

COVERED BY THE TREES (*LOST IN THE WOODS*)

by GL Parks

INTRODUCTION

Almost from the beginning man has desired to be covered by leaves and trees. Once man sinned and saw that he was naked after the glory of the Lord departed from him, he has been looking for a covering. Unfortunately man historically has looked to man to find covering. In this day of supposed enlightenment where many claim to be moving into the “third day church” man continues to look to the “trees” for covering. We will determine that God has never wanted man to be covered by leaves or trees of man’s own choosing. If some who claim to be a part of the church are to move forward into the “third day” then they need to shed their leaves as natural trees shed theirs in autumn, become bare before the Lord and allow the glory of the Lord to again shield their eyes from their nakedness. There is an authentic church and there is one that is not. The latter has many more children than the former. The latter are those referred to in this article. It is readily apparent that men have always wanted to be in control over other men. This not only occurs in the kingdoms of this world but also is most pronounced in some churches. In normal “Kingdom” principles the modes of operation in the church should be opposite of those in the world. Control of men by other men in many churches seems to be most prevalent by those who claim to possess an apostolic and prophetic anointing. Many of them no doubt are unwittingly deceived by their teachings. We all are victims of our teachings to some degree and that is the reason for this discourse. There is a true apostolic and prophetic, but it does not resemble that which is being promoted in various circles. There is nothing new under the sun and this “Shepherding” movement failed in the late 20th century. Jesus is Lord, not because of control, manipulation and coercion, but by the attributes of servant hood. There is only one mediator between God and any man and that is Jesus Christ the righteous. Each of us in the New Covenant is responsible to God for our own selves and to look to God through someone else then takes us back to the Old Covenant priesthood. God definitely has given the five fold ministry, but not for a covering. It was to serve the saints in bringing them to maturity (perfection). I submit only to God, but I am a servant to all men. I do not submit to any one man nor do I serve a man because of a man-decreed designation. I am responsible to God for my own actions. The ground is level at the foot of the cross and there is no terrain whereon one man can be exalted over another. As a mature Christian I serve where the Spirit leads me to serve. This is not rebellious, but would be rebellious to God if I did differently. If we serve where only the Spirit leads then the body will be fitly framed together. If we serve in a position where our “covering” tells us to serve then the body will remain disjointed. Let’s look into the trees, but definitely not unto the trees (covering). All scripture will be taken from the KJV and underlining is done for emphasis by the author.

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JUDGING THE TREES IN JUDGES

There is much typology in the Bible. The Holy Spirit must be active in one's life to accurately decipher the scriptures just as Paul states in 1 Corinthians 2. There is much confusion about the written word as witnessed by the varied and sundry beliefs within Christianity. The Spirit inspired word is a different story for it will bring forth the unity of the faith that Paul addresses in Ephesians 4:13. No secret Bible code (equidistant letter sequencing, etc.) is able to rightly divide the word of truth, only the Holy Spirit. With that stated it could be readily seen that men are sometimes referred to as trees in the Bible. This can be shown with many verses and will be as we proceed, but due to brevity and conservation of space we will begin by looking primarily to one verse to confirm this truth for the moment:

Isa 61:3

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

These “trees” are ones of righteousness and they are definitely planted by the Lord and not by man. All of them are planted so that the Lord is glorified and no man can take credit. They are trees of beauty, ones with the oil of joy for anointing and they have a spirit of praise instead of heaviness. Seeing that men are sometimes referred to as trees let's take a core sample of the trees in the Book of Judges and apply that sample in comparison as to what is taking place in many churches today:

Judg 9:8-15

8 The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.

9 But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

10 And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.

11 But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

12 Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.

13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

14 Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.

15 And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

Pinocchio was a “pine ear” in his field, but God does not expect us to be “knot heads” as Pinocchio was. Goldilocks like many factions within the church world is lost in the woods and having a bear of a time trying to find her way. Life there is sustained by stale bread and rest is found only in a baby bear's cramped bed. Little Red Riding Hood

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discovered that there was a wolf in Grandma's clothes (and religious house) after walking through the woods. In fact most Christians can't see God for the trees that keep getting in the way. They can't see the forest for the trees. Since God is Spirit and the Holy Spirit is Spirit, how do we differentiate between them? God is manifested as the corporate Spirit of the church and the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God in an individual, thus many can't see the forest (God) for the trees (individuals). I used the fables of Pinocchio, Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood as analogies for Paul warned us of the same:

2 Tim 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Most trees of the forest (men) have always desired that another tree rule over them and certain trees have been more than willing to accommodate that desire. God has always longed that man recognize Him as their source, supply and covering. But men have always wanted to physically see their covering and have one that would not require much change. God has designed it so that trees change at least once a year. That is why the Israelites wanted God to speak only to Moses and then have Moses relay the message to them. That is why the Israelites later wanted a king to rule over them despite the fact that God wanted to be their sole (soul) King. They had rather have paid with their money, their lives and the lives of their children that to change and be an entire nation of kings and priests. It is easier to proceed back to Egypt than press into the promises of the Kingdom. We sit in our churches and bemoan, "How could they have been that way," when in fact we are doing the very same thing.

