

What happened in **LEBANON?**

“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).

“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 thicket with an ax; **LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE**” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

WHO ARE THE TREES THAT WERE WELL WATERED?



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The “**trees that were well watered**” are the highly trained in God’s government, skillful sons of God. Within them, are “**the choicest and best of Lebanon**”; they are the members of God’s holy council. “God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the ‘gods’” (Psalm 82:1).

These ‘gods’—sons of God, received rulership over the nations. “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**” (Deuteronomy 32:8). God’s holy council members

received rulership over the nations as their inheritance; God's portion were the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:8).

Unfortunately, these gods fell into sin. They reveled in the power of rulership and turned against their humble Creator. Arrogant and proud, they thought they could overthrow their Creator. They persuaded others to join them and welcomed in God's old enemy. They taught the nations to worship them, some claimed to be a Creator. They grew to despise God and they encouraged the nations to turn away from their Creator.

The prince over Egypt declared, "The Nile is mine; I made it for myself" (Ezekiel 29:3).

The prince over Assyria boasted, "Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?" (Isaiah 36:18).

God replied, "You have said, 'I have ascended the heights of the mountains, **the utmost heights of Lebanon, I have cut down the tallest cedars, the choicest of its pines**. I have reached its remotest heights, the finest of its forests, I have dug wells in foreign lands and drunk the water there. With the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams of Egypt.' 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 have turned fortified cities into piles of stone... But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me... I will put a hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came" (Isaiah 37:24-29).

God added, "**Assyria will fall by a sword that is not of man**, a sword, not of mortals, will devour **them** [this prince has his own army]" (Isaiah 31:8).

God also promises the destruction of Babylon, "The jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, **will be overthrown by God** like Sodom and Gomorrah [suddenly and quickly]. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations" (Isaiah 14:19-20).

The remaining ruling royal family members of God's government will rejoice and no longer fear their destruction, "**Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, 'Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down'**" (Isaiah 14:8).

God declared, "I said, 'You are "gods"; **you are all sons of the Most High.**' But **you will die like mere men, you will fall like every other ruler**" (Psalm 82:6-7).

The Psalmist beseeched God, "Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for **all the nations are your inheritance**" (Psalm 82:8).

The Psalmist added, "Your enemies... who said '**Let us take possession of the pasturelands of God**'... Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD. May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; may they perish in disgrace. Let them know that you whose name is the LORD—that **YOU ALONE are the MOST HIGH OVER ALL THE EARTH**" (Psalm 82:2, 12, 16-18).

Despite his expressed frustration, the Psalmist knows there will be justice. “The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; Yes, the **LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon**” (Psalm 29:5).

“For the LORD of hosts will have a **day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty** and against **everyone who is lifted up**, that he may be abased. **He will cut down the tall cedars of Lebanon** and **all the mighty oaks of Bashan**. Against all the lofty mountains, against all the hills that are lifted up” (Isaiah 2:12-14).

WHAT IS THIS—LEBANON?



<https://www.slideshare.net/GloryXperience/divine-council>

“Lebanon” is the representation of the core of God’s government, which is both in heaven and on earth. “The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the **cedars of Lebanon** that he planted” (Psalm 104:16). “Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon... **The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it**, nor could the pine trees equal its boughs, nor could the plane trees compare with its branches—no tree in the garden of God could match its beauty. **I made it beautiful with abundant branches, the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God**” (Ezekiel 31:3, 8-9).

The ancient Israelites understood the imagery of Lebanon. 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 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 thorn bush 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 thorn bush. 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 the core of God's government.

In heaven, God's most skilled and those full of the knowledge of His Government have turned against Him. A civil war is raging in heaven and the nations are in rebellion on earth.

"In that day the lord will punish **the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below**. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon, they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days" (Isaiah 24:21-22).

"The wind will sweep away all your shepherds, and your lovers will go into captivity [these rogue heavenly rulers]; then you will surely be ashamed and humiliated because of all your wickedness. **You who dwell in Lebanon, nested in the cedars**, how you will groan when pangs come upon you, pain like a woman in childbirth! (Jeremiah 22:23)

Remember the words of Paul, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the **SPIRITUAL FORCES** of evil in the **HEAVENLY PLACES**" (Ephesians 6:12).

God is assembling a new government of faithful and loyal sons. Sons who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving.

"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 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).

"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's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in Lebanon full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities.

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