



And the desert
will BLOOM



A father tends and
keeps his garden



Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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Journey through the Negev ...



Amanda and I try to plan a visit to Israel whenever we can. As a result, we have been there a number of times. Yet, each visit causes us to wonder at the Greatness of GOD, as new revelations and sights are revealed to us each time. It seems now that we have walked up and down the streets of Jerusalem so many times, that we know the very stones at each part of the Kotel [the Wall].

The amazing part of each visit is that we do not know what we will see and learn, but our experience is such that we know that we will be blessed.

We landed at Ben Gurion late one day, towards the end of May 2011.

We hired a car and left for the Sea of Galilee. This time round, we decided to stay on a kibbutz.

After a few days in these very green surroundings, **we left for the Negev.** We went to stay at Risper Ramon, in the very heart of the desert.

The Torah (Bible) says that the children of Israel wandered in the desert, in the Wilderness of Tzin, for forty years. For the next few days we travelled across this Land, **this place which is still a wilderness, but which someday soon will blossom completely.**

It is not easy to describe what we saw ...





The terrain changes from steep mountain passes, to barren dry valleys ... from stretches of hard rock, to the river bed of a wadi.

This book takes a look at **GOD's Promise of RESTORATION**. Firstly, of His People, and then of His People as they restore the Land. Spending time in the Negev causes you to focus on what GOD intends to do:

- **Firstly**, the barrenness of the desert can easily take man's heart to a place of despair ... however, GOD shows us that we must see the potential in every situation.
- **Secondly**, the heat of the day, and the intense cold at night, can easily cause man's physical body to feel real pain.

GOD showed us that the Cloud by day, and the Fire by night were not ornaments or a compass, but evidence of His Grace and Provision.



We went to look for evidence, to find signs that the prophecy of the restoration of the Negev was already under way ... we found it! In amongst all of the barrenness, an oasis of green, kilometres of vineyards and olive orchards in the heart of this wilderness!

The desert is blooming!



The desert will
bloom again ...

The prophetic promise is that a day will come when the desert and the wasteland will rejoice and be glad. On that day we will see the desert flower like a rose – abundantly.



More importantly, we will see the **desert full of streams and springs** ... a place of life, rest, and peace. **When will this occur? When His People return to the Negev** ... when men return to their calling to be fathers.

*Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-7 "THE WILDERNESS and the dry land shall be glad; **the desert shall rejoice and blossom** like the rose and the autumn crocus. 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellency of [Mount] Carmel and [the plain] of Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty and splendor and excellency of our God. 6 Then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing for joy. **For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.** 7 And the burning sand and the mirage shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lay resting, shall be grass with reeds and rushes."*

What happens when men return to their calling?

GOD's promise is that HE will build a Highway of Holiness. The redeemed shall walk on this road and the ransomed will return to God.

The Bible tells us that we should walk on the Ancient Paths. Any father will want to see his children walking on this Highway. Even more so, when we understand the benefits that are associated with obedience to the Covenant. So, what are we to do? **We need to be fathers who turn the desert into a garden** (the Hebrew word for garden is *gan*).





We are introduced to GOD's Plan for mankind very early in the Bible. GOD describes the creation of this place called earth, within the bounds of a system of planets and stars that are all designed to reflect GOD's Heart for man. As soon as mankind has been created, we are told of the **Garden of Eden** ... this special place where **man was to dwell forever**, and where **GOD would come to meet with him** every day.

We also see that **man's role was to have dominion**, and his purpose was to tend and keep the garden. This role and purpose are prophetically infused into man.

One of the most critical facts that we need to learn is that **GOD blesses mankind to do this work** ... HE empowers him for the job. Man was designed to be successful at his calling.

Not only did man have this calling, but we also see that GOD had a unique plan, right from the very beginning, to show us HIS Order. HE does this by starting off the Bible with a picture of perfection.

בראשית

The very first word of the Bible is "**B're'sheet**". Hidden in this word we find **three of the most powerful symbols** ... a **house/home**, a **family** where GOD is the Father/Head of the household, and a set-aside **piece of land**, HIS Field.

Importantly, GOD declares that everything is good or very good. We therefore realize that the full potential of GOD's Purpose and Destiny for mankind was wrapped up in the "seed" that formed the essence of man.

*Genesis 1:12 "12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding **seed** according to their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which was their **seed**, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it."*

This verse tells us three things:

- Every **seed** has the potential to grow and produce fruit.
- Every fruit will contain a **seed** that will reproduce after it's own kind.
- Every **seed** has the potential to multiply exponentially.

*Luke 8:11 “11 Now the meaning of the parable is this: The **seed** is the Word of God.”*

Luke tells us that the “Seed” is the Word of GOD. We therefore have the potential of a powerful harvest of God’s Attributes contained inside of the Seed deposited in us. These three elements, together form GOD’s Idea of Perfection.