Judges 9 was written for a reason and not just because it affected those of that day. All scripture is given for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction. The trees of the forest wanted a king to rule over them (Judges 9:8). First they went to the olive tree. At least these trees had enough discernment to recognize a tree that was anointed by the Lord. The product of the olive tree, olive oil, represents the anointing of the Lord. Olive oil keeps the menorah burning (Zech. 4:12). The menorah with its seven candlesticks represents the seven churches (Rev. 1:20). In short without the anointing of the olive oil from the olive tree there would be no light emanating from the candlesticks or from the city that is set on a hill. Without this oil from the olive tree there would be no anointing to light the world.

Paraphrasing the answer of the olive tree in being made king of the trees (Judges 9:9), "Why should I leave the position that God has given me whereby I bring glory to God and benefit to man?" In other words he is stating that this appointment might be a promotion in the sight of the other trees, but it would be a demotion in the sight of God and in his usefulness to "tree kind". An appropriate question is posed here: How many trees in today's church would refuse such a position in order to remain where God has planted them (we are not addressing geographic position)? This tree knew that a position

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in God has much more significance than a position recognized by man. This tree knew that God is the covering for all trees.

Next, all the trees went to the fig tree to ask if it could be king over them (Judges 9:10). The fig tree also bore fruit for God and man. Notice the answer of the fig tree to the other trees (Judges 9:11), “Should I forsake my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? Apparently one cannot retain sweetness and fruit bearing if the desire is to be promoted over the other trees. Unlike the military services and various occupations, promotion in the Kingdom of God comes only through demotion of self. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble and as the word says, “Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.” The fig tree that Jesus condemned in Matthew 21:19 must have been one that wanted status over the other trees for it had no fruit on it when He came. With minimal study we can determine that this fig tree was Israel. Religious Israel was a proud tree with no fruit. John the Baptist said that they should bring forth fruits meet for repentance (Matt. 3:8). Let’s see what John said in verse 10 of that same chapter:

Matt 3:10

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Jesus laid the ax to the tree. He said in Matthew 21 that this fig tree would never more bring forth any fruit. Israel as an ethnic nation would never again produce any fruit. Fruit bearing would be taken from them and given to a Spiritual nation. The fig tree of Judges 9:10-11 was a tree that exercised much wisdom in refusing to be promoted or recognized over the other trees.

With the refusal of the two previous trees to leave their first estate and be demoted, the trees then went to the vine to ask it to be king of the trees (Judges 9:12). The vine asked them if he should leave his wine to be king over the trees (Judges 9:13). With minimal examination we can determine that wine represents the Holy Spirit. The “wine” gives cheer to both God and man. The vine being as wise as the other two trees refuses the appointment. Again, a tree apparently cannot retain the Holy Spirit if it desires to be promoted (actually demoted) over other trees.

Jesus is Lord and Master because of His commitment to love and serve others. The three trees visited so far understood that concept. It appears that many position holders in the church today desire to be lord and master because they desire to be seen by men as lord and master. They would never contemplate promoting someone above their position due to jealousy. Jesus said that greater things shall we do because He went to the Father. He wants us as His body to go beyond where He went as a man. Most leaders in their churches would never want their “subjects” to go beyond where they are. They want to keep them under submission and to understand to a level just below their understanding. If anyone is to obtain understanding the promoted trees want to get it first and then mete it out in morsels to inspire awe at their revelation. Everyone in the Kingdom of God

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should be a free person and not bound to some man who may unwittingly control, manipulate, coerce and restrain. Let's look at a scripture where Jesus uses the words "master" and "servant". In our kingdom understanding these words mean the opposite, but in real Kingdom vernacular they are one in the same:

John 13:13-16

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

The trees of Judges 9 by this time were no doubt becoming frustrated in their effort to find a king to rule over them. They were desperate for a king so they go to the bramble and ask him to reign over them (Judges 9:14). The product of the bramble is thorns and thistles. The bramble readily agrees to assume the position as king over all the other trees (Judges (9:15). Notice that the bramble wants the trees to put their trust in his shadow and if they don't trust in him then let them burn. Many innocent souls who want to go beyond their covering are burned in the modern church world. Let's see what the Psalmist wrote about the one in whose shadow we should trust:

Ps 91:1

91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

It appears that the only tree that would hasten to rule and reign over other trees is one that promotes self and the fruit of that motivation is the same that torments others with fire. Again we are not addressing trees that are planted in the world, but the ones that claim to be planted in the Lord's forest. Let's look at these thorns and thistles in the light of what Samuel said to the Israelites when they demanded a king reign over them other than the lord:

1 Sam 8:11-18

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants

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15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

Old Testament Israel is a type and shadow of the modern church. We fool ourselves when we think that the very same things are not happening in many areas of the contemporary church world. All of the things taken by the local king (bramble) in the scripture above are symbols of those things that are taken today. We won't examine each of these, but use your Holy Ghost inspired intuition to learn the lesson of the trees of Judges 9. There is certainly delight in giving as the Holy Spirit directs, but not by the demand of a thorn tree. Let's move on and search out additional understanding where man is "covered by the trees."

