

Trees

God's Mysterious Manifestation of Perpetuity

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

Trees mark great biblical significance. In fact in Judaism there are actually four New Year Celebrations one of which is for trees. The four New Years are 1) First of *Tishrei*—*Rosh Hashanah* (New Year cycle celebrates the creation of the world and advances the year); 2) First of *Nisan*—(Beginning of Spring and starts the religious feast cycle—connected to the beginning of

find the deeper things in His Word. Deep calls unto deep (Psalm 42:7), and it is deep within the ground at the darkest time of the year that the very seeds that have fallen find their way into the earth, completely die, thus breaking open to reveal the cosmic potential of God's power and gift to mankind (John 12:24). The new seed imbued with miraculous infinity to live and produce begins its search for the sun. Unseen to the eye, but growing and thriving, this new life is racing for the surface where the living creation called man dwells. If evidence of the new plant breaks forth any day on or before the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat it is marked and counted as a one-year-old tree.

The day of *Tu B'Shvat* is actually a birthday for trees. It is significant in the calculation of a tree's age and the consumption of its fruit. "When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD. And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD your God (Leviticus 19:23–25).

The Jewish people celebrate this New Year's Day by eating the seven species of food that are indigenous to the land of Israel (barley, wheat, grapes, figs, dates, pomegranates, and olives). These foods are considered miraculous fruit that came forth from the earth because our Creator

the Israelites as a nation after the Exodus); 3) First of *Elul*—New Year for animal tithes (no longer observed); and 4) The fifteenth of *Shevat*—*Tu B'Shvat* (also known as the New Year of the Trees).

THE FIRST OF THREE TREE MYSTERIES

Tu B'Shvat, literally translated the "15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat" is not an official biblical holiday but the Bible infers much about this time just before Spring that initiates the Season of Harvest. One must search the scriptures and



made a covenant with his new nation, Israel, and their land to send the right amount of rain at exactly the right time. “For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; *a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and (date) honey*; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass” (Deuteronomy 8:7–9, KJV).

This delicious collection of seven delicacies is called a *Tu B'Shevat Seder Platter*. Some sages recommended the addition of an eighth food, the almond to this platter. Modern science actually call these unique and particular foods “super foods” because they are filled with healing qualities of nutrition and health and are high in antioxidants, high-density lipids, and vitamins and minerals.

Seed-producing trees are the source of wellness and nutrition to man (*marpe* in Hebrew). They are the Creator’s gift for food and medicine. Though man has tried to modify fruit and seeds scientifically, the result has always been the same—a sterile and ineffective facsimile. Only by supernatural design and unearthly programming can fruit truly reproduce itself through its own seeds.

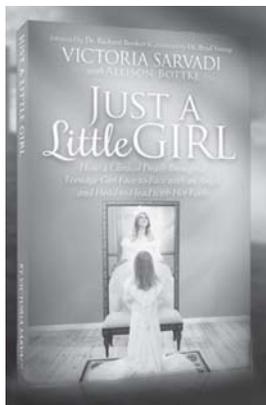
THE SECOND MYSTERY OF TREES

The second connection between God and his creation becomes apparent in a symbolic and allegorical kind of way. In this case, the Messiah uses the analogy of trees regarding who he is and who his covenant people are in him. “I am the vine, you *are* the branches,” Yeshua says, “He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much *fruit*; for without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Then he says, “Every branch in me that does not bear *fruit* he takes away; and every *branch* that bears *fruit* he prunes, that it may bear more *fruit*” (John 12:24).

Christ is called the First Fruit from the dead because he taught that like a seed that dies and then breaks open from the ground, he too would die and then produce a great harvest (John 12:23–25, 1 Corinthians 15:20). Yeshua was the manifested supernatural life from death that promises the resurrection of all those who die in Christ.

