

Deuteronomy 20:19-20

19 When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, **thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them:** for thou mayest eat of them, **and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life)** to employ them in the siege:

20 Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued.

Note: So, the principle laid down is this. A tree represents a man's life. If a tree bears fruit (meat,) it will not be destroyed or cut down by an axe, for it is used to employ or used in the siege during battle. A man who is fruitful, God will NOT destroy that man, for he is used in the seige during battle against the enemy, satan.

Job 14:7-15

7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.

8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;

9 Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Note: Job says, even though a tree is dead, we are dead in our trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1, the Holy Bible says all have sinned, Romans 3:23. Likewise, we were dead in our sins: Colossians 2:13-15, yet at the very scent of water (Water represents the Word of God, written by the Holy Spirit, that quickens or makes us alive in Christ Ephesians 5:26, is the seed that is planted in us which is new birth, the new birth is of that which is truth - or uncorruptible seed made so by the Word of God,) this uncorruptible seed liveth and abideth forever 1 Peter 1:23 and 1 John 3:9, we who have been quickened or made alive by the Holy Spirit spring forth and bear fruit).

The Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth said that unless a corn of wheat (the seed) be planted or sowed, it remains alone on the surface of the ground dead (in all actuality), but if sowed or planted (by the Sower, God the Father), it will bring forth much fruit, John 12:23-25. Furthermore, when one receives the Holy Spirit (not by man's own will, but like a bullet in which a man "receives" a deadly wound – that is having something done to him, but here the man receives Eternal Life, by God planting His seed, the Holy Spirit in man) and it takes root -- it takes root by us understanding now and desiring the Word of God where before it made no sense; then in those that are quickened or made alive by the Holy Spirit, as they understand the Word of God and it takes root, the believer then bears much fruit. The Truth when Preached and understood, or when the Word is read and understood, causes the True Worshiper, the true believer to produce much fruit Matthew 13:23. Another passive RECEIVED example, Matthew 19:11, something done to them.

Verse 14 above, Job, knew before the Old Testament Law was even given -- as Job is considered one of the oldest Book of the Old Testament, that at the appointed time, he would be changed as in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, and the

Lord would Call him as one of the Elect Matthew 24:31, and Call upon Job whom God had made and ordained unto good works Ephesians 2:10.

Verse 15 above, Job says, the Lord (Jesus) Christ will Call, and he would answer: see Psalm 95:6-11, John 10:1-16, John 10:23-33, as Job was one of God's Elect, he would hear the Master's voice, the Lord Jesus Christ, and would answer His Call.

John 10:1-4

1Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

John 10:27-28

27My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Psalm 1:1-6

1Blessed 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.

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

3And 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.

4The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Note: The ungodly shall not stand in the judgment (not stand in judgment for reward as will a Born Again Christian) for there are two judgments. The first judgment, for the righteous man saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is for reward, and not condemnation. The second judgment is against the non-believer. Therefore, a man who is planted as a tree, that is a man is represented in Scripture as a tree, shall bring forth fruit in his season, he shall not wither nor fade, and whatever he does walking in the path of righteousness following God, while being led by the Holy Spirit, he will (ultimately if he is faithful) prosper.

A Prophecy of the Messiah to come . . . Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

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.**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

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

6For 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.

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

8For 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.

9The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Note: The Prophet Jeremiah says that the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord is blessed, for he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and spreads out his roots by the river. He shall not wither, but his leaf shall be green, and need not worry in the year of time of drought, as he will continually bear fruit.