ADAM FALLS INTO THE TREES

Adam could partake of any tree in the garden except for one. That one tree would bring forth death. Conversely, there was only one tree in the garden that could sustain life. The Bible does not directly state the amount of times that Adam partook of the life giving tree, but referring to scriptures throughout the holy writ it can be ascertained that he ate of it every day. Interestingly, he could not mix the fruit of the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil and continue to sustain life. Adam mixed the fruit and fell. He did not fall out of a tree, but he fell into the trees. One of the curses that befell Adam continues to plague mankind in that he continues to perceive himself to be hidden from God by seeking covering from the leaves and shadows of other trees:

Gen 3:7

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Adam and Eve now knew that good and evil existed. Before they had only known good. The covering of the glory of the Lord had departed from them. They could now see themselves as they were without the covering of God. They now looked to themselves to cover themselves. They made an apron of leaves from the fig tree to cover them. This fig tree can be spiritually related to the one where Jesus found no fruit. An apron might work if viewed only from the front but not from a posterior position. Man's covering will always leave this area exposed. God made them a temporary covering that would suffice for a covering until the seed of the woman would come in the fullness of time some 4,000 years hence. The Israelites continued to use the animal sin covering until that sacrifice was ended by the ultimate sacrifice. Adam and Eve had hid in the trees from God with the product of the trees supposedly covering them:

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Gen 3:8

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Like Adam, men continue to hide amongst the trees of the Lord's garden. Seemingly they say, "If we can hide amidst the trees the Lord will not see us and He will think we are covered for we believe we are covered." There remains only one "Tree" that can provide covering for man. Adam (the man) may have partaken of the tree of knowledge of good and evil only one time, but mankind continues to sample its fruit. The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not an apple, but is thorns and thistles (remember the bramble of Judges 9):

Gen 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Man was taken from the ground. Now he was going to eat from the source from which he was taken. The source from which he was taken only produces thorns and thistles. The Old Testament gives us a picture in the natural so that we can see the spiritual in the New. What is the spiritual equivalent or the product of the ground (flesh) from which he was taken? What are the New Testament thorns and thistles of the ground?

Gal 5:19-22

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

God did not want man to partake of the "Tree of Life" in the condition in which he now lived. That does not mean that God did not want man to partake of the "Tree of Life". As stated earlier, Adam previously had ready access to the Tree. A very interesting verse follows that we will analyze:

Gen 3:24

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

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“Placed” in this verse means “permanently” placed. New Testament Cherubim are still placed at the entrance of the Garden of Eden “keeping the way of the tree of life.” These Cherubim are found in Hebrews 1:7 where His ministers are called flames of fire. “East” is not a direction in the verse above. It means the gate of the entrance to the ancient way of life. The ancient way of life was eternal life and not death, which was the new way of life now pronounced upon Adam. “Garden” is a hedged parcel of ground and not an open field. There is only one entrance to the garden and that is on the “east” which goes by the way of the Cherubim who wield a flaming sword. “Eden” means a pleasant or voluptuous land. This is a spiritual position that we enter into if we go by the way of the flaming sword. “Flaming” means covert or hidden. The “sword” is hidden from those with only natural vision. This is why Jesus spoke in parables and why Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 2 that only the Spirit can rightly divide the word. Of course the “sword” in this verse is the word of God, which is declared to have two edges in the New Covenant. “Every way” means to change overturn or return. If one goes by the way of the flaming sword that one is changed, ways are overturned and return to the ancient way is made available. “The way of the tree of life” is a highway and can be explained by one verse:

Isa 35:8

8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Access to the “Tree of Life” located in the garden of God is made available to man by God, but only if he goes by the way of the Cherubim (ministers) who wield the flaming sword and which keep the way of the “Tree of Life”. The hour is coming and now is when man can no longer remain hidden in the trees of his choosing. He needs to come out of the woods and be exposed to the light of that flaming sword which will permanently change him. There is a verse in Revelation that corresponds with Genesis 3:24:

Rev 22:14

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Those that keep His commandments are going by the way of the cherubim who wield the flaming sword and they gain access to the “Tree of Life”. They enter through the only gate, which is located on the east side and this city, the New Jerusalem, is the garden of the Lord. This is not pertaining to going to heaven but gaining total access to the tree of life spirit, soul and body. Access is not gained to the “Tree of Life” by being covered by other trees as they attempt to gain access. There is no group entry. Man must pass through this turnstile in single file as a part of the one body of Christ. My earthly father being a trapper once made this statement, “Individually we must take our hide to market.” Let’s take a walk through the woods so that we can spiritually discern the forest from the trees.

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BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

Being raised in densely wooded southeastern Oklahoma and my earthly father having been a woodsman, we seemingly always had hunting dogs. The capture of game was essential in sustaining life. Different dogs over the years varied in their skills in the pursuit of game animals. Some became very wise and could discern the “tricks” used by game in their attempt to escape. These dogs knew that the animals might “timber” (jump from tree to tree). They were able to shift the trail from scent to sight and back again. They would never “lie” (bark up the wrong tree). When they barked one was assured of meat and/or money for another day. Other dogs never learned this lesson. Whatever tree the game animal climbed is the one where they “treed” (barked to signal us to come to that tree). These dogs did not live at my father’s house for a long period of time.

