. She remembered her history. She knew she was a direct descendant of the house of Joseph having returned to the land given to Joseph.

She is thinking that Jesus is a prophet and asked if he was greater than Jacob—the renown Patriarch of Israel who built that well. Who could be sitting in front of her who could be greater than Jacob? She is elevating her language to reflect deeper thinking, knowing that Jacob is a very significant leader who built a well, critical for survival. Her logic is clearly seen as she values the source of survival and tries to associate it with Jesus' description of "living waters."

Jesus helps her to think deeper, “Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14). She immediately asks for that type of water.

Now, Jesus needed to know if she was sincere. The ten tribes of Israel promised to remain faithful to God many, many times, but failed to be easily lured into obtaining status, fame and power by worshipping rogue fallen gods ruling over the nations. Jesus responded by reminding this woman imaged as the church of the ten tribes of her many relationships with the rogue gods of the nations—husbands and their pagan practices. Astonished, that Jesus knew her situation, convinced her that he was definitely a prophet, but was he the Saviour she was eagerly anticipating? She said, “I can see that you are a prophet” (John 4:19).

She clearly understood Hebraic theology and they then engaged in a conversation about how to worship God. Jesus concluded, “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24).

The woman reaching to understand this new and fantastic teaching responded, “I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “I who speak to you am he” (John 4:26).

Her heart must have spontaneously pounded with joy. The church of the ten tribes was spiritually dying rapidly and they knew, their only hope was their awaited Saviour. She believed Jesus. She left her jug by the well and ran to tell the leaders of the town. The leaving of the water jug behind imaged the church of the ten tribes accepting Jesus’ offer of the “living” water—God’s Holy Spirit, which would soon be made available after his redemptive sacrifice, fifty days later on Pentecost. The church of the ten tribes accepted Christ on the same hour (different day) as the Jews rejected Christ.

Pilate said to the Jews, “It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” (John 19:14) The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah around the 6th hour.

The woman brought her town’s people and Jesus stayed with them two days. The number two sounds again that a legal witness occurred confirming Jesus as the Messiah.

The baton was passed to the ten tribes of Israel to take the gospel to the world. Humbly and gratefully they took it and Christianity grew.

So many future events still lie ahead. God’s people will repent and He will heal them and their land. “For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants” (Isaiah 44:3).

“I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols” (Ezekiel 36:25).

The people of Israel, all twelve tribes, have fought against God often and yet, He will choose them again as His people, a special people. They will be eternally indebted to His generosity, His enduring patience, and His wonderful grace.

“But the LORD will have mercy on the descendants of Jacob. He will choose Israel as his special people once again. He will bring them back to settle once again in their own land. And people from many different nations will come and join them there and unite with the people of Israel” (Isaiah 14:1).

God has never forgotten this creation on earth. All of mankind will be offered His Holy Spirit. “It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29).

Now, on our near horizon after Jacob’s trouble, God’s words of prophecy will become a reality. “And **FOREIGNERS** who **bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, and love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, and all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—THESE I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS**” (Isaiah 56:6-7).

Water is the physical cleansing agent for mankind and God’s Holy Spirit is the life-giving force that opens the mind to understand God’s spiritual world, His thoughts and His salvation plan for all of mankind.

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

God is offering all of mankind “living” water—His Holy Spirit that leads us to eternal life.

OIL



In the evil, dark world of this age, God is seeking people who are His lights to reveal the lies, misconceptions and disinformation of Wickedness. He is molding people who light up the way to Almighty God, His truth, His laws of love and His ways of righteousness.

High quality compressed oil burns a bright light. God is molding His people for that task—to show the world God’s

way of righteous living—but at least half of them will not be ready in time.

The parable of the ten virgins shed light on the importance of not only having oil from within but a storage of oil. It images God’s covenant people who, through the blood of Christ, have been redeemed from their sins. God had this parable recorded because it tells the story of a very large group of His people in the latter days.

THE PARABLE OF THE 10 VIRGINS

In a parable, God addresses a problem with ten virgins. The use of the word “virgin” identifies a specific group of people. He is referring to a covenant, redeemed people. They were playing the harlot, that is, binding with the theology of the nations who preach against the God of Israel. They were worshipping these gods to obtain what they craved: national status and power like Egypt.

Both houses of Israel were guilty of harlotry. “Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also” (Jeremiah 3:8).

All twelve tribes turned to worship the gods over the nations and became “harlots” in the eyes of the God of Israel. Through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice, now God considers all twelve tribes to be spiritual “virgins.” However, within this group, ten virgins have a problem.

Jesus told the parable to warn all twelve tribes of Israel, but as Jesus prophesied, only two heeded the warning and ten remain asleep to this very day. The parable filled with imagery describes ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out:

‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut” (Matthew 25:1-10).

The secrets of the kingdom of heaven are woven carefully into a story for all the read, but few are willing to take the challenge to find the keys that unlock the meaning. In this parable, the keys to identify are:

- The time period
- The kingdom of heaven
- The ten virgins
- The lamps
- The bridegroom
- The five wise virgins
- The five foolish virgins
- The oil
- The wedding banquet
- “I don’t know you.”

THE TIME PERIOD: “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom” (Matthew 25:1). “At that time” is the period of time prior to the return of Christ.

God begins many scriptures with “at that time” when referring to the very last days of this evil world. For example:

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time” (Daniel 12:1).

God prophesied to Moses about the state of His people “at that time.” “Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant, which I have made with them. Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, ‘Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?’ And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods” (Deuteronomy 31:16-18).

“At that time” is likely the final three and half years of this evil age referred to as Jacob’s trouble, the Great Tribulation.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: God is presently building His family-kingdom. At the time of Jacob’s trouble, this part of His family—this portion of His covenant family on earth will be like 10 virgins. A virgin in God’s spiritual world is a faithful and redeemed church.

The Apostle Paul had a clear picture of God's plan and His building of a family-kingdom that exists presently in heaven and on earth. "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (Ephesians 3:14-15).

God is molding and teaching His royal children. The Apostle Paul taught, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away [from God] have been brought near [to God] through the blood of Christ... Through him [Christ] we both [those far and those close] have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple [people] in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (Ephesians 2:13, 18-22).

God's kingdom is a family-kingdom of righteous beings in heaven and on earth. People on earth being prepared for God's kingdom will be transformed into eternal beings at the time of the resurrections. Presently, God's kingdom is in the process of being perfected and will comprise of only the righteous in heaven and on earth.

THE TEN VIRGINS: "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom" (Matthew 25:1).

The ten virgins mirror ten churches. God uses the female gender to image a theological body of people. All of Israel will become a kingdom of priests, hence, God's continual use of the female gender that references a church.

The Apostle Paul quoted Genesis 2:24 to reveal an important key to understanding God's coded language on this matter when he said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

God created marriage, which began with Adam and Eve, to provide a living model of the special relationship Christ will have with his church. They will operate as one, totally unified in every jot and tittle of God's word. Christ, the last Adam will marry a single body of faithful and loyal men and women. The profound mystery is often God's use of imagery to teach mortals about the realities in heaven.

God identifies these people as virgins because Christ died and paid the penalty of sin for God's covenant people and all of mankind. They all go to meet the bridegroom because they know they are redeemed.

While God's covenant people have a history of serving the gods of the nations and falling into paganism, but in that day still in our future, they will sincerely call out to Him and He will hear them. It will be clear for them that the invading gods thrown out of heaven are their enemies

and they are totally powerless of their own strength to combat them. What ancient Israel could not see, 21st century nations of Israel—their descendants, will see clearly. They will awaken to who they are and burn with humble passion returning to their God, the Almighty.

“The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have drawn you with loving devotion. Again, I will build you, and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again, you will take up your tambourines and go out in joyful dancing’ (Jeremiah 31:3-4).

The ten virgins are ten groupings within God’s covenant people. In addition, ten is often a number God uses to indicate peaceful order, a condition that results when His ten commandments are kept. The ten virgins likely mirror groupings of people who are keeping God’s ten commandments, including the Sabbath. These ten groupings also appear to be pointing to Revelation 12:17, “Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

Revelation 12:17 indicates two different groups of churches:

1. The woman—faithful church is attacked by Satan, escapes into the wilderness for 3 ½ years
2. Her offspring—churches keeping God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus do not escape but are the target of Satan’s rage for 3 ½ years. These are the ten “virgins” but only half will be ready to be invited into Christ’s wedding with the Bride.

God’s covenant people, all 12 nations of Israel into the 21st century, are considered by God as a church-kingdom—a kingdom of priests. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (I Peter 2:9).

Two larger groups that comprise of all 12 nations of Israel appear to fall into the group identified as the woman in Revelation that escapes into the wilderness and the offspring that become the target of Satan’s rage for 3 ½ years. The offspring of the woman keep God’s commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus. The offspring in Revelation are likely the ten virgins in the parable imaged as ten virgins who were asleep when they should have been watching. They will enter into the 3 ½ years of Satan’s rage without an escape because they were all simply not ready.

The five “wise virgins” are not the Bride because Christ does not propose to them, rather invites them as part of his guests.

A glimpse of this story is visible when ten of Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy food during the great famine. Joseph’s story was a mirror of the life of Jesus. When Joseph saw them, they did not recognize him, like Peter didn’t recognize Jesus after he was resurrected, and yet, in human form. Joseph accused them of being spies; he was bringing to their attention their carnal ways. The ten brothers think they are innocent, declaring their only intent is to buy food

and entered immediately into their defense being a family of twelve sons, one who they believed was dead and one under the care of their father. Their defense identified Joseph mirrored as Jesus—the one they believed to be dead. The ten brothers were the guilty who did not recognize Jesus and participated, in varying levels, to his death. Like the ten virgins, all slept when they should have been watching. Instead, they fell into a dark place mirroring their unconscious spiritual state. Jesus' closing word of the parable are, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13).

Benjamin was the only brother who did not partake in the betrayal of Joseph. He images a special group of men and women who throughout the ages, have remained faithful to Almighty God keeping His commandments and following Christ wherever he goes. They are under the care of Almighty God at this time. They are not asleep; they see the wickedness of the leaders, their harm, their corruption and their obedience to Satan. They talk one to another expressing their frustration and horror and longing deeply for Christ's return when God's righteous ways will be lived. About these people, God said, "Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured His name. 'They will be mine,' says the LORD Almighty, 'in that day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not'" (Malachi 3:16-18).