Psalm 92:12

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

Matthew 7:13-23

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

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

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

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

20Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Note: The tree spoken of in these verses her in Matthew 7 directly above are men (women,) and what they believe is NOT necessarily what they say. Judas Iscariot went about with the other Apostles professing the same things as the Apostles. **What “fruit” did he produce?** Judas Iscariot was literally controlled by satan, and he himself became a devil, a demon controlled individual, Luke 22:3; John 6:70-71, was a thief and stole from the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth and the other Apostles, John 12:4-6; Judas Iscariot said one thing, but produced evil “fruit” in that what HE DID (not what he said that was agreeable to the Apostles) was to have the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth Crucified. Therefore, it was NOT even what he said (for that deceived all by the Lord Jesus Christ,) **but what he (like a tree) produced for the Kingdom of God (his “fruit”)** was evil, the SAME wickedness of satan, of Lucifer, the devil, that old serpent. He then, Judas Iscariot, **symbolized as a tree in Holy Scripture, as a tree is a man's life, Deuteronomy 20:19-20, produced evil, wicked fruit for the Kingdom of God.**

Matthew 12:33-35

33Either make **the tree** good, and his fruit good; or else make **the tree** corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Note: “Either **make the tree** good, . . . or else **make the tree** corrupt: . . .” The word **make** in the Greek can mean many things, but consistent with Holy Scripture, the Holy Bible, it means: **To do to one; in the same manner. Do to one (make the tree good,); in the same manner (make the tree corrupt – bad). Who does that? God, the “potter”, Romans 9:21.**

34O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Note: “A good man . . .” **symbolized as a tree** in Holy Scripture, the Holy Bible, “. . . out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:” “. . . and an evil man” **symbolized as a tree** in Holy Scripture, the Holy Bible, out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

Luke 21:29-33

29And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

32Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

33Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Note: Now learn a parable of the fig tree,.... Take a similitude, or comparison, a likeness from the fig tree, which was a tree well known in Judea; and the putting forth of its branches, leaves, and fruit, fell under the observation of everyone: when its branch is yet tender; through the influence of the sun, and the motion of the sap, which was bound up, and congealed in the winter season: and putteth forth leaves; from the tender branches, which swell, and open, and put forth buds, leaves, **and fruit:**

ye know the summer is nigh; spring being already come: **the fig tree putting forth her green figs, the fruit of the fig tree, is a sign that the winter is past, the spring has already come, and summer is at hand.** Summer is now upon us, that was true while the Lord Jesus Christ was here walking with His Disciples. After Summer is Fall. Fall is the time of harvest. *Fall harvest time is when the reaper comes and separates the chaff from the wheat.*

John the Baptist speaking said:

Matthew 3:10-12

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.**

11I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy

Ghost, and with fire:

12Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, **and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

Luke 3:16-17

16John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, **and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.**

Mark 8:22-25

22And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

23And 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.

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

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

Note: The Apostle Peter was able to see the Chosen of God, His Elect, see them clearly, as they now also saw clearly being brought out of darkness (where they could not see) into a marvellous light (the light of the world (His family) the Jesus Christ):

1 Peter 2:9-10

9But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his **marvellous** light;

Note: The word **marvellous** in the Greek means: **Marvelous, wonderful (To be wondered at, wonderful, marvelous.)** describing an awe-evoking sight (dramatic sense of *wonder*), moving the beholder to their deepest emotions.

Marvellous=Wonderful.

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: **and his name shall be called Wonderful**, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Note: The composer George Frideric Handel, FULLY moved by God, FULLY understanding this fact that Marvellous in 1 Peter 2:9 meant **Wonderful**, composed his ***Messiah*** which is an English-language **oratorio** composed in 1741, with a scriptural text compiled by **Charles Jennens** from the **King James Bible**, and from the **Coverdale Psalter**, the version of the ***Psalms*** included with the ***Book of Common Prayer***.

Handel wrote:

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

and His name shall be called **Wonderful**, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Returning then to 1 Peter 2:9-10 . . . verse 10:

10Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 John 2:27

27But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

(This anointing, as it were to our eyes, allow us to now see the Spiritual things we could not see before, for we were blinded. (Yes, Amazing Grace . . . Once I was blind, and now I see.)