THE THIRD MYSTERY—THE PROPHECIC

But it is the third mysterious connection of God with trees which is described by the prophet Zechariah that is the most profound. The Bible uses the metaphor of trees to describe the nations in the end of days. The phrase *end of days* is used to translate the Hebrew words *acharit hayamin*. What is not apparent in English is revealed in the deeper meanings of Hebrew as an end of an “era” and that era is *the age of man’s governance*.



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Zechariah describes a vision of the future. On the twenty-fourth day of the *eleventh month*, which is the month *Shevat*, the Lord came to Zechariah, saying: “I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the **myrtle trees** in the hollow; and behind him *were* horses: red, sorrel, and white. Then I said, ‘My lord, what *are* these?’ So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they *are*.’ And the man who stood among the **myrtle trees** answered and said, ‘These *are the ones* whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth.’ So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and *behold, all the earth is resting quietly*.’ Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which you were angry these seventy years?’ And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. So the angel who spoke with me said to me, ‘Proclaim, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. **I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease**; Therefore, thus says the LORD: ‘I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it,” says the Lord of hosts, “And a *surveyor’s* line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.” Again proclaim, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: my cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, and will again choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 1:7–17).

It appears that the report that

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God says He will use the sun, moon and the stars for signs (Genesis 1:14). He is telegraphing to us through both his Word and nature that he will soon be "shekad"—he will "awaken" like the almond tree (shaked) in Spring to perform his prophetic Word.

the nations are at ease prompts a response from the angel of the Lord that reveals the God's anger concerning the nations. It is also apparent that the situation on earth must change in order for the Lord to do what must be done to set up his kingdom reign from Jerusalem, the city where he has chosen to place his name. According to Revelation 6:3–4, God sends a red horse to the earth to take away peace (that is the *ease of the nations*) and thus ushering in what is called the "Tribulation."

GOD FULFILLS THE PROPHECY

"Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Jeremiah, what do you see?' And I said, 'I see a **branch** of an almond tree. Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well, for I am ready **to perform My Word**'" (Jeremiah 1:11–12). God declared to the young Jeremiah that he would be a prophet to the **nations**. The Lord goes on to show Jeremiah a boiling pot (that is, angry nations) that will spill forth or invade from the north to Israel and God will judge them.

It is interesting to note that the almond tree is the first of all trees to blossom and yield fruit in the spring. The interesting clue of this passage in Jeremiah is the word play that God uses and can only be understood by the original Hebrew text in the words *shaked* and *shekad* which in English mean "almond" and "to perform," respectively. Yeshua is also known as the Branch (Zechariah 6:12), and just as he performed or fulfilled the prophetic Word concerning the redemptive work on the cross in his first coming, he will, without a doubt, fulfill the work of judging the nations and setting up his government and kingdom from his holy mountain in his second coming. He will rule the nations with a rod of iron—that is, with absolute authority (Revelation 12:5, 19:15). The voices and powers of the nations will no longer govern and police Israel but on the contrary, his Word will go forth from Zion, and all nations will learn of His ways (Isaiah 2:3).

THE HEAD OF NATIONS, ISRAEL

It is clear that God uses the metaphor of trees to represent governments. He will soon right the

head of nations, Israel, by his kingdom reign. Man's governments have miserably failed. We all wait with great anticipation for the Messiah to come and establish a true government on his own shoulders.

"Thus says the LORD God: 'I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. On the mountain

height of **Israel** I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it'" (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

The government of Messiah will be established while the Beast and the false prophet are destroyed. "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:19–20, KJV).

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

God says He will use the sun, moon and the stars for signs (Genesis 1:14). An interesting phenomenon actually happened on January 31, 2018, on *Tu B'Shevat* and on January 22, 2019, on *Tu B'Shevat* 2019, when an astronomical phenomenon called a "blood moon" appeared in the night sky. It is interesting that most of these blood moons have occurred on biblical festival days or on the *Tu B'Shevat*, the birthday of the trees, indicating that God is telegraphing that he will soon be "*shekad*" or will "awaken," like the almond tree (*shaked*) in Spring, to perform his prophetic Word. May his Word be manifest quickly and in our times. 

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