Benjamin, the blood brother of Joseph who mirrored Jesus, reflects the people who are prepared to put their lives at risk in order to remain faithful and loyal to God Almighty and Jesus Christ. These men and women are those who have suffered patiently throughout the ages, at present and in the future. They hold fast to their Hebraic theology. Two thousand years of waiting for Christ's return has put many Judo-Christians to sleep.

The woman in Revelation who escapes into the wilderness from Satan's rage, is protected for 3 ½ years. She is a special group of faithful men and women—the Benjamin people—who are tested during the first 3 ½ years when the Great Harlot is ruling. Likely all of the Benjamin group will be persecuted, even by their own people. Like Benjamin, when he was given Joseph's cup, his brothers were angry with him. The cup given to Jesus was a cup of authority but also, much suffering.

The persecution of the Benjamin people before the Great Tribulation will generate a powerful witness and their example will shine a very bright light on truth bringing shame to the lies spread across earth. These people will be hated for being followers of Christ during a time when the Great Harlot has opened her doors for business and the whole world begins exchanging truth for lies, faith in God for technology, belief in the healing power of Almighty God for alien medical science, devotion to the supreme God for service to rogue, fallen angels—raging sons of god. After this group escapes to a place of safety, the two witnesses will follow with great power, preaching the pure word of God.

The 10 virgins are ten different groups within God's covenant people who eventually return to keeping God's ten commands and holding to the testimony of Jesus. They will not be ready to escape with the woman—the faithful church, those promised protection from the hour of trial, and unfortunately, only half of the ten groups will be ready to enter into the wedding banquet.

THE LAMPS: “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom” (Matthew 25:1). The lamp is a key that images the mechanism to having access to God and His word. Jesus Christ is that mechanism. All of these ten groupings of people, accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour; they have the lamp with them.

God uses imagery to point to specific meanings. He refers to Jesus as the Lamb in Revelation 21, because Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind, hence he became the lamp—the conduit providing access to Almighty God, which is now possible. The lamp is the mechanism where oil is placed and burned producing bright light. Righteous living is learned through Jesus Christ; he is the Word. In the New Jerusalem, “the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Revelations 21:22-23).

Christians who accept Christ and follow him have “the lamp” and as they live the word of God, they produce a radiant light. They are all producing light because they are living God's way in varying degrees. But, as the story shows, all of them became drowsy because the bridegroom took a long time to come. They all stopped watching; they fell asleep to return to being consumed by the cares of this world.

In Revelation, Jesus urges his seven churches to overcome. He speaks well of two churches, but the light of five of them is flickering. Jesus identifies their weaknesses that is causing the light—their good works to fade:

- **The church of Ephesus—a falling church:** “Remember the height from which you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first” (Revelation 2:5). This group were once devoted totally to taking the gospel to the whole world, but today, they have fallen completely out of view.
- **The church of Smyrna—a persecuted church:** “you are rich... Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer... for 10 days. Be faithful, even to the point of death” (Revelation 2:9b, 10). This group is promised a crown of their own; they need to remain strong during extreme distress and they will be well rewarded.
- **The church of Pergamum—a compromising church:** “You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam... you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans” (Revelation 2:14b, 15). This group of people are located where Satan has his throne, which into the 21st century may be among those who preach his theology: science without God, medicine without God, technology without God, all knowledge without God. This centre of learning without God are all of the schools, universities, research centres, and learning facilities that have rejected God in their teachings.

There are Christians who spend their whole life studying God's word. They research ancient writings, study languages, translations, and supporting writings from endless sources. They pass judgement on scriptural meaning and publish their work, but their publications have inaccuracies. That is why Christ appears with the double-edged sword. He stands before them to pierce through the layers into their inner soul to discern their deep thoughts and intentions.

These people tolerate the teaching of Balaam who taught Balak how to get the ancient Israelites to sin against God. Balak taught ancient Israel to compromise the word of God and accept false teachings as if they have merit. Some of the people of this group may compromise, while others may not, still the compromise is allowed and Christianized to show a stamp of approval.

- **The church of Thyatira—an infiltrated church:** "You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants...I will cast her on a bed of suffering" (Revelation 2:20, 22). The people of this group receive a warm introduction from Jesus; they are doing more than what they had done previously.

Doing more than what they have done previously, points to the national leaders, specifically of the ten tribes of ancient Israel, who have struggled to do the right thing most of the time. They are not known to keep God's commandments or establish law and order. They have a dark history of barbarous living fighting for superpower status. However, a time came somewhere in their forgotten history when they repented like the prodigal son. They returned to a significant prophet and like Naaman, the Syrian general, they asked for healing of their systemic disease. Their repentance was accepted, they were healed and re-entered the covenant family.

Their history was scanty until they repented, then the light shown again and they were found changing their behavior, a grace-filled people learning to love, learning to obey God though still rough around the edges. The house of Joseph is a significant leader into the 21st century. "In God we trust" is their motto. While wicked leadership often prevails, it can be expected that those seeking the right things in national leadership positions in every level will overthrow the deep state members and Joseph—the righteous within Ephraim and Manasseh—will rise up to lead the world in righteous living.

- **The church of Sardis—a dying church:** Jesus trumped, "Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God" (Revelation 3:2). These are a people who are truly in trouble. Their work is incomplete and they are about to die, that is, become totally wicked. It is any wonder that Jesus is with the seven spirits of God and the seven angels of the seven churches. These people, like the people in Ephesus, do a global work within Christianity. Their work professes to be noble and pure, which it may have been initially, but it has deteriorated to such an extent that Jesus consults the seven spirits of God.

The Sardis group may have had a focus to genuinely care for the needy, homeless, widows and fatherless and over time, organizations, foundations and charities formed.

However, today, scandals of how donations are being used is coming to light. If these organizations are pocketing most of the donations or abusing the use of funds, they indeed would be in trouble with God, for they claim to serve the poor and needy, which God considers to be pure religion (James 1:27) instead they use them for their own profit.

- **The church of Philadelphia—a loved church:** Jesus said, “Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it” (Revelation 3:12). Jesus introduced himself to this church from the view of his role as high priest; he is holy and true. He tells this group of people that he has the key of David. He can lock and unlock doors and nobody can hinder him. Before these people, he places an opened door: opportunities, power, authority to complete his work. They will be part of a great witness.

Despite their vulnerability, they will not deny Christ’s name and they will keep his word, during a time of great distress when everyone who follows Christ is hated (Matthew 10:22). They will understand their spiritual enemy and they will be fully dressed in the armour of God and ready for battle. They will boldly stand strong against the enemy and work to save their brothers and sisters. They will keep Jesus’ command to endure patiently. They understand that God wishes to save everyone and more time is needed to awaken their brothers and sisters. Their suffering is lengthened but they will endure because they too, want to see everyone repent.

- **The church of Laodicea—an unrighteous church:** Jesus said, “you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (Revelation 3:17b). These people are part of many churches under different names. They believe that they are worshipping God fully. They lift up their arms and sing, but they are not careful to obey God's commandments, His ordinances, His Sabbath, His Holy Days. They know that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and kept them. The Apostle Paul warned Christians “not to be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings...” (Hebrews 13:9), yet, many are confused and have wandered away and they do not know it. Into the 21st century, there are hundreds of different and opposing doctrines all claiming to be Christian and Biblical.

Jesus said that he is the only Teacher. “And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah” (Matthew 23:10). What Jesus meant was that he is the only one who understands God’s word perfectly. All of the Judo-Christian teachers do not understand the scriptures perfectly and remain full of spots, wrinkles and blemishes. Open dialogue on meaning should be heard with a humble spirit to reduce factions and bring God’s people back into the unity of one Almighty God with one theology.

Like the Apostle Peter, an awakening moment will startle the Laodicean people from their blindness and they will remember and see. And like the Apostle Peter, those who overcome, will successfully lead God’s people in a time of extreme distress.

THE BRIDEGROOM

Jesus Christ is the bridegroom. “And Jesus said to them, ‘The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast’” (Matthew 9:15).

THE FIVE WISE VIRGINS

The five wise virgins awaken and realize that they were asleep. Fortunately, their relationship with God immediately ignites and they overcome by drawing on what know already. They will humble themselves and follow Christ who will lead them back onto the narrow path of righteousness. The five wise will meet the standard required to enter the wedding banquet. These people are not the bride of Christ, rather those who qualify to be present at the wedding of the bride and the bridegroom.

ALL OF THEM GO AND MEET THE BRIDEGROOM: All of the redeemed go out to meet Christ, though he has not yet arrived. This brings to mind Ezekiel 20 where all of Israel, that is, ALL of the twelve tribes of Israel, is brought to one location before re-entering the land of their fathers—a time still in the future. There, God tests them and makes a judgement.

“I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgement upon you. As I judged your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD: I will take note of you as you pass under my staff, I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I WILL PURGE THOSE OF YOU WHO REVOLT AND REBEL AGAINST ME. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet THEY WILL NOT ENTER THE LAND OF ISRAEL. Then you will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 20:36-38).

THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Judgement in Ezekiel 20 determines that 50% of this group are foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them.

Olive oil, common in ancient times, was made from crushing the olives. Judo-Christians who endure instruction and correction, learn and grow, shine the brightest because they overcome. This principle is the same for the ten virgins. Five are seasoned, trained, disciplined and faithful people and five are weak, uncertain, emotional and likely unaware of their disloyalty to God.

The foolish virgins do not know the word of God very well because they have limited amounts of God’s Holy Spirit. They will likely become confused during deceitful times or too lazy, hoping to just hold onto the coat-tails of the wise virgins, without searching and proving the truth for themselves.

Characteristics of fools:

- Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- Proverbs 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom.

- Proverbs 18:2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.
- Proverbs 23:9 Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words.
- Proverbs 28:26 Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.
- Proverbs 14:7-9 Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips. The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

OIL IMAGES THE CHARACTER OF WARRIORS: Oil is the key that images an enduring, faithful follower of Christ during times of extreme distress. It brings change in behaviour and binding love for God’s ways. It forges an intimate and unbreakable relationship with God because it is formed by loving God and His ways.