Revelation 3:14-19

14And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

John 9:10-41

10Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

11He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

12Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

13They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

14And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

15Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

16Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

17They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

18But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

19And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

20His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

21But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

22These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

23Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

24Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

25He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

26Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

27He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

28Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

29We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

30The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

31Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

32Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

34They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? **And they cast him out.**

35Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

39And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

40And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

41Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Luke 13:6-9

6He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

7Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years **I come seeking fruit on this fig tree**, and find none: **cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?**

8And he answering said unto him, **Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:**

9And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Note: God the Father is one who owns the vineyard. God comes and finds no fruit on the fig tree planted in the vineyard. He orders the dresser (the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth) to cut down the fig tree to the ground. The Lord Jesus Christ is ever pleading for the Elect (Those Chosen of God,) as the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the Mediator between man and God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ says to God the Father: Lord (Christ's Head, His Father), let it alone this year also . . . **one more year.** I shall dig about it and fertilize it, **and if it bear fruit then all is well.** If not, if it will not bear fruit this time next year, **thou** (God the Father) shalt cut it down.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

5For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Matthew 21:18-22

18Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

19And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Note: This was the curse of the Son of God upon the false system of religion then, based on God's Word in the Old Testament MIXED with false Babylonian, Philistines (Dagon,) and Egyptian teachings. This false system of religion was being taught by the Scribes and the Pharisees – the Lord Jesus Christ cursed it! Cursed the Jews Priesthood that was to be Holy to the Lord, but taught the people to follow that of Baal. The Lord Jesus Christ cursed the Jews Temple, built by King Herod a Gentile who laid claim to being King of the Jews, and it was destroyed.

Israel in fact possessed all the outward forms of religion, and were zealous for God's Law, but they bore no fruit unto God, nor here as represented by the Fig tree, no fruit unto the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. So far as placed under responsibility to bring forth fruit, that is to say, under the Old Covenant, the Old Testament Law, the Jews Priesthood did not and now will never do so. The Jews rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the Messiah, the Christ, put an end to all hope for the Jewish Priesthood. **Therefore, it was cursed by the Lord Jesus Christ, and it was destroyed as was their Temple.**

20And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, **How soon is the fig tree withered away!**

21Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

22And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Mark 11:19-26

19And when even was come, he went out of the city.

20And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

22And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

John 1:43-51

43The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, **and saith unto him, Follow me.**

44Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

47Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Note: The Lord Jesus Christ witnessed what had happened when Nathanael was under the fig-tree. Nathanael was reading Holy Scripture, and may have been in fervent prayer, seeking direction as to the Hope and Consolation of Israel, where no human eye observed him. This showed him that our Lord Jesus Christ knew the secrets of his heart. And Nathanael said unto him, . . . Taking notice of, and laying hold on what Philip said, that the Lord Jesus Christ was of Nazareth, which at once stumbled, and prejudiced him against the Lord Jesus Christ being the Messiah; knowing very well that Bethlehem was to be the place of the Messiah's birth not Nazareth: also, Nazareth was a mean military outpost, with all the entrapments set about military camps, therefore the saying was, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth"? The whole country of Galilee was in fact held in contempt by the Jews; but Nazareth was so mean a place, that it seems it was even despised by its neighbors, by the Galilaeans themselves; for Nathanael was a Galilean, that said these words. It was so miserable a place that he could hardly think that any sort of good thing, even any worldly good thing, could come from thence; and it was so wicked, as appears from their murderous designs upon our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that Nathanael thought no good man could arise from hence; and still less, any Prophet of God, any person of great note . . .

Notwithstanding his prejudices, Nathanael was a man of so much uprightness and honesty, that he thought Philip's request was very reasonable; and that it was but right, and fair, that he should see, and hear, and judge, for himself, whether the person Philip

spoke of was the Messiah, or not; and therefore he came along with him; and as he was coming, the Lord Jesus Christ saw him, and the Lord who knew all that had passed between him and Philip even though they had been some distance apart: and saith of him; to those that were standing by him, and in the hearing of Nathanael, behold an Israelite indeed! a son of Israel, a true son of Jacob's; an honest, plain hearted man, one that was an Israelite at heart; inwardly so; not one after the flesh only, but after the Spirit; which was a rare thing at that time; and therefore a note of admiration by our Lord Jesus Christ is prefixed to it; for all were not Israel, that were of Israel; and indeed but a very few then in whom there is no guile; not that Nathanael was without sin; nor is this said of him; nor was he in such sense without guile, as the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth Himself was; but guile was not a governing sin in him: the course of his life, and conversation, was with great integrity, and uprightness, and without any prevailing hypocrisy and deceit, either toward God or men. This the Lord Jesus Christ said to show how much such a character is approved by Him; and that He knew the secrets of men's hearts, and the inward frames of their minds.