Barking up the wrong tree is not a malady restricted to hunting in the natural forest but also in the spiritual. There are some that would lead us to the right tree that sustains life. There are many that lead us to the wrong trees and declare that there is sustenance in those trees, but the trees are empty. Those that bark up the wrong tree do not live at the Father’s house. Barking up the wrong tree has been a hindrance for man since Old Testament days. Many in those days looked to the wrong trees in the pursuit of life. Instead of looking to the “Tree of Life” they too fell for the “tree of lies”. Lets look into a few select Old Testament spiritual trees both good and bad. There are many rabbit trails that we could take in these Old Testament woods but we will pursue just a few to arrive at pertinent points. On our trek through these woods we certainly want to avoid the fruit of the bramble for that genus still stands today and it will scratch and tear. Our desire is to traverse the trail (the way) that leads only to one tree, which sustains the ancient way of eternal life in all three realms of spirit, soul and body:

Ex 15:25

25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

In this passage Moses and the Israelites have departed Egypt and they are in the wilderness with no water to sustain them. Despite that which many teach, the Old Testament is about Jesus and not about the nation of Israel. This tree is Jesus who is cast into the bitter waters. The bitter waters are the unsaved peoples of the world. With the addition of Jesus they become sweet and life is sustained. It is interesting to note that God chose the tree as the method of death by the Savior. The Savior could have died for man’s sins in a sundry of methods. By a tree came the death of man. By a tree comes the resurrection of life for man. There were two trees in the garden that pertained to the longevity of man from which he could choose. These two trees remain for choice. Choose you this day the correct tree. One can choose the tree of man by which he thinks he is covered and continue to live in death or he can choose the “Tree of Life” and return to the “glory” days of yesteryear. Let’s continue our walk in the woods and observe the trees of the Old Covenant:

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Deut 12:2-3

2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

3 And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

This commandment by God of course was given to the Israelites, but as we have discovered previously this has spiritual meaning for us. God still wants us to rid the land of idols. The idols have changed but the commandment has not and our idols continue to be hidden by groves of green trees. Men of that day hid their idols in groves of green trees usually located in high places (hills and mountains). That is why that the word declares that all high places and mountains will be made low. Man in the New Covenant has many idols but they do not resemble those of the previous covenant. Anything that we put before God is an idol including our churches, apostles, prophets, ministers, beliefs and denominations. Many have done this and are encouraged to do so by these very entities. There presently exist groves of green trees in high places (exalted men who desire to be a covering for other men as the bramble was). The ax is being laid to the root of these trees:

Ezek 17:24

24 And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

The Bible was written to those who claim to be ambassadors of God in the earth. It was not written to those who still remain in the bitter waters or the tossed sea of unsaved humanity. Jesus, through the olive tree, the fig tree and the vine, will eventually calm this troubled sea and walk on it with His body. The authentic church is the medium that God has chosen to bring salvation to the entire earth. Only if He is lifted up (exalted) will all men be drawn unto Him. If those who claim to be in the church desire to move forward, no longer can they look to the trees that cover them. Summer is past and autumn is upon us in the spiritual realm. Leaves are beginning to fall from the green trees that have been the covering for men. These trees will be stripped bare by winter and the idols exposed. If there is an attempt to retain leaves as a covering they will be cut down by the “feller” from Galilee or occasionally we will see a lightning strike of a tall tree in a high place. As we traverse the terrain on our trek through the woods we can see the forest for the trees if we observe with Holy Spirit introspection. LOOK, there is another grove of green trees!

Deut 16:21

21 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee.

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The verse above states that which we learned from the story of Adam and from the trees in Judges 9. We cannot mix the trees in which we partake. We can eat of the one tree that gives life or we can hide in the groves, but we cannot attain real life by doing both. As we have seen with enhanced eyesight, an idol is not necessarily outside a church but can be within. Even the very gifts that God has given can be made into idols if intent is wrong or if even used through ignorance. The over exercised apostolic and prophetic can fit into this category. Is our motivation in the apostolic and prophetic to exalt ourselves to control and manipulate by our gifts or is it to build others up even above where we are spiritually?

1 Kings 4:25

25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.

We should recognize this verse had spiritual meaning and was not a literal happening even for the Israelites of that day. This ethnic nation in the Old Testament is a microcosm of the entire earth today. There is coming a time when every man will again dwell under his own vine and fig tree. The Spirit of God (the vine, He is the vine) will lead every man and this fruit will be sweet to both God and man. Every man will eat of the fruit borne by other men, thus life will be sustained for eternity. These tree types will be seen on our trek when we arrive at the banks of the river for they will bring healing to every nation. No longer will we desire to partake of the fruit of the bramble. In Bible days the bramble was used only to burn and so it is today and the burning will be complete in that day. God is presently burning our thorns and thistles, individually and corporately. The prick of the product of the thorn tree continues to sting the body of Christ just as it literally did the Head of the body prior to the cross. As the verse above states we can dwell safely under our own vine and fig tree (our personal relationship with god, see John 21:20-22). We can no longer continue to dwell under a grove of green trees.

1 Kings 6:31-33

31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

32 The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.

33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall.

These are types and shadows of the real temple of God whose temple you are. Jesus is the door and as a part of the body of Christ we become a part of the door (olive trees), which allows entrance into the temple. As verse 31 declares we also become posts or pillars in the house of God. This verse corresponds with Rev. 3:12, "Him that overcometh Will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him

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my new name.” Not to worry for those who ascribe only to the literal interpretation of the Bible. You do not have to be a pillar (post) holding up a literal temple for eternity nor will you have indelible inkblots on your pristine garments. We are the walls of righteousness for this New Jerusalem. As we pass by lets take one last look at some groves of green trees for there is coming a day that we will no longer be able to see them, keeping in mind how they relate to us today:

1 Kings 14:23

23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

2 Kings 16:4

4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

2 Kings 17:10

10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

2 Chron 28:4

4 He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

Isa 57:5

5 Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the clifts of the rocks?