THE WEDDING BANQUET

Falling asleep while waiting for Christ’s return is a deadly mistake. Returning to live carelessly knowing God’s word and fall into the snares of this physical world will cost Judo-Christians the honour of becoming Christ’s wife, the New Jerusalem. The bride is seen in Revelation wearing a crown of twelve stars and she is radiant. She is a great and wonderous sign in heaven clothed in the sun, moon at her feet and that glorious crown of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1). She is the theological body that birthed Jesus; she is the faithful church who didn’t fall asleep. “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb... coming down from heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:9, 11). This structure is a body of men and women purified and perfected. They image a cube mirroring layers upon layers of righteous people who overcame.

When the cry was made, the five foolish virgins realize their behaviour is off target and their relationship with God is superficial. They try to partner with the wise as if they can enter the banquet through someone else’s merit. They are told to buy oil from the “buyers” who are the teachers, to help them see where they need to overcome and how. But, their devotion to God is selfish along with their motives. They remain superficial.

They “buy” and confident of their spiritual progress, they run back to find the door is closed. They cry, “Sir! Sir! Open the door for us!”

“I DO NOT KNOW YOU.”

Jesus opens the door and says, “I tell you the truth, I don’t know you” (Matthew 25:12).

Jesus does not recognize them as his sheep—his followers, because they were only doing what it takes to get what they want when they are in trouble. They had no lasting desire to change or any real relationship with God.

GOD’S WARNING TO 21ST CENTURY JUDO-CHRISTIANS: “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” God is warning Judo-Christians not to behave like the ancient

Israelites who have a long history of sin and a fleeting relationship with God, who call out only when they are in trouble.

“What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears” (Hosea 6:4). See, both houses of Israel are guilty of the same problem.

God is perfecting His people and His people are overcoming and building a lasting and enduring relationship with Him.

Luke recorded, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

The delay of the Bridegroom could be intentional, so that God can sift-out the pretenders from those who are truly committed to obeying God and living in harmony with Him. “In the last days, scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water... By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgement and destruction of ungodly men” (II Peter 3:3-7).

The Apostle Peter reminds 21st century Judo-Christians, “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God” (I Peter 1:22-23) and “make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:4b, 18a). Such are the wise virgins.

The Apostle James reminds the wise virgins, “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:7-8) and “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that GOD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM” (James 1:12).

The keys that unlock the parable of the ten virgins and their meaning are:

- The time period: During a time just prior to Christ’s return.
- The Kingdom: God’s everlasting kingdom.
- 10 virgins: A redeemed people, addressed to ten of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Lamps: Image the mechanism by which access to God and His word is made. Christ is the lamp and these Judo-Christians have all accepted Christ’s sacrifice. While many of the Jews today do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, their awakening is still in the future. God will lift the veil of stupor and they will see and weep bitterly.

- The Wise: Redeemed people who awaken in a fright realizing, that had for a time, fallen back.
- The Foolish: Redeemed people who awaken without a full understanding of God’s way of life. They have a superficial relationship with God and hold onto their self-directed ways.
- The Oil: Overcomers who have oil within and a back-up supply shine brightly living God’s way during times of peace and adversity.
- The wedding banquet: Overcomers who are present at the wedding of Christ and his bride.

This secret of the kingdom of heaven reveals an unfortunate statistic. Fifty percentage of redeemed people of a large group will not be ready when Christ returns. The warning—be vigilant, waste no time drawing close to God. He loves all of us so much that He gave His beloved Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. He is molding a redeemed people into a humble and teachable holy nation of royal priests whose loyalty and love is eternal.

THE TWO OLIVE TREES

A fascinating mystery is recorded by Zechariah of two olive trees. He was engaged in a conversation with an angel that unveils a story still in the future revealing a battle against Wickedness, God’s secret plan, His weaponry and His guaranteed success.

“What do you see?” he asked. “I see a solid gold lampstand,” Zechariah replied, “with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven spouts to the lamps. There are also two olive trees



beside it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left. “What are these, my lord?” he asked the angel who was speaking with him... “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of Hosts” (Zechariah 4:2-5, 6).

God just revealed WHO will undertake this battle and His weaponry. A resurrection will take place where many of the ancient prophets will work together with Jesus Christ and his seven churches to bring down the old guard and raise up God's eternal structures. The battle will be won by the power of God's Holy Spirit, not military might.

These two olive trees are the two witnesses of Revelation 11. The olive tree is symbolic of a religious leader—the rabbis, the ministry. They will preach the truth. The battle is an information war.

The Apostle John confirmed it. "These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth" (Revelation 11:4).

God has commissioned two priests to give His wayward people and the world the final legal warning against their sins. The number two is symbolic for a legal witness. Judgement will be made after the world knows the truth. This battle will not be a military fight, but a correction and establishment of truth bringing mankind into the heavenly courts of God. Through truth, God will bring down the towering corrupt government [mountain] entrapping the people. Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah during Zechariah's time. He will be resurrected at the return of Christ, and finish the job given to him. He will walk on a plain. God uses that imagery to describe the collapse of all the insurmountable obstacles that were present then and remain present today under Satan's rule.



“What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (Zechariah 4:7) The great mountain—world-ruling government will be overthrown and made flat.

“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you” (Zechariah 4:9). Zerubbabel will finish the task given to him thousands of years ago.

The two olive trees are also described as lampstands—mechanisms holding an abundant supply of oil—two spiritually strong religious leaders who will burn brightly—radiant beings of righteousness. They will be present in God’s heavenly courts against the unrepentant. “The two anointed ones who are standing beside the Lord of all the earth” (Zechariah 4:14).

The books will be opened and the legal witness of the evil actions of the world will call into judgement an accountability. Justice will be served. Repentance will be accepted even to the very wicked. Like corrupt Nineveh who heeded Jonah’s warning and deeply repented for their sins, so God in His great compassion will extend grace to the humbled and He will forget their sins. The unrepentant will be destroyed.

The nations of the world will be conquered not through military might but through the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. Their eyes will open to the truth and they will feel the shame of their actions. They will willingly seek to worship the God of the Hebrews as they see the peace God’s people will enjoy under the rule of Jesus Christ.

“In that day there will be an altar to God in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to God at its border... the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge Him... The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The God Almighty will bless them, saying ‘Blessed by Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance’” (Isaiah 19:19-25).

“And many peoples will come and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).

“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

BREAD and YEAST

“Watch out!” Jesus told them.

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Matthew 16:6

Jesus warned his disciples about the effects of yeast, leaven, that rises and causes dough to puff up, and yet, he described the kingdom of heaven to have the same effects as leaven. Through a parable, he told the story of a woman who mixed in thoroughly a little leaven in sixty pounds of flour and it permeated every part of the dough (Matthew 13:33). What is this ingredient that leaves nothing untouched?

BREAD



The staple food of ancient Israel was bread. It is the imagery God uses for the fundamental knowledge of His word.

As central as bread is to the diet of Judo-Christians, so is Jesus Christ; he is the bread of life.

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51).

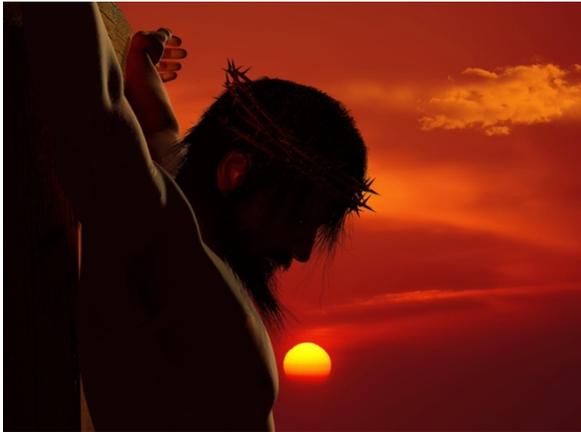
The imagery is clear. Follow, lean on and learn from Jesus Christ. He is perfect in God’s law and ways that God Himself identifies him as the Word.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

God uses imagery to teach mankind heavenly things. “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” (Luke 22:19).

Jesus too, uses God's imagery. His body is the Word; perfect and flawless. Jesus is not teaching his disciples to be cannibals, rather the image that Jesus is fundamental to their spiritual growth, development and very existence. He wants them to remember that and not drift away to follow someone else. One-third of the angels fell and departed from truth—God's knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Jesus wants all of mankind to lean on him, follow him and he will not disappoint them or jeopardize their spiritual safety.

“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33). Only Jesus Christ was able to save the world, paying the price for their sins. He only is the key to our spiritual growth and eternal life.



- His beaten body heals mankind.
- His death paid the price of sin.
- Mankind is indentured to Christ.
- Eternal life is again offered to mankind through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The body is imaged as the temple of God, a perfect structure flowing with God's Holy Spirit.

“Don't you know that your body is the temple of the LORD” (I Corinthians 6:19). God's Holy Spirit is a unique essence that is comprised of three groupings of two precious qualities. God grouped them intentionally to show that His Holy Spirit is a legal witness of righteousness, hence grouped in two and the three groupings confirm His seal placed over it. Isaiah recorded the Spirit of the LORD and how it is to be grouped.

- The Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**
 - **Wisdom:** God's highest form—a comprehension of the deep things of God
 - **Understanding:** sagacity, which discerns the right thing to do and the right word to say
- The Spirit of **counsel** and **power**
 - **Counsel:** the processes that bring right resolutions
 - **Power:** unwavering strength to carry out the processes
- The Spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**
 - **Knowledge:** complete awareness of Almighty God—His character, His ideals, His plans, His ways, His desires and His love
 - **Fear of the LORD:** reverence for Almighty God bound with unbreakable loyalty.

The spirit is an essence that for mankind, awakens them to be self-aware, to think, choose and act. God's Holy Spirit is superior to all spirits. It is comprised of six precious qualities that bring

all thoughts and action into perfect righteousness. The spirit of man was created by God and given to all of mankind gifting them with intelligent awareness, an ability to make free-will choices that lead to actions. Mankind's spirit is not a separate entity, as if an additional and separate being resides within them, rather an essence that all of mankind are born with. It is limiting and designed by God to be just that. God is molding mankind into a humble creation of righteous priests. They will remain incomplete in many ways, until they humble themselves and allow God to finish His work in them through His Holy Spirit.

All of the precious qualities of God were awarded to Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:2). Indeed, he is spiritually perfect in righteousness.