Verse 48, Nathanael saith unto him, whence knowest thou me? . . . This he said as one surprised, that he, who was a stranger to him, should hit upon his general character, and describe the internal state and frame of his very soul: this was more surprising to him, than if he had called him by his name Nathanael, as He did Simon; or had said what was the place, of his abode; Cana of Galilee; since this ordinarily was only to be observed, and learned, from a long and familiar acquaintance and conversation: by Nathanael's reply, it looks as if he had no doubt, or fears, about the character the Lord Jesus Christ gave him; but rather, that he believed it, as every good man must be conscious to himself of his own integrity; only it was amazing to him, how He should know it: **The Lord Jesus Christ answered and said unto him; in order to satisfy him, how He could know this inward temper of his mind, and to give him some undeniable proofs of His omniscience, that is that the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the Messiah, the Lord God who dwelt among men, the anointed King, the very Son of God that the Jews had been waiting for such a long time, which Nathanael himself must acknowledge, that only one who is an all seeing eye could discover such things in such a short period of time.**

Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee; in which words the Lord Jesus Christ gives two instances of His omniscience; the one is, that He

knew Philip had called him; he was privy to all that passed between them, though they were alone, and the conversation was had in the most private manner and at a distance. Christ Jesus knew what an account Philip had given of Him being from Nazareth, and what objection Nathanael had made; and what an invitation Philip had given him to go along with him to see for himself the Christ, the Messiah, God's only Son, and to judge for himself; which is here meant by Philip calling him, and with which he complied: and the other is, **that He saw him under the fig tree** before that: he was sitting under it, as men in those countries used to do, where Nathanael was reading the Holy Scriptures, and meditating upon them; and though it is not specifically stated, it appears by the comments of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth that Nathanael was thinking upon Jacob's dream, concerning the ladder which reached from earth to heaven, and on which he saw the angels of God ascending and descending, Genesis 28:10-22, thus the Lord Jesus Christ showed Nathanael He knew his very thoughts which words of the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 51 must strike him with fresh surprise, and give him another convincing proof of his omniscience – that is power that only God can have (**1 : having infinite awareness, understanding, and perfect insight. 2 : possessed of universal or complete knowledge**). Nathanael meditating or praying concerning what he had read, and was praying here in secret (although in public), and so acted a different part from the generality, of religious men of that nation, who chose to pray in synagogues, and on street corners, making a great show that they might be seen; and likewise proved him to be what the Lord Jesus Christ had said of him, a true and rare Israelite, without guile and hypocrisy, which were so visible and prevailing among others.

Micah 4:4

1But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4But 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.

5For 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.

6In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

7And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Revelation 7:1-3

¹And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, **nor on the sea, nor on any tree.**

Note: Deuteronomy 20:19, “ . . . (for the tree of the field is man's life) . . . ”

²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Note: The sea is the unorganized masses (consisting of both believers and non-believers together. A sea is constantly in turmoil, being turned over and washing in and out, up and down). Trees are men.

Matthew 13:47-48

47Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, **that was cast into the sea**, and gathered of every kind:

48Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, **but cast the bad away**.

Revelation 11:1-5

1And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

3**And I will give power unto my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4**These are the two olive trees**, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

⁵And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

Note: Men as trees are called to bear fruit. God demands fruit, or we will be destroyed along with the ungodly. The Lord Jesus Christ is every pleading for the Elect (Chosen of God) so that they will be saved. We know, however, all the God has given to the Son, the Son loses none. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ pleads "... just another year Lord." Fall harvest time is when the reaper comes and separates the chaff from the wheat. We are now in the fall harvest time.

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Paul (<:) Jesus first!
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