Jer 2:20

20 For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

Some of the verses above are pertaining to King Ahaz and because of him over 120,000 died in one day. How many hundreds of thousands are dieing in the spiritual realm today because we choose to sacrifice under a green tree? In some of the churches today there are images of God, things that look like something that God has made. There are some that have a form of Godliness by deny His power. Primarily the lack of power in churches comes because of worship under a green tree. Yet, there are some that even have the power to call down fire from heaven and they certainly do that. Many who have camped under those trees are burned from that fire just as the bramble burned the cedars of Lebanon in Judges 9. Paraphrasing the warning of Jesus, “Any tree that does not bring forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.” On our walk through these woods let’s stop by and see Elijah and maybe even lay an ax to his tree. It looks as if he is camping under a Juniper tree:

1 Kings 19:4

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4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

Camping under some trees we certainly feel like dieing at times. I have been there with Elijah, but like him the angel of the Lord touched me and said arise and eat. The sustenance did not come from the tree that I was camped under. The journey is long and we have the choice to wallow and die under a tree or continue in God's plan for each of our lives. Elijah had some ministering to do. Had he remained under the tree he would have never been translated. Have we been translated into the Kingdom of God's dear son (Col. 1:13)? The root word for juniper means to "yoke up". Let's wake Elijah. ELIJAH, WAKE UP, set up, stand up and yoke up with God and get out from under that tree. God did not place you there. You chose to be under that tree and now you want to die. Is he awake? Good. No, don't go into that cave Elijah! I believe Elijah is going to make it now. Let's continue. It looks as if there is a river ahead of us:

Ps 1:1-3

1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Rev 22:1-2

22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

As we see in Revelation above the "Tree of Life" has several locations. As the body of Christ we become a part of that tree which keeps the way of life (Gen. 3:24). The nations are healed because of the fruit He produces in and on us. God is not going to do anything unless He does it through His people. This is the covenant He has made and not anything that man has proposed. I can't help but believe that many churches are doing all three of the things listed in Psalms 1:1 or they would be having more of an impact. I am not reflecting on attaining numbers, but bringing spiritual growth in people. Many churches appear to go about growth in the wrong way. Their pursuit is in quantity and not quality. As a popular advertisement states and one that Christians should adhere to goes like this, "The quality goes in before THE NAME goes on." From the beginning God knew there was a design flaw in Adam. God can declare the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9-10). He also knew there was in the offing a "second man Adam" who had no flaws. The goal of God from before the beginning was to make man in His image and likeness and that comes only through the second Adam. Despite the popularity of a phrase in a movie, "If you build it they will come," they won't come if you build it and if they do come they

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won't stay. That is why there is continual turnover in the popular "second day" churches. Unless God builds the house we labor in vain. The house is not one of natural materials but of spiritual. Like the first three trees of Judges 9 we will not have to advertise our fruit. That will be apparent. "They will come to you," so states Isaiah 60 because the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Let's go eat of the fruit of the trees that are planted by the rivers of water (Psalms 1:3 above). I know you may be tiring from this long walk in the woods, but don't stop to rest under that green bay tree:

Ps 37:35

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

"Green" means to be prosperous and "bay tree" means a native tree springing up. It is interestingly enough defined as a "tree of persons" (personalities). There are many ministries that are like the green bay tree. They spring up and appear to be prosperous but their roots are not deep in God. Their roots are primarily imbedded within the power of the personalities of the men involved. Beware of the shade of the green bay tree for one may be lulled to sleep in that shadow. These are trees that will fall with the pressure of the wind. One genus of green bay tree may be overly concerned about offending people. They don't seem to be too concerned about offending God or quenching the Spirit. In their effort not to offend anyone they wind up offending everyone. Their roots are very shallow and there is immediate danger under them in the slightest tempest. In the United States these "user friendly" churches are springing up everywhere. Their teachings are so shallow that they can offer no stability when the winds of life blow. Other "green bay tree" churches may even pursue their rendition of unity in the body of Christ for the sake of unity. They seem to want to unify in order to build their own tower to heaven. The revelatory word that God is bringing forth in this hour would never be discussed because it would cause division in the ranks. They all speak the same language and agree on a few points of Christianity and call it the unity of the faith. God is already confounding their language. There will come forth a unity of the faith, but it will be because we have remained in the unity of the Spirit under the "Tree of Life" and not under a "green bay tree". God introduced a unified language on the day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago which will eventually bring heaven to earth (or take earth to heaven). This language of God seems to offend many under the green bay tree. Let's press on towards the river. Notice how the trees are changing as we near the living water:

Ps 52:8

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

Ps 92:12

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Prov 11:30

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

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Prov 27:18

18 Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

Song 2:3

3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

ISRAEL HAS BECOME A WILD VINE, A DRIED BRANCH AND A TREE WITH NO FRUIT

Because of their insistent and consistent worship under the groves of green trees, Israel is turned over to a wild vine, a non-anointed olive branch and a fruitless fig. Since this is a type and shadow for us, we must look into the following scriptures as if they pertain to us for in fact they do. God had planted natural Israel in order that they could evangelize the world. Instead of sharing that which God had given them, they hoarded the oracles of God and became quite prideful in their religious position. Does this sound familiar? As Paul proclaims in Galatians, "That which began in the Spirit has now resorted to the flesh." Israel failed as has numerous groups in our modern church world. Well, let's stroll by these wild vines, dried up branches and fruitless figs:

Jer 2:20-21

20 For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

God has broken the yoke and burst the bands that held us captive in Egypt (sin) just as he did the Israelites. Are we transgressing by hiding from God underneath a green tree just as Adam and Israel before us? When God planted us (the planting of the Lord) we were a noble vine and a good seed. Have we now become a degenerate plant and a strange vine unto God? There is no growth or change under the shade of a green tree. There must be exposure to the Son. Let's pick up the pace on our walk through this parched vineyard and scorched orchard:

Jer 8:13

13 I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

As we have seen previously and as we look more in depth just a little later, there were no grapes on the vine, nor fruit on the fig tree when Jesus came in the flesh to visit Israel. The fig tree that was not bearing fruit when He passed by was Israel and the mountain (the high place) where it had taken root was religion. Faith was going to remove that

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mountain and cast it into the sea (the unsaved peoples of the world). There would now be no difference between Jew and Gentile. All would now have to come to God and be covered only by the One Tree. We now look back at the prophecy in the verse above and can see with 20/20 hindsight that the things that were given natural Israel has passed away from them and have been given to a spiritual nation bearing fruit. Israel can become a part of that nation and she will eventually when she is provoked to jealousy by what God does in the spiritual nation.

Jer 11:16-17

16 The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.

17 For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.

Baal represents a form of religion without God. In the above verses the Lord predicts the scorching of the orchard. The flame was kindled when Jesus came and the trees of Israel were completely consumed in 70 A. D., one generation later. Let's tie the flame that the Lord speaks of in the passage above with the fire that Jesus brought to these trees in the New Testament:

Luke 12:49-50

49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I if it be already kindled?

50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Many "chicken little" Christians predict that the entire earth will literally be burned with fire at some point in the future as well as fire burning the heavens. The fire that is to burn (and is burning) the earth was kindled when Jesus came. It is the fire of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (verse 50). As the Psalmist declares, the foundations of the earth are established forever." The great tumult predicted in Jeremiah 11:16 above was also predicted by Peter who wrote the following prior to 70 A.D.

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

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The great day of the Lord came in 70 A.D. just as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24 when He said that the generation with whom He was speaking would see all those things come about. The Old Covenant with the Israelites and those heavens were burned with a fervent heat and a New Covenant with all men was set in place. He has taken man from heavenly place to heavenly place in the past 2,000 years. That mustard plant of the kingdom is still growing and will continue to grow until there is a new heaven and earth merged together (Ephesians 1:10). The Bible must interpret the Bible and the word “elements” is seen twice in only one other passage of scripture in the New Testament:

Gal 4:3, 9

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:
9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

The “weak and beggarly elements” that Paul was referring to was the Old Covenant law that the Galatians were beginning to adhere to because of some erroneous teaching. These elements would be burned up spiritually by the Holy Spirit and literally by the Roman general Titus when he destroyed the temple in a seven-year war against the Jews. That was the seven-year tribulation about which Jesus, John the revelator and Daniel spoke and wrote. We can believe one of two things. One: Jesus gained total victory for mankind at the cross. Two: Jesus gained only partial victory at the cross for the restoration and transformation of mankind. If we believe that there is yet another event that will restore mankind then we denigrate the power of the cross and the Holy Spirit. The work then would not yet be finished although Jesus proclaimed on several occasions that He came to finish the work of the Father. In the garden and on the cross He proclaimed the work to be finished. Because we are not yet walking in the finished work does not mean that He did not do His part. Man will take dominion over the entire earth because God declared it in the beginning and because of the Covenant that He has made with man. The following scripture must have spiritual meaning because it certainly has literally rained in Israel since the proclamation of verse 6 below. There would be no more spiritual rain upon that land. The spiritual rain would fall upon a new kingdom and nation composed of those who elect grace (Romans 11).

Isa 5:1-7

5:1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

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5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

This scripture is paralleled in the New Testament in the ministry of Jesus and we observe that next as we traverse Biblical terrain through this “burned up” vineyard. There is so much to learn from the above passage of scripture but we cannot chase all those rabbits at this time for we are here to cut firewood. The tower in verse 3 is the Lord. The name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous run into it. The “fence” of verse 2 and the hedge of verse 5 are one in the same. Remember that Adam was placed outside the hedge of God’s protection. Here the hedge of protection is removed from Israel. When we teach and preach that Israel comes under another covenant other than the one that Jesus shed His blood for then we actually inhibit their salvation. Those that then perceive themselves to be very pro-Semitic are actually anti-Semitic. With very little investigation we can determine that Jesus and Paul both taught that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile in this New Covenant. All must come via the cross. Because of a remnant of Jews who came to Christ, salvation came to the rest of the world. With a little investigation we can determine that remnant to be the 144,000, the first fruit (Rev. 14). Jesus came to mankind wrapped in the flesh of a Jew, but it was not because of their superiority. He came in that fashion because of the promise to the father’s of faith beginning with Abraham. Romans and Galatians tell us that we all are descendents of Abraham if we live by faith. A New Covenant Jew is not one in the flesh (nationality) but in Spirit. Let’s take a giant leap across a wide chasm into the New Testament and visit the synoptic scripture of the one above. Jesus is speaking here:

Matt 21:33-39, 43, 45

33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

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45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