In the beginning of the creation of God's family, God, the Father began in heaven, creating through the Son, spirit beings who were created who were given immediately God's Holy Spirit and the fundamental knowledge to choose righteously preventing any fall into sin. God has always allowed free will. Along the way, Lucifer was the first to rethink his options and deviate from righteousness. His pride, due to his beauty, twisted his logic purging God's Holy Spirit that brought with it: knowledge, understanding and wisdom. A transformation and discolouring took place to reveal a dark spirit, void of God's glory, which grew to consume him and throw him deep into iniquity.

Understanding the Holy Spirit of God, the spirit of man and the evil spirits that look like frogs which will come out of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet at the end of this evil age (Revelation 16:13), is an intriguing topic of study. God does not create evil, through poor choices and actions mistakes are made. God is clear that by having His Holy Spirit correct choices can be made continually, but leaning on different spirits to affect your thinking, mistakes that lead to sin occur. The evil spirits that look like frogs were not created by God, but rather transformed into darkness by spirit beings in the first creation who chose to oppose God and pursue unrighteousness. The spirit given to mankind was not created evil, but people who allow evil thoughts to manifest into wicked actions, darken the spirit of man. Some people live in sin because they have invited or through ignorance allowed evil spirits to enter into them imprisoning the spirit of man.

The human mind consumes information from all sources. It is important that information is tested before accepted as truth. Jesus Christ is the perfect leader for all of mankind to lean on and put their trust in.

The story recorded in the gospels of the feeding of the multitudes was a very important story that Jesus did not want forgotten. He directly taught both the Jews and the ten tribes of Israel, the Gentiles, as part of his ministry on earth.

JESUS TAUGHT THE JEWS FIRST IMAGED IN THE FEEDING OF 5,000 PEOPLE BREAD AND FISH.

Every story recorded in the Bible is filled with meaning that goes well below the surface. The disciples recorded Jesus feeding 5,000 Jews and 4,000 Gentiles from the ten tribes of Israel. The record of the event is filled with symbolism. He taught them that he has authority from God to

teach them and his disciples will continue to teach them and the ten tribes after he returns to our Father in heaven.

The Apostle John was one who recorded this important history in chapter six. It began with Jesus going up on the hillside. He selected that site to show that he has authority to teach—imaged as a point of elevation. The Jews kept the Hebrew Passover, so he planned to teach them at that time to point to his upcoming sacrifice and their spiritual saving.

Jesus saw the people and he had compassion on them immediately because they were like sheep without a shepherd. They were law-keepers and faithful to God. He began teaching them about the Kingdom of God and healing the sick. This healing was coupled with the forgiveness of sins that he was qualified to do.

Mark recorded the push back by the priests. “And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. ‘Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?’ He asked. “Which is easier: to say to a paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, pick up your mat, and walk’”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” He said to the paralytic, ‘I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home’” (Mark 2:5-11).

Both the Jews and the Gentiles of the ten tribes of Israel anticipated a Saviour, but the Jews could not understand the role of Jesus and did not make the connection of Jesus with the angel of the LORD in the Old Testament. God was preparing them, in ancient times, for the leadership of Jesus Christ. Moses recorded God’s warning to them. “Behold, I am sending an angel before you to protect you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to his voice; do not defy him, for he will not forgive rebellion, since My Name is in him” (Exodus 23:20-21).

Jesus’ name in Hebrew is Yashuah whose name is in God’s name YAUAH.

God added, “But if you will listen carefully to his voice and do everything I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes” (Exodus 23:21).

The angel of the LORD in the Old Testament and Jesus, Yashuah are one of the same.

The multitude of 5,000 were learning into the evening. The disciples told Jesus to send the people away, so that they can buy food for themselves. Jesus is the only Teacher perfect in the understanding of God’s word. He taught the Jews in a remote location. It imaged a place away from the teachings of the Jewish religious leaders.

Jesus said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip replied, ‘It would take 8 months of earnings and still, it would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’”

Spiritual food, the word of God is priceless. No money can buy the word of God and it is a free gift to those who repent.

Jesus replied, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” Andrew said, “Here is a boy with 5 small loaves of barley and 2 small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

A young lad from within them could point to Jesus himself as the boy—the young man about his father’s business who can perform the miracle of teaching a great number of people imaged in feeding the multitude.

Jesus directed the disciples to have the people sit on the green grass in groups of 100s and 50s. The green grass mirrored a place where the word of God was rich and plentiful. The Jews were the keepers of the oracles of God and this is imaged in the green grass. Also, they were before the Good Shepherd—the Word of God in physical form.

Jesus intentionally organized the people in groups of 100s and 50s to reveal their identity—an orderly group—ordered in keeping the ten commandments. As the keepers of the Law and oracles of God, they were not living in chaos.

Jesus then gave thanks to God and broke the bread and gave the food to the disciples who gave it to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. The breaking of the bread was an image of opening up the word of truth to understanding. The food was then given.

Jesus multiplied 5 barley loaves to feed 5,000 people, leaving twelve baskets left over. He is even greater than Elijah who multiplied flour and oil to save a widow and her son from starvation and great than Elisha multiplied 20 barley loaves to feed 100 with some left over.

Moses predicted that God would raise up a prophet like himself. “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him” (Deuteronomy 18:18).

Starting with five barley loaves, Jesus transformed the Mosaic Law into something much bigger, greater and more nourishing, feeding 5,000 people.

The disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of the barley bread that were left over, nothing was wasted. The number twelve is used specifically to teach us about a perfect government in the making from an early harvest [barley] who will establish and fortify God’s new government.

After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead, knowing that the people intended to come and make him king by force, then he withdrew again into the hills by himself.

Jesus left the people. He knew their heart; they wanted to make him king so they could overthrow Roman rule. Jesus’ first-coming was not about overthrowing the present rulership, but saving—everyone.

The Jewish people sought saving from the Romans, not spiritual saving. Their religious leaders rejected Jesus because they didn’t want to upset the status quo that gave them privilege. To the people who had become confused, Jesus urged, “But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don’t believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father” (John 10:38).

Jesus turned away from the people and prayed in private. It could be surmised that his private prayer would be a request to his Father for help, to turn these people’s hearts of stone into a willing heart of flesh, so that they could hear and understand God’s grand plan for all of mankind. The Jewish leaders rejected him and caused confusion for the people. Hence, they will have to wait 2,000 years before they come to realize their Saviour.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first born son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo” (Zechariah 12:10-11).

Soon afterward, another group of people were fed by Jesus; they were the 4,000 from the repentant Gentiles of the ten tribes of Israel.

Prior to the story of the feeding of the 4,000 people, Mark recorded Jesus defining that which is “clean” and that which is “unclean”. This was intentional by God so that it was understood by the Jews prior to the teaching of the Gentiles. Cleanliness was all about what lies within the heart. “For from within out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’” (Mark 7:21-23).

After that teaching, Jesus healed a Greek girl possessed with a demon and a deaf and dumb man. Jesus is showing that he is now turning to a different group of people and healing them. In a time after Jesus had clarified what it meant to be ‘clean’, 4,000 men besides women and children were fed—taught. These people were not from the house of Judah. They were considered ‘unclean’ until Jesus clarified to the Jews what it means to be ‘clean’ and ‘unclean’.

Cleanliness is all about having a heart of flesh, not a heart of stone.

God records through Ezekiel, His plan to give His people a heart of flesh and what that means. "O house of Israel... For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness" (Ezekiel 36:22, 24-29).

Jesus was stating that the 10 tribes of Israel, the divorced house, is no longer unclean. His death will be the wiping clean of their sins and their re-entry into the covenant family. He fed them personally the word of God in their territory close to the borders of the Decapolis region.

Mark recorded the details of the teaching of the 4,000 people in chapter 8. Again, Jesus went up into the hills showing his authority to teach and heal these people and the people sat down on desolate ground after traveling three days. This desolate place is symbolic of a spiritually dead place filled with paganism. They were "cut off" for hundreds of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many of the pagan beliefs and customs. Having been at one time close, these people were now "far away". They came prepared filled with a willing spirit to learn, but their trip home would cause them to eventually fall away from the truth if a structure for sustaining God's word could not be established. Hence, the establishment of the church.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us" (Ephesians 2:13-14).

The wall of hostility will be discussed soon. Great crowds came bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the dumb and many others and laid them by his feet and he healed them. The people were amazed and praised the God of Israel because they were very grateful that Jesus would heal such sinners as them—the divorced covenant people—the cast-out dogs of the family. With all their heart, they were grateful and the grace they received, they held dear to their heart.

The crowds were healed from their physical ailments, but this healing amazed them and they believed Jesus immediately. When they praised the God of Israel for their healing, they acknowledged that God gave Jesus authority to forgive their sins, hence their healing both physically and spiritually. That was the amazement they experienced. A second God who could forgive sins. Amazing! This Jesus, walking on earth, must have been someone special in the eyes of Almighty God to have been given the authority to forgive sins. Jesus taught them and they listened eagerly. They began to see, hear, and walk in understanding of spiritual truth. They were sincerely grateful; healed of their spiritual decay. Where the Jews stumbled, the ten tribes of Israel walked in ease and without hesitation.

Jesus felt compassion for both groups of people, but at different times. With the crowd of 5,000, Jesus had compassion on the people at the moment he saw them. But, for the crowd of 4,000, Jesus had compassion on them after they responded with amazement to the healing of the sick and praised the God of Israel. This was the repentance Jesus needed to witness before he felt compassion for them. These people were from the ten tribes of Israel who had a long history of rebellion against the God of Israel and perpetual promises of returning but only when it suited them. Jesus accepted their repentance and he was ready to save them. Well into the 21st century, the Christians sing about grace with their hearts poured out to God.

This group of people were thrilled and deeply grateful that they were healed. They had already been brought to their knees begging to return to the covenant family and the moment they witnessed healing by Jesus, they knew they were redeemed and they praised Almighty God. Journeying a long way from many areas in the far north of Judea, they came to see Jesus, the Son of God.

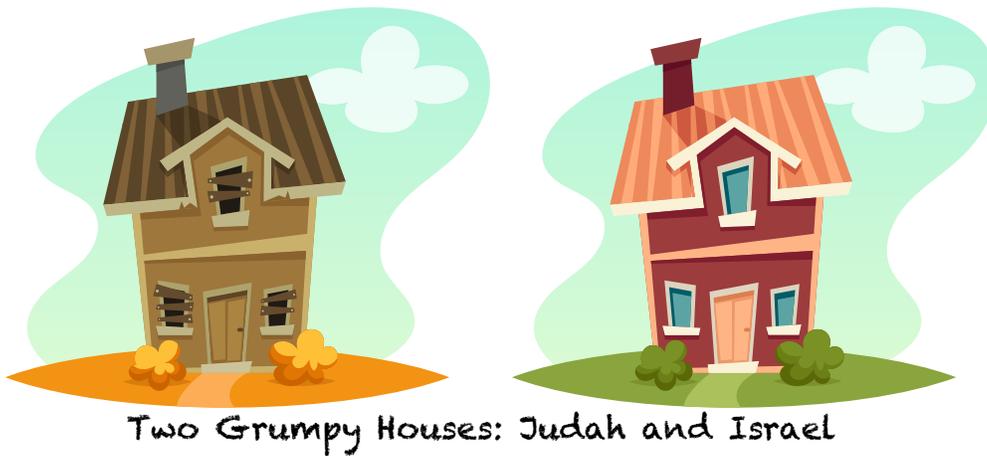
Now, these people had already been with Jesus for three days and had nothing left to eat. Jesus said that if he sends them away, they will collapse on the way.

These people came with resources, but at the end of 3 days, nothing was left. From a spiritual perspective, it can be said that these people were far from God spiritually. They wanted grace because they were the divorced house who sincerely regretted the choices made by their forefathers. Their humble heart and willing spirit sustained them, until Jesus witnessed and accepted their repentance. They had to wait symbolically three days indicating God's seal on the event and their repentance verified by God, Himself. Though these people were divorced from God, through the blood of Christ, they could return to the covenant family and draw near to God.

An interesting scripture is found in Ephesians 2. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, **who has made us both one** and has **broken down in his flesh the DIVIDING WALL OF HOSTILITY**, by **abolishing the law of commandments EXPRESSED IN ORDINANCES**, that he might create in himself **one new man in place of the two, so making peace**" (Ephesians 2:13-15).

The dividing wall of hostility was specifically between the house of Judah and the house of Israel (the ten tribes). The priesthood was determined to enforce their own ordinances, such as:

- Jews cannot associate with Gentiles
- Judgement was passed on disputable matters:
 - Meats offered to idols
 - Days of fasting
 - Foods determined "common"
- Enforce the added ordinances of the elders, opinions, and decrees by the priesthood.



Two Grumpy Houses: Judah and Israel

The houses of Judah and Israel have a long history of conflict. Jesus came to bring the “lost sheep of Israel”—the ten tribes, back into the covenant family and remove the barrier of man-made laws, ordinances and judgements not of God from being enforced, so to heal and reunite two houses that will in the future, be bound together as one kingdom, as it was in ancient times.

The feeding of both houses of Jesus directly was an important event as Jesus directed each house, himself, back onto the pathway of righteousness. The details in the feeding of the multitudes reveal which group was taught by him. The imagery reveals details of this group.

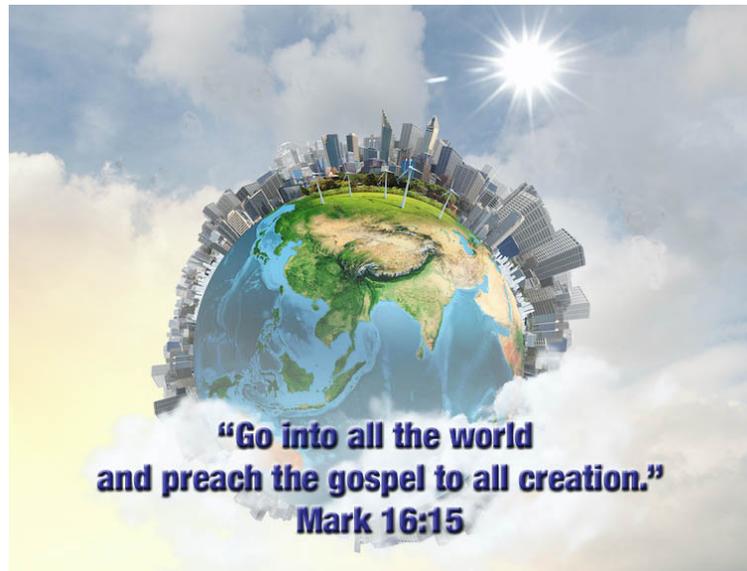
Like the multitude of 5,000, this group was in a remote place but in a desolate location. This image describes the areas where they live—places that are spiritually dead where paganism is practiced. The disciples asked how these people could be fed. Jesus asked, “How many loaves do you have?” They replied, “Seven.”

The loaves of bread and fish came from what the disciples had brought. Now the disciples were beginning to grow spiritually and provide the basis of the food—the teaching, that they would provide in the future after Jesus returns to heaven.

This second feeding—teaching, was to the scattered house of Israel (the lost sheep of Israel), which would be accomplished through the teaching of the disciples, imaged in them having the bread that Jesus multiplied to feed this multitude. These Gentile ten-tribes accepted the teachings, humbled themselves and begged to learn more. The baton would be passed to them to take the gospel to the world.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). The Apostle Paul said, “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!” (Acts 28:28)

These followers of Christ became known as Christians. “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?’” (Acts 27:28).



Christ was successful at teaching and converting many from all twelve tribes of Israel after feeding the multitudes. The Apostle Paul acknowledged that all twelve tribes hoped for God’s promise of eternal life and said, “This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night... the hope of what God promised to our fathers” (Acts 26:7,6). This statement confirms the re-institution of the ten tribes with God’s covenant people. Jesus was successful at bringing back into the covenant family the lost sheep of Israel. Jesus told this crowd of Gentiles to sit on the ground. In contrast with the 5,000, these people are identified as unstructured, hence without the Law of God. They were “cut off” for hundreds of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many strange pagan beliefs and customs.

Jesus gave thanks, broke the bread and gave the food to his disciples who gave it to the people. The action of “breaking bread” grammatically points to an ongoing breaking meaning a continual teaching that would take place. Over the past 2,000 years, the word of God has been a continual learning period as Judo-Christians grow in grace and knowledge.

They had a few fish as well and he gave thanks for them also. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterwards the disciples collected seven baskets full of left overs. Very large baskets were needed to collect the left-overs. It imaged the long period of time that Christians would need to be fed spiritual truths, a period of over 2,000 years by the seven churches of Revelation.

The number of them who ate were 4,000 men besides women and children. After having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Magadan.

While Jesus was on earth, he taught the Jews and the Gentile ten-tribes God’s law and His ways. Remembering this history was critical to Jesus who urged his disciples not to forget or

lose the meaning of the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 and the miracles that took place symbolized in feeding them bread and fish. He urged them to remember and record these two important historical events. Initially, the disciples struggled to see the value in the feeding of the multitudes.

“The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf... ‘Be careful.’ Jesus warned them. ‘Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.’” (Mark 8:14-15). Jesus warned about the pride and arrogance of those in religious and national leadership positions. The disciples “discussed this with one another and said, ‘It is because we have no bread.’” Jesus saw that they were confused and said, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for 5,000, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” (Mark 8:16-19).

“Twelve,” they replied. Jesus was reminding them that they will be the ones to take the testimony of Jesus to the Jews, the 5,000. They are the twelve baskets of left-over bread.

And when I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

Jesus was telling them that he taught both Jews and the ten tribes of Israel. From these, teachers will rise up and continue to teach until Christ returns and they must not become puffed up like their present religious and national leaders.

Jesus’ ministry taught all twelve tribes of Israel



- 5,000 from the house of Judah
- 4,000 from the ten tribes, the house of Israel

- Lean on Jesus Christ
- All of the twelve tribes of Israel were taught by Jesus Christ, on earth over 2,000 years ago.



YEAST



God uses the action of yeast to illustrate the complete infiltration of corruption when people obtain power and become proud and arrogant.

Jesus warned his disciples, “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod” (Mark 8:15).

Jesus was referring to those people in the national, civil and religious leadership positions. They had become puffed up, vain, proud and arrogant. Money and power are the root of all evil.

Jesus taught his disciples to be humble servants. “The greatest among you must be a servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12).

The innocence and humility of little children is the quality God is molding in His people through Christ. God is mankind’s heavenly Father who knows best.

Jesus added, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3-4).

Humility is one of the greatest character qualities, along with compassion, but most of all is love for Almighty God and one another.



<https://physicsofpizza.wordpress.com/step-1-the-preparation/>

Matthew recorded a parable of a woman who took yeast and mixed it into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough and it rose flowing over the bowl (Matthew 13:33).

A clear image is visible of the effective action of yeast to completely infiltrate dough through kneading. That is the imagery God is showing His people. The gospel will go out to all creation on earth; nobody will be left untouched or unaware.

With little, God can do so much. The story of Gideon is one of many showcasing the power of Almighty God. He chose only 300 warriors from the tribe of Manasseh to fight with Gideon against “The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore” (Judges 7:12).

Gideon went to spy the camp and heard a man telling his friend his dream, “‘A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.’ His friend responded, ‘This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands’” (Judges 7:13-14).

The dream imaged Gideon as a loaf of barley. This identifies him as part of the firstfruits and he is leading 300 who all follow him, breaking their jars, blowing their trumpets and holding up their torches shouting, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” The Midianites ran, crying as they fled while others turned on each other.

With only 300 men led by Gideon, the countless enemy was shaken and thrown into confusion. No battle is too big for Almighty God, no issues are too complex, no matter is too difficult—He is all powerful.

Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and another 4,000 people with 7 loaves of bread.

Jesus wants God’s people to remember him teaching both houses of Israel and the job they will do after his return. “Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?” (Matthew 16:9-10).

The yeast is the teaching of the word of God that spreads from little into the whole. Five plus seven loaves of bread totals twelve loaves that were broken by Jesus. The twelve disciples and the seven churches were commissioned to continue until it is kneaded into the whole world.

The gospel will go to the whole world. It will be “preached as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

The teaching of the gospel to the world has already started, but the Great Tribulation will bring many to repentance. “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9).

God will pour out his Holy Spirit in the last days. “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams” (Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28).



The yeast images the complete work that will be done of the teaching of the word of God and it will overflow to cover the whole world. The burdens of the world will become light when they all begin to hear the word and live the way of God.