As Isaiah and Matthew declare this vineyard that the Lord had planted was Israel and Judah. Because they did not tend the vineyard as per instructions of the Householder, the Kingdom of God would be taken from this natural nation and given to a spiritual nation, which would bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. This spiritual nation is not one, nor will ever be, of ethnic nature. Let's jump back into the Old Testament and see a prediction by Jeremiah of the husbandmen seen in the above scripture in Matthew:

Jer 11:19

19 But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Choose you this day which tree you will serve. The husbandmen thought they could cut off this tree from the land of the living but the opposite is occurring. The ax was laid to their root. Over the years it is taking more than one whack to fell the fruitless fig of religion. Jesus demonstrated the technique and has placed the tool (ax) in our hands and has commissioned us to chop until the last vestige of this covering tree's root is disposed of in the fire that Jesus kindled. This is not a diatribe about the Jews, but about religion (green trees) of where the Jews and much of the church world are hidden. Lets steer clear around the wild vine fire that is burning ahead of us and don't let the smoke get in your eyes:

Ezek 15:2-7

2 Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

3 Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon?

4 Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is burned. Is it meet for any work?

5 Behold, when it was whole, it was meet for no work: how much less shall it be meet yet for any work, when the fire hath devoured it, and it is burned?

6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; As the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

7 And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.

As we have seen, Jesus is the one who set the original fire and the torch is passed to us in the form of the fire of the Holy Ghost. The Old Covenant was the first fire that the Jews were in (verse 7) and the "manifested sons of God" is the other fire. Again this is the fire that Jesus kindled in Luke 12 that we have previously seen. John the Baptist had a water baptism but Jesus came after him and had a baptism of Holy Ghost and fire. Is the

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torch that was passed to us burning brightly enough to burn religion from off the face of the earth? There will be a generation of people that will walk in the finished work of Jesus and the whole earth will be filled with His glory as the waters cover the sea. Our path could take us by numerous “green trees” that Israel worshiped under, but we should be getting the picture by now. Let’s hurriedly leave this parcel of ground where these wild vines, dried olive branches, fruitless figs and covering green trees are located for I smell smoke in the air and a smoke alarm is wailing.

Ezek 20:47-48

47 And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

48 And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

Jesus quoted this verse as we have seen in Luke 12:49-50. Religious folks tend to want to see others burned literally. The fact is that a remnant will be burned by the fire of the Lord. That is the atonement that will take place just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles which shall usher in the harvest (ingathering). Well we are approaching the end of the trail of trees and tears. The trees will fall in the next section and their will be tears of rejoicing.

THE END OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS IN THE TREES

Jer 17:5-8

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

In the early 1800’s five civilized Indian tribes were moved from the southeastern United states to eastern Oklahoma so that the white man could possess their lands. These tribes were forced to walk and along the way thousands upon thousands died from sickness and disease. This forced march became known as “The Trail of Tears”. There is a city just north of Tulsa, Oklahoma with the name of Owasso. Owasso in the Cherokee language means, “The end of the trail”. This article has cited a spiritual trail of tears in the trees that many in the church world have taken. Multitudes have died along the way and not solely in a natural sense. I see a spiritual Owasso ahead. On our trek through these woods I see that we are coming to Eufaula, Oklahoma. This is another small city in eastern Oklahoma that sits on the banks of the Canadian river. Eufaula in the Creek

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language means, “This is he place”. We have marched through the trees, but I can see a city ahead of us that sits on a river. There are trees that line that river with fruit that I have not yet tasted. This must be the place:

Ezek 47:7-12

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

In short review on our trek through these woods and before continuing and arriving on the banks of that river: The Bible refers to men as trees. When Adam fell he immediately looked to the trees for his covering because the covering of the glory of the Lord had departed from him. He knew that he was naked. Throughout history man has continually looked to man to provide a covering for his nakedness. Men in wanting to exalt themselves in the eyes of other men have been more than willing to assume that role of covering in a continual power play (Judges 9). Sadly that intense hunger for power, position, control, manipulation and coercion became a major part of the church world. These “tree” tactics are even tantamount in many so-called “full gospel” churches and the result is tumultuous. Very persuasive forces are used whether knowingly or unknowingly to control the immature and the unlearned. God has always desired that He be the covering for each individual. Israel in the Old Testament has been cited to us for an example. Like Israel there was a period when the Lord seemed to wink at these antics and stunts that are taking place in His forest. The time has come when His people can no longer swing from tree to tree looking for something that will sustain life and perform tricks for a spiritual covering. Judgment has come to the garden of God. Trees that desire to be a covering for others beware for you are about to be stripped bare. Autumn is upon us and the winds of winter are howling in the distance. A “blue norther” is pressing down from the Polar Regions. The covering for all men will be the Lord or there will be no covering. If one does not release the saints and teach freedom from man and freedom in God then that one will be incarcerated in a spiritual solitary confinement. The “sap” will

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not rise in the spring. The only good for that wood will be a burning. Trees that want to be a cover acknowledge your ways:

Jer 3:13

13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Ezek 6:13

13 Then shall ye know that I am the LORD, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.

Dan 4:13-14

13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

The Redwoods in the spiritual world are about to fall. They have exalted themselves in God's forest far above all other trees. For too long they have leaned upon each other in a circle of support of their same kind. There is going to be a shaking for these trees are standing too close to a fault line and their anchor does not rest in God but each other. Their roots have not been deep enough in the right source even though many other trees have looked up to them. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. There is a wind and a fire coming that they will not be able to withstand even though heretofore they have stood. These Redwoods of our country are somewhat like the Assyrian cedar in Lebanon that Ezekiel addressed:

Ezek 31:3-16

3 Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.