SALT

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you ought to answer each person”*

(Colossians 4:6).

Salt is an essential mineral that when applied to food, brings out the flavours that would otherwise remain hidden. God created salt with that special quality. It was His intention from the beginning to use it as a teaching metaphor that is easily understood by mankind who apply salt in their daily lives for multiple purposes.

Speech seasoned with salt is a conversation where the meaning is brought out from the muddled language of deceivers. God wants believers to be forgiving and kind in their conversations with each other, while at the same time, using clear and easy-to-understand language so that the truth is brought out from misinformation and disinformation.



God describes the righteous as the salt of the earth. This is a description of people who are preserving and saving the people on earth when they teach them God’s law and His ways of loving one another and loving Him, the Great Creator. It also reflects the spiritual healing that takes place as people overcome and turn away from carnal behaviour that hurts and destroys to humble responses that care and protect one another.

Jesus said, “*You are the salt of the earth*, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet” (Matthew 5:13).

What Jesus said was that if the behaviour of God’s people change to return to lying and deceiving, then they will be destroyed—trampled under the feet of the righteous.

In ancient times, the offerings given to God were always seasoned with salt, “*You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt*” (Leviticus 2:13).

God wanted the Israelites to live righteously and their offerings to Him to be genuine, humble acts of repentance and deep sorrow for the harmful effects of living in sin. Salt added to the offering acknowledged the importance of the preservation and healing that comes from living God’s laws and His way. It is symbolic of an everlasting agreement with the focus on the relationship between two or more parties—maintained by an added element—a distinctive quality typified in one of enduring character.



The old expression “worth your salt” goes back in time when salt was attached to money. It carries the message that those who are good at the work they do, are respected and recommended. It is the lingering memory of God’s warning to hold onto your saltiness—good character, quality work in all you do.

Salt is also associated to the keeping of promises. Honest people will keep their word.

“Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, ‘This is what the LORD has commanded. If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind

himself by a pledge, *he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth*” (Numbers 30:1-2).

God taught the ancient Israelites the importance of honesty and integrity. These qualities are woven into covenants with Him and are referred to as a covenant of salt. God is honest and true. The covenants He makes, He keeps and will never break. He promised King David that he and his descendants will be king of Israel forever.

“Ought you not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?” (11 Chronicles 13:5)

The fall and scattering of the twelve tribes of Israel has temporarily suspended his rule, but during the Millennial reign of Christ, God will fulfill His covenant of salt with David and he will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel again and forever. The kingdom of Israel will re-unite as one and the people will gladly welcome King David’s rule.

“My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd for all of them. They will follow My ordinances and keep and observe My statutes. They will live in the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there forever with their children and grandchildren, and My servant David will be their prince forever” (Ezekiel 37:24-25).

When the twelve tribes of Israel entered into the promised land, they all received land—their own territorial homes, except for the Levites who were their priests. God promised to care and provide for the Levites by giving them portions of the sacrifices and tithes from the people. This was a covenant of salt made by God.

“All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the Lord I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord for you and for your offspring with you” (Numbers 18:19).



Salt is that essential mineral that is used to savour and preserve food, as well as a medicinal benefit. Too much salt has the opposite effect. Salt pits cannot grow plant life. Too much irrigation of farmland, even with freshwater because it carries salt, without sufficient drainage will cause the land to become unproductive and eventually a wasteland. In the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God used brimstone and salt to completely destroy those cities, along with the cities of Admah and Zeboiim because these cities were allied with Sodom and Gomorrah and were involved in the same strange and forbidden practices with fallen angels. The perversion involved a breeding formula between fallen angels and humans.

“All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord

overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.’ All the nations will say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?’ Then men will say, ‘Because they forsook the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 29:23).

God used fire—brimstone—to destroy the evil within the cities and heavy amounts of salt to clean but not restore. An example was made to be a lesson for many generations to come. Abraham’s nephew fled before God destroyed those cities and during the event. Lot’s wife looked back with longing; she believed in what they were doing as if it was good and fine. God turned her into a pillar of salt; she became a memorial of God’s intolerance to such perversion.



“And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgement on that great day. In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:6-7).

A seasoning of salt brings out the deeper and richer flavours within the food, so the teachings of the righteous who enlighten with precision and clarity, God’s truth and His way of life.

In contrast, death by salt saturation is God’s sentence of catastrophic sterility—an abrupt final ending and complete cleansing of detestable perversions.

God gives His creation free will to choose; He wants His creation to choose life.

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that you and your descendants may live, and that you may love the LORD your God, obey Him, and hold fast to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your life in the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

Choose life.

BARLEY, WHEAT and GRAPES

“Three times a year you are to celebrate a feast to Me” (Exodus 23:14)

“The three annual appointed feasts--the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles” (11 Chronicles 8:13).

God’s seal is on His three celebrations. These holy days, God’s celebrations, were taught to His people as part of revealing His timeline of His salvation plan for His people and all of mankind. God does not hide His grand plan for mankind. On the contrary, He is doing all He can to teach His people every detail of it. The three annual appointed feasts celebrate three harvests, which are three resurrections into life eternal.

The barley harvest is the first to ripen in spring and this harvest images the first resurrection of men and women at the time Jesus Christ returns. The wheat harvest takes place in summer; it is the second resurrection. The harvest of the grapes is the last resurrection that brings first judgement and death on the unrepentant and then, life eternal to people who finally repent and humbly seek God.

Each harvest has its own story.

BARLEY

Barley is produced from the land and is one the first of grains to be harvested. The spiritual story of barley is the announcement of the first resurrection of the righteous on earth.



God's Holy Days provide the timeline for God's plan for mankind beginning with His people. The resurrections to come are mirrored in the grain harvests. Barley ripens around Passover in the Middle East, the home of ancient Israel. The death angel passed over the firstborn before ancient Israel began their exit out of Egypt. This was the great joyous message God was teaching His people. Christ's sacrifice was foreknown to be accepted, hence the blood of the sacrificed lamb brushed on the door post was the annual ritual teaching God's people about the first resurrection of men and women imaged as the firstborn. Jesus Christ is the first of the firstborn. He was resurrected at the time of the barley harvest.

The wave-sheaf offering took place on the day after Passover. Barley was offered to God. This celebration takes place during the month of Abib, which means "green ears." It is a direct reference to the ripening of barley in that month. The Passover service was determined by the priest inspecting the ears of barley; it is a mirror of God inspecting the people who will be in the first resurrection and determining whether they are ready.

Dr. Stephen E. Jones of God's Kingdom Ministries provides valuable insight on the imagery of barley.

"Jesus presented Himself before His Father in the heavenly Temple at the time the priest waved the barley sheaf in the earthly temple. The waving motion, up and down, signified resurrection. Though Jesus had actually been raised from the dead "very early in the morning" (Luke 24:1), He did not allow Mary to touch Him prior to the wave-sheaf offering (John 20:17). Not until the wave-sheaf offering was Jesus declared legally alive in the court of heaven.

When God was dealing with Pharaoh to allow Israel to leave, He sent ten plagues upon Egypt. The seventh plague was that of hail, which destroyed the barley and flax, but not the wheat and spelt. (This took place just prior to the Passover, which took place with the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn.) We read:

"Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was in bud. 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined; for they ripen late" (Exodus 32:31-32).

The barley was ripe and eared out just prior to that first Passover. But the wheat was not yet ripe.

ON A SIDE NOTE

The seventh plague of hail and thunder was a warning to Pharaoh that if he and his people did not repent of their sins, their first-born will die. Pharaoh understood the spiritual message and knew very well that the gods he worshipped could not match the God of Israel. And, he knew he and his people were sinning against the Supreme God.

“Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, ‘This time I have sinned,’ he said to them. ‘The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don’t have to stay longer’” (Exodus 9:27-28).

“When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts” (Exodus 9:34).

Pharaoh knew full well, that Egyptian leadership had led their whole kingdom into sin. After the plague of locusts, Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses again, crying, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me” (Exodus 10:16).

The God of Israel was teaching the Egyptians about His supremacy over all of the heavenly rulers over the nations. The heavenly ruler over Egypt had turned against the Almighty God and in his rebellion, he claimed to be a creator—the creator of the great Nile River. God considered the fallen heavenly ruler a monster living in sin and dragging everyone down with him.

“Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies among his rivers, who says, “The Nile is mine; I made it myself.”’ But I will put hooks in your jaws and cause the fish of your streams to cling to your scales. I will haul you up out of your rivers, and all the fish of your streams will cling to your scales” (Ezekiel 29:2-4).

The heavenly rulers over the nations understood God’s plan to resurrect repentant mankind. There appeared to be competition between the heavenly rulers over the nations on earth to have their people resurrected and part of the first resurrection. But, each one sinned and turned against God. The clear message was that the nation they ruled over would not be part of the first resurrection.

Pharaoh admits that he and his people are sinners. God hardened the heart of Pharaoh to multiply the impact of the miracles done through Moses and Aaron. He was teaching them that the gods they worshipped were powerless before the God of Israel—that the God of Israel is the supreme God over all gods. This has been the battle all during ancient times and will be again during the Great Tribulation and again, at the end of the Millennium when Satan is released and God calls Gog of Magog to war. Gog and those with him are the last remaining rogue fallen rulers in heaven. God has saved their overthrow and destruction to last. The nations will learn that the God of Israel is supreme, all powerful and the great Creator.

“I will execute judgement upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so, I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:22-23).

Dr. Stephen Jones continues with the pattern and imagery God uses to bring transparency into the great spiritual story of the salvation of mankind.

We see another example of this forty years later, when Israel was ready to cross the Jordan. Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. It was the time of Passover (Joshua 5:10), and Rahab hid the spies under stalks of flax (Joshua 2:6). Flax ripened at the same time as barley, as we saw from Exodus 9:31. Linen comes from flax. It was used to make priestly garments, and in Revelation 19:8 we see that *“fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”*

The week after Passover is also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The people were required to remove all leaven from their houses for a full seven days. Leaven is symbolic of sin; thus, removing the leavened bread depicts the removal of all sin from one’s house (body). This is the same symbolism as we find in flax, for to be clothed in flax (linen) is to depict putting on the righteousness of Christ. So all of these things work together, woven into a complete picture of the plan of God for Christ and the overcoming body. The body of Christ (the overcomers) who are identified with their Head will soon follow Him in the first resurrection.”