4 The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

5 Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

6 All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

7 Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters.

8 The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty.

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9 I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.

10 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;

11 I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

12 And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him.

13 Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches:

14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.

16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

We realize that this scripture and others quoted not only pertains to the sinner but to anyone who would exalt himself above God in the eyes of the trees of the forest and sits in the seat of God for their “underlings”. God is speaking to others in this hour about this subject. Following are a few excerpts of a paper written by Steven Lambert, ThD. entitled “The Myth of Spiritual Covering”:

The premise of absolute submission is predicated on the hypothesis that the spiritual leaders are in effect (though most Discipleship teaching adherents would emphatically deny the attribution) “spiritual mediators” between God and their followers, who assume the role of hearing from God on the behalf of their followers. According to the premise, the followers are spiritually deficient and inferior to the leaders, and thus basically incapable of seeking and hearing from God for themselves and cultivating ongoing communion and fellowship with God, so they need a “mediator,” someone who supposedly has more elite status with God, to be a priestly “go-between” between them and God. The hypothesis is that the leaders are much more spiritual than the people, and therefore more capable of receiving from God what is best for their followers.

The point is that the true High Priest (Christ) has now entered into the true Holy of Holies into the actual presence of God as the ultimate and only effectual Mediator on our behalf. (Heb. 9:23-24). He lives evermore in the presence of God as our Intercessor

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(Heb.7:25), having appeased His righteous wrath, having taken upon Himself the punishment due us, and having canceled out our debt of transgressions which separated and dis-fellowshipped us from God. Hence, since Christ Jesus has accomplished the ultimate on our behalf before God, and perpetually lives in the presence of God as our spiritual High Priest and Intercessor, and since He has made peace between ourselves and God forevermore (Rom. 5:1), we hardly need human mediators between us and God.

To suggest that any human could do this for us as a mediator between us and God is not only preposterous and absurd, but also an affront to Jesus Himself. It is blasphemy! Those who pose and interpose themselves as mediator between believers and God are fortunate that God has not struck them down dead! Indeed, I believe this very thing will happen in the days ahead. God is now issuing fair warning!

The root-cause of the Discipleship heresy is the “spirit of error” (1 John 4:6), which is a spirit of perversion, and the “spirit of error,” unchecked, will eventually lead to multiplicity of perversions in virtually every facet of the person’s life in which this demon and its cohorts are manifest. In the process every aspect and attitude indigenous to their natural life: their morality, marriage, ministry, message, methods, motives and monetary matters. (end of quote)

Possibly in my ignorance I fail to see every aspect that Dr. Lambert makes but his points are well taken. God is bringing forth a message in this hour, thus we should heed that which He is saying. Every facet of the earthly ministry of Jesus has meaning for us today. A great example and one that ties into this article is the healing of a blind man:

Mark 8:23-25

23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

With just a little light the former blind man saw men as trees that were walking. We once were blind in sin and when we received a little light of the gospel we saw men as trees that were walking, possibly even as trees that gave us shade and covering from the hot sun as the blind man probably had. When Jesus touched him again and his eyesight was completely restored he saw every man clearly. In this hour Jesus is touching the eyes of the partially blind (or the partially sighted) and we will see each man clearly. We see those that bear the fruit of God and we see those that attempt to produce their own fruit. By their fruit you shall know them. Recall the olive, the fig and the vine of Judges 9. They were not going to leave their fruit bearing ordained by God in order to be a covering for other trees. We should be teaching others that they have the freedom that Jesus purchased for each of us. The five-fold ministry is to bring the saints to maturity (perfection) and not to bring them to a growth level slightly below where the ministry stands in the grove. Get out of the grove and into the groove. Call every man under the vine and under the fig tree and let them no longer reside under the thorn and the thistle:

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Zech 3:10

10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

Joel 2:22

22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

Mic 4:4-5

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

As it was in the days of Solomon so will it be in that day when everyone dwells under His vine and fig tree. There will be perpetual peace. Unlike our walk through the woods that we have just completed, everyone will walk only in the name of our Lord forever and ever. We will not walk under the banner of denomination (division) or any other tree that has been exalted above the other trees. We will walk and yet be rooted and grounded in His Spirit (the vine), His fruit (the fig) and His anointing (the olive). In this day God is doing a quick work in the Spirit for I not only hear an ax at work, I hear a spiritual chain saw:

Zech 11:2

2 Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.

Matt 7:17-20

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Jude 11-12

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

As we see by the Jude scripture above, there are those who can start in “The Way” and then they get in the way. It appears as if they once had fruit but it is now withered. There will be a time when we will have forgotten the trail of tears on our march under the trees

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which produce only withered or no fruit. That time is not far off. This bitter trail is almost at an end. As we conclude this walk through the woods, it is pointed out that this trail was not “blazed” in order to point accusing fingers at those trees that have sprung up like the green bay tree. We all have either wanted to be that tree or to rest under it for a period so we could learn of its ways. We simply need to cease from producing and reproducing fruit of thorns and thistles and start bearing the fruit of the Lord. Don’t stop to die under that tree Elijah. Our minds will never be transformed (translated) under that shadow. We have finally come to the end of “OUR” trail here by the river. This IS the place!

Isa 25:7

7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

Isa 30:1

30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isa 55:12-13

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

END