<https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-2-the-barley-harvest>

Rightly so, he concludes that the overcomers are imaged as barley.

Dr. Stephen E. Jones of God’s Kingdom Ministries continues to add more fascinating revelations imaged in barley grown on land—land being the image for the place of the living. God doesn’t ever refer to plants that grown in the sea, like seaweed or plankton, as an image of a harvest that represents a resurrection. This is because the sea is not the place God uses to image those who are growing in grace and knowledge—those living in God’s Holy Spirit. The sea is the image of those dying spiritually. When the new earth and new heaven are created, there will be no sea—no haven for Wickedness. It is on the land—the place of those living filled with God’s Holy Spirit where God seeds and harvests. Barley images a special type of believer.

Gideon: The Cake of Barley

“Gideon is an interesting Bible character, because his ministry reveals not only the character of the barley company, but also shows it in relation to the wheat and the grapes. Israel had been forced to pay tribute to the Midianites for seven years (Judges 6:1). When Israel finally repented and cried out to God for deliverance, God sent them a prophet to give them a history lesson (Judges 6:8-10). This was to show them why God had brought this captivity upon them. As Paul wrote many years later, these history lessons were written for our learning. They are examples of how God deals with men and nations.

When the people repented at the word of the prophet, then God sent an angel to commission Gideon as a judge, or deliverer, to save Israel. The angel found Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress (Judges 6:11). Since it was wheat harvest time, we know that this call came in early summer at the time of Pentecost, for that is the time wheat ripened.

Gideon's threshing wheat in the winepress depicts the calling to remove the chaff (carnal nature) from the wheat (the Church). The winepress signifies judgement that is normally reserved for unbelievers and yet somehow applied to the Church. Gideon's actions here are striking, because one does not normally thresh wheat in a winepress, but on a hilltop where the wind can blow the chaff away. This seeming incongruity is matched only by the statement in Revelation 14:18, which says:

"And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.

One does not harvest grapes with a sickle, any more than one threshes wheat in a winepress! These are highly symbolic things, but the main thing for our purpose is to show that the wheat company (non-overcoming Church) will undergo trial by fire to see if their works are made of wood, hay, and stubble (I Corinthians 3:12).

When Gideon finally gathered his tiny army of 300 against the host of the 120,000 Midianites, he wanted confirmation that this was not just his own carnal plan. After all, the situation seemed hopeless. So God told him to spy out the enemy camp to receive his confirmation. Judges 7:13, 14 says, "When Gideon came, behold, a man was relating a dream to his friend; a loaf of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came to the tent and struck it so that it fell, and turned it upside down so that the tent lay flat. And his friend answered and said, 'This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand.'"

We see from this that Gideon and his army represent the barley company, the overcomers who will inherit the promise of God at the end of this present age. The manner in which Gideon's army defeated the enemy tells us HOW the overcomers of today will receive the promise. Each of the men in Gideon's army was given a trumpet and a torch inside an earthen jar, or pitcher. With little oxygen in the jar, the torches could only glow. At the signal, they blew their trumpets and broke the jars, holding up the torches in the air, causing them to burst into flames.

The trumpet signifies the Feast of Trumpets, which prophesies of the first resurrection when the trumpet sounds. The Feast of Trumpets occurs on the first day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. Since they blew the trumpet on the first day of each month to mark the calendar, the Feast of Trumpets is the seventh trumpet. It is the final trumpet in the series of feast days laid down in the law. Of this event, Paul speaks in I Corinthians 15:52, saying, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

When Gideon's army blew the trumpets, they prophesied of the resurrection of the dead, and this was the first event by which the enemy was conquered. Likewise, it is the first prophetic event that will occur in the events leading up to the second coming of Christ.

The second event deals more with those believers who are living at the time of the second coming of Christ. The torches within the pitchers signify the hidden presence of God in our bodies—the earthen vessels. Nine days after blowing the trumpet for the first resurrection comes the Day of Atonement and the Jubilee. These bodies of death will be broken. The debt that Adam incurred will be cancelled.”

For the complete study on this topic go to:

<https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-3-barley-stories>

Dr. Stephen E. Jones interprets the bright light bursting out of the earthen vessels as a resurrection into immortality. God chose the 300 men who drank directly from the river, leaving those who cupped the water in their hands to wait behind. This points to God selecting those receiving a full amount of God’s Holy Spirit.

Certainly, the timing of the seventh trumpet corresponds to the Feast of Trumpets—the return of Christ—the resurrection of the saints. The bright light that bursts out from the breaking of the earthen vessels can also image the power and force of God’s truth trumpeted by the saints. Battles at that time will be won not by military might and power but by God’s Holy Spirit, when truth will flood across this planet unveiling the lies and deceit during Satan’s rulership on earth.

God’s coded language is all about transparency. A quick review of Gideon’s story shows:

- 300 men are few, by comparison to the enemy of 120,000. God is all powerful and He showcases His strength with only a small group.
- Those who have the strength to stand against the enemy need to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit, hence, God’s choice to select those who drank directly from the river.
- Sounding the trumpets are the markers along God’s timeline for the salvation of all of mankind.
- The explosion of light by the breaking of the earthen vessels is a beautiful image of the radiant bodies of the resurrected simultaneously showcasing the power of God’s word bursting out.
- The battles in the future will not be won by military power but by God’s Holy Spirit. God wants to save everyone. Through truth and grace, God’s holy church will nurture the nations into coming to God on their own free will.

God’s penmanship is rich in detailed imagery, foreshadows, mirroring, reflections that are layers deep, moving out of time into limitlessness.

WHEAT

In the Middle East, wheat ripens around Pentecost, it points to the church as it was formed on Pentecost.

This story is rich in imagery:

- 50 days after the Passover
- The 50th year is the Jubilee
- Jubilee is symbolic of the millennial reign of Christ.

While the believers imaged as barley and wheat exist throughout time, the barley group are different because they hold onto the pure Hebraic and Messianic teachings, while the people imaged as wheat ripen. That is, overcome and embrace the pure word of God during times of distress.

The differences between barley and wheat is not a lot.

Barley	Wheat
Harvested in Spring	Harvested in Summer
Longer beard	Shorter beard
Barley spikes bend	Wheat spikes are straight
Barley is ready for harvest when yellow-white in colour	Wheat is ready for harvest when golden brown
Barley is winnowed, chaff easily blows away	Wheat is threshed, chaff difficult to release

There are only a few differences between the barley and the harvest group. God differentiates between those who seek His pure theology over those who take longer to value and embrace



the meaning of being a virgin—cleansed from pagan traditions that were taught by fallen gods, who once ruled over the nations in ancient times.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after the Passover. It symbolizes a new beginning on the year of Jubilee when all debts are forgiven and the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit fills the people of God. This state of the church is imaged in the ancient Israelite's practice of the high priest presenting two loaves—the two loaves image the two houses of Israel: house of Judah and house of Israel—in a sinful state because the loaves are filled with leaven. The kingdom of Israel is God's church. The church that was reborn on Pentecost is the new beginning for the kingdom of Israel. This body will not be limited to God's God-fearing and God-serving covenant people, but it will eventually include people from nations all over the world.

Dr. Stephen E. Jones at God's Kingdom Ministry provides a comprehensive study on this topic that is thorough and an essential read.

“The feast of Pentecost focuses upon people who are leavened. Israel received the law at Mount Sinai on the day of Pentecost. On this day they were formed into a kingdom, as God spoke the Word to them. The people were afraid of the fire and ran from the voice of God (See Exodus 20:18-20). The people were leavened and did not want to step into the fire of God to stop the leaven. So Pentecost was not fulfilled in the days of Moses.

In the second chapter of Acts, Pentecost was finally fulfilled because the disciples did not run from God, but embraced the fire. Yet a basic problem remained—the Pentecostal Age was still leavened, and the Church in general has followed Israel's example under Moses by refusing to hear God's voice and by running from His fire.

Pentecost was not designed to bring perfection, i.e., an unleavened condition. Pentecost gave us only an "earnest" of the Spirit, a down payment, rather than the fullness. The NASV calls it a "pledge." Ephesians 1:13 and 14 says,

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

This is affirmed in II Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5. As a consequence, we presently live in an age of leaven, an age of an imperfect kingdom of priests who lack the fullness by which they may bring the kingdom to perfection. If there is one thing we have learned in the Pentecostal Age, it is that we cannot inherit the perfected kingdom on the basis of a mere earnest of the Spirit. Only those with the fullness of His Spirit can fully inherit the promise. This is frustrating to the barley company, of course, who live in a Pentecostal Age, yet desire the fullness of the Spirit. But all must await the appointed time. It is a corporate blessing that God will give to the entire barley company at the same time, and this must await the time when all those of the barley company have been born and have come to full maturity.

This situation is typified by Caleb and Joshua in the days of Israel in the wilderness. These two men were like the barley company in the midst of the wheat company, "the church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38). They wanted to cross the Jordan and enter their inheritance early, but because the majority of the Israelites had refused to enter, Caleb and Joshua had to wander in the wilderness as well. This hardly seems fair, but God works on both an individual and a corporate level. Individuals may certainly manifest barley character in their heart, but they cannot enter the Promised Land until the appointed time.

In the New Testament we are seeing the same pattern being repeated. The people of the New Testament kingdom have been wandering in a wilderness of their own for 40 Jubilees (40 x 49 = 1960 years). Although the Caleb's and Joshua's of this present age have seen the Promised Land and have longed to cross the Jordan into their inheritance, this has been denied them until the appointed time. Most of these overcomers have died not having inherited the promise.

However, God will raise them from the dead at the seventh trumpet of some year, so that they may enter their inheritance alive with those of the barley company who are alive in that day. Perhaps the most significant Old Testament passage dealing with the wheat harvest is found in the story of Saul's coronation as the first king of Israel (I Samuel 9:12). The people had demanded a king before David was born, so God gave them Saul to reign over them. The kingdom was thus renewed (I Samuel 11:14), but it was a kingdom mixed with leaven. Saul was crowned on the day of Pentecost, for in Samuel's coronation speech he says in I Samuel 12:17: "Is it not the wheat harvest today?" That is, it was the day the two loaves of wheat bread were being offered to God, signaling the beginning of wheat harvest.

Saul was to Israel what the Church was in the New Testament era. Saul started out doing what was right, but in the second year of his reign he disobeyed God, and as a result he became disqualified to rule Israel (See I Samuel 13:1, 13, and 14). Nonetheless, God allowed him to continue ruling Israel for another 38½ years.

This followed the pattern of Israel under Moses precisely. Recall that under Moses the people refused to cross the Jordan in their second year as well, and as a consequence, God made the nation wander in the wilderness for another 38½ years.

In the New Testament, the same pattern held true once again. At Pentecost the Church had a fine start, but the people (as represented by their rulers in the Sanhedrin) refused to obey God. The focal point came in the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7), who fulfilled the part of Caleb and Joshua in urging the people to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land. Even as the people *nearly* stoned Caleb and Joshua, so also did they *actually* stone Stephen. This was the New Testament era's refusal to "cross the Jordan," and it resulted in a 40-Jubilee wandering in a wilderness again.

This understanding is corroborated by the meaning of the name "Stephen." In Greek, *stephanos* means "crown." And so the stoning of Stephen in symbolism was the

rejection of the crown of life. The refusal to "cross the Jordan" and inherit the Promised Land was the rejection of the inheritance promised to us that is our hope, the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).

And so, this past age has been the era of Saul's rule. The kingdom was indeed established at Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts. But it was not the perfected kingdom, typified by the Davidic rule. It was instead an imperfect kingdom, *full of leaven*, as history has shown, typified by the reign of Saul in the Old Testament. As in the days of Saul and David, the nation must await the end of Saul's reign before the Davidic reign can begin.

It is the age of the Church, the wheat harvest. Those of the barley harvest, like Caleb and Joshua, must await the completion of the Church age before inheriting the first resurrection. Stephen's kingdom message in Acts 7 was rejected when he urged the high priest to follow Joshua-Jesus across the Jordan. And so we were sentenced to wander in the wilderness, again!

As we can see, there is always an element of judgement surrounding the feast of Pentecost. The fire that came upon Mount Sinai at the first Pentecost was supposed to bless the people with the divine presence. However, the people drew back in fear. They were afraid to hear His voice, and thus they lost the divine presence. The fire of God then moved to an alternate location, an external tabernacle made with hands. Without the divine presence upon the people, and without the ability to hear the voice of God within their hearts, they could not have the faith necessary to cross the Jordan later. Thus, Pentecost proved to be a judgement to them.

When Saul was crowned on Pentecost, Samuel prophesied "thunder and rain" that day (1Sam. 12:17). Rain on Pentecost was as unusual as snow in summer and honour in a fool (Prov. 26:1). Thus, rain and thunder on Pentecost would have been regarded by the people as judgement, even as Samuel obviously intended. We read in I Samuel 12:17:

"Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the LORD, that He may send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the LORD by asking for yourselves a king."

It should be noted here that the God of Israel was their king. They were rejecting Him as their king and asking for a human king.

On the other hand, "*thunder and rain*" also signifies the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. Thus, while there is judgement in this situation, there is also an element of blessing. It is, in fact, a *mixture* of good and evil, which is precisely the meaning of the two loaves of wheat bread mixed with leaven that were offered to God every Pentecost.

There are many other Biblical examples we could show here, but time and space do not permit this. We must instead go on to show the significance of the wheat harvest in this matter of the second resurrection of the Church. The second resurrection will, of course, be a great blessing to all the believers who were not raised earlier in the first resurrection. Nonetheless, because all those believers are yet mixed with leaven, there is also an element of judgement that comes at the same time. Paul speaks of this judgement in I Corinthians 3:15.

“If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.”

This speaks of men in whom the foundation of Jesus Christ has already been laid. It speaks of believers. But because these people are a carnal mixture of wheat and leaven, their works must be tried by fire. The good works (done by faith in obedience to hearing God's voice) will abide; the rest will be burned. The bread must be baked in order to stop the leavening action. This is judgement, but the purpose of the fire is not to destroy the carnal believer, but to purify him, even as we have shown in earlier chapters.

To add to Dr. Jones' study, Zechariah recorded God's prophecy of purifying His people by fire. “And in all the land, declares the LORD, two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. **This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold.** They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘**They are My people,**’ and **they will say, ‘The LORD is our God’**” (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Dr. Jones continues. The Church in general will be raised in the second resurrection. Jesus calls them "the just" who receive Life at the same time "the unjust" are judged at the beginning of that final age in "the lake of fire." In either case, the fire that judges is the same fire poured out on Pentecost. God's judgement is designed to "*thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn*" (Matthew 3:12).

The baptism of fire upon the wheat (Church) is both good and bad. It represents a purification process, which is judgement upon sin in order to bless the individual. When God works to refine or purify someone, it is not a pleasant experience. No judgement is. But those who understand the mind and purpose of God will readily submit to His "fire," knowing that God is working all things out for their good.”

GRAPES

The story of the harvest of grapes is comprised of two choices. One will bring a great celebration and the other a crushing blow.



The death angel of Revelation is called to work. “Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe” (Revelation 14:18).

“Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:13).

The people imaged as over-ripe, rotting grapes are people determined to live wickedly. They are unrepentant and sold completely and fully into sin. These will be trodden under the feet of the righteous.

“Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty” (Malachi 4:3).

The destruction will likely occur through the application of the law, judgement and sentencing. God’s people will clean up their institutions and appoint righteous judges and law-enforcing officials at every level of government and these people will be judged, sentenced and destroyed.

One of the same fruit dies, another lives. A crushed people will repent and choose life eternal. God will see these late fruit-bearing people and offer them grace. Their suffering will forge an eternal relationship with God.

Christ's rule during the Millennium will be a one-thousand-year rule of peace and goodness. It is imaged in the annual celebration of the Feast of Booths also known as the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot. The final harvest of grapes will have taken place and the wine vat will be full.

The Fall Holy Days foretell of great celebrations that rest on our near horizon. "You shall celebrate **the Feast of after Booths seven days you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat**; and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful" (Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

Barley and wheat are grains used to make bread, imaged in the word of God. Harvesting grapes that make wine, requires crushing to break the skin to release the juice. God's supper table is comprised of both bread and wine. Christ's body imaged as bread, God's word and his blood imaged in the wine together represent the two core components of righteous character: living perfectly by God's word and binding to a blood covenant of eternal trust, faith and loyalty to Almighty God. At the end of the three harvests, born-again people on earth will together be the total culmination of righteous character. Resurrections into life eternal will have taken place, others resurrected back into mortal beings to learn to live God's way. Earth will be again filled and populated with the ancient and the young, living together.

God's people established in the land given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will live and love God's ways. They will be richly blessed and nations will come and ask to learn God's way of life.

God's timeline is expressed in His Holy Days beginning with the Passover—the prophecy of the redemptive sacrifice, the Feast of Firstfruits celebrates the first resurrection of mortals with Jesus our Messiah as the first of those firstfruits, Pentecost established the church filled with God's Holy Spirit. In the Fall, the Feast of Trumpets announces the return of Jesus Christ and the first resurrection, the Day of Atonement brings God's people to their knees and a total cleansing of sin, the Feast of Tabernacles celebrates Christ's Millennial rule and finally, the Last Great Day is Judgement Day putting an end to all the unrepentant, evil filled people and spirit beings.

God is transparent.

GOD'S CODED LANGUAGE BRINGS TRANSPARENCY

For people seeking to understand the spiritual world and the deep things of God, decoding God's imagery, numbers, colours, parables, parallels, stories and foreshadows is fundamental.

God is transparent to those who search through His word. Nothing has been hidden from those who obey God and follow Christ wherever he goes. For it has been written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9). BUT, for those who love the word of God and relentlessly search out the deep things of God, "*these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God*" (I Corinthians 2:10).

When God's coded language is applied, the BIG picture explodes into vivid, vibrant detail. The trusting and loving bond God the Father has for His children is mirrored on earth between a father and child. The intimate relationship of Christ and the church is mirrored on earth between a loving husband and wife. The beauty of every righteous member of God's family is mirrored in a cultured garden of tall trees, flowering trees and bushes, the fruit-producing trees and vines and the fragrances of countless flowers. The righteous character of God is mirrored in earth's finest, rarest and most precious treasures.

God's coded language is consistent. He has provided His legal witness to sinners on earth through the use of number two: law and grace. He has prophesied that law and grace will be bound as one so justice, kindness and compassion reign. This style of leadership will be mirrored in God's people, now a divided kingdom, to be in the future, an unbreakable re-united kingdom applying God's law and living His way. Under Christ, they have been redeemed.

God stepped out a timeline sealing a marker on key events. Each third event identifies a strategic move. Through His use of number twelve, God disclosed who would form His new government. His use of multiples and one thousand adds dimension and infinity to the revelation.

The Biblical stories have preserved forgotten history. Parables taught key principles of life. God has hidden nothing and yet, the world is blind because they lack God's special Holy Spirit that gives understanding of spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

God's coded language is the key for greater understanding, forging a journey closer to the great Almighty God and building an intimate, ever-lasting relationship. The Apostle Paul discovered the mysteries and he taught them. "This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one" (Ephesians 5:32).

Every aspect of God's creation on earth is a revelation of eternity for those with eyes to see, ears to hear and a willing heart of flesh.

ABOUT SHARINGSHARPENS

Sharingsharpens is a resource centre providing studies and videos on God's word. The responsibility of Christians is to study the word of God, test the doctrines of the many churches and prove from scripture what is right and true. Pray daily asking God for guidance and beseech Him for knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Every human being will stand before God in judgement on that day. Each person will stand individually with no one to blame but himself/herself.

For this reason, www.sharingsharpens.ca works to share with the body of Christ every study and every precious truth with sincere Christians who love God's word.

There is nothing on this earth that compares to the glory of being resurrected in God's kingdom. There is nothing on this earth that can surpass the importance of mankind's calling as royal, ruling sons of the living God. There is nothing on this earth worth more your time than studying God's word, living God's way with Christ in us, and growing in grace and knowledge.

The Holy Bible of the Jews and the Christians is a book that reveals the whole plan of God. It is a book that will take a life-time to read in pursuit of understanding but never coming to see and know all that lies in the scriptures for man. There lies the importance of sharing. Collectively, the body of Christ can teach each other, learn from each other, and grow into mature Christians—the work of God's hands, giving Him pride and joy eternally.

For more information on Biblical topics visit:

- www.sharingsharpens.ca
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