Unfortunately, **man allows satan to slide into this precious and holy place** ... and to come in between GOD and man. Y’shua [Jesus] teaches us this by way of parables:

*Matthew 13:38-40 “38 The field is the world, and the **good seed** means the children of the kingdom; the darnel is the children of the evil one, 39 **And the enemy who sowed it is the devil.** The harvest is the close and consummation of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the darnel (weeds resembling wheat) is gathered and burned with fire, so it will be at the close of the age.”*



Here we are taught that the enemy comes to sow foreign seeds in our field. Y’shua [Jesus] calls these seeds “tares” – seeds that produce a plant that very closely **reassembles the real product**, but which does not have a fruit that is usable or good to eat. Later on, we will come to see that this picture of a seed and it’s fruit in the physical will be compared directly with our lives. We will see that the fruit of our lives will reveal to others exactly what seed we are cultivating ... that of GOD, or that of the kingdom of darkness.

Man loses the right to be in the Gan of Eden ...

But this is not the end ... in fact, GOD’s only starting. The story of the “way back” into the Holy Place, past the cherubim with his flaming sword, is framed for us in many different stories and examples throughout the Scriptures – with the purpose of having fathers understand what their role on earth is: to role-model the original prophetic calling of Adam, namely to take dominion and to tend/keep the garden.

This study looks at where and how we, as fathers, should garden ...



The prophetic
picture of the
Neger ...

When man was exiled out of the Garden of Eden, he set in place a cycle which would repeat each and every time when man's seed – that is, our physical descendants would stray from GOD's defined path for our lives.



When man chooses his own way, and continues with his own choice, then over time, GOD introduces trials and tribulations ... when we choose to ignore these as well, we find another time of exile.

In the time of the fathers of the nation of Israel, we experience exile in a physical sense, being carted away to a foreign land, to work as slaves.

Later on, the exile was repeated over and over again, and became the times recorded in history when GOD's people were driven out of one country (Spain is a good example) after another, and had to move to a new land, to start over from scratch.

In today's terms, exile is defined as any place where we find ourselves removed from the Presence of GOD, due to the choices that we have made. ***The Book of Obadiah tells us of such a time as this:***

*Obadiah 1:11 "11 On the day that you stood aloof [from your brother Jacob]—on the day that **strangers took captive his forces and carried off his wealth**, and foreigners entered into his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem—you were even as one of them."*

The strangers/foreigners who took control of Jerusalem and drove the Israelites out can be compared to the forces from the kingdom of darkness – in whatever form this may take, a government with un-Biblical laws, a personal pursuit of idols, a religion that mixes paganism with Godly principles, and so forth. The verse tells us that our "gates" have been breached.

What does this mean?

When we look at the meaning of the Hebrew words we see something very powerful! The stranger [in the spiritual realm] is not a person, not someone else, BUT it is the choice I make when I walk away from GOD's Path!

The Hebrew word for "**stranger**" is Z-(u)-R [Strong's Hebrew 2114], meaning:

- ***To turn aside.***
- ***To commit adultery.***
- ***To profane.***
- ***To go away.***

When we go away from GOD's Path, we become slaves and are driven outside of the camp.

The Hebrew word for “**foreigner**” is “**nokri**” [Strong’s Hebrew 5237], meaning:

- **Strange.**
- **Different.**
- **A non-relative.**

When we **turn away from GOD’s Paths, we become non-relatives**, or in today’s terms, orphans.

THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

We have a prophetic word that continues to be heard through all of the generations ... GOD speaks and says, there will be a deliverance, the house of Jacob (into which we have been grafted when we accepted Y’shua [Jesus] as Messiah) **WILL possess the land**. This Hebrew word “possess” gives us an explicit idea of what we have to do ...

The Hebrew word for “**possess**” is “**ya’rash**” [Strong’s Hebrew 3423/853], meaning:

- **To occupy.**
- **To drive out the tenants (note not owners).**
- **To inherit.**
- **To succeed utterly.**

So a clearer understanding of possessing is ... **we have to drive the illegal immigrants out who have come to “rent” our land. We also have to remove illegal squatters¹ in the spiritual realm**. In other words, this also applies to the space that we have “given away” in the spiritual domain, where we have lost control over our soul/spirit. Any place in your soul/spirit that has a stronghold or bondage over it, needs to be cleared of these illegal occupants.

We seem to be able to keep these two concepts of the physical and the spiritual in two very separate boxes, a worldly box and a spiritual box. We experience problems as soon as there is tension between these two concepts.

So, back to the Negev ... as individuals we struggle to see the Negev as a place of value ... why would this be so? It has to do with man’s perception of value, and what we have put into each “box” as a part of this mindset. Most of us have lived in a land of reasonable plenty, whether it’s the fairest Cape or the plains of the Free State, generally we see and describe something of value in terms of: plenty, beauty, prosperity, and harvests.



¹ For additional study, see our *Journey2Freedom* series.

If, and when we go to the **Negev, we see desert ... we see the rocks, sand, the sun ...** the harshness of the land. We wonder how anything can survive out there. When we see the camels walking over the sand-dunes, we say to ourselves, it's only a special sort of animal that can survive here.

If GOD were to suggest that we should come and return to this part of the land, in our worldview/perspective, **we would think:**

- ***That GOD does not care.***
- ***That we are going to struggle.***
- ***That this cannot be a blessing.***
- ***And most definitely, this cannot be my destiny.***

This type of thinking forms the Greco-Roman world box.

GOD tells us that we are a dispossessed people, that we are not in our place of purpose ... that we are slaves even though we consider ourselves as kings. Our physical welfare and possessions keep us from focusing on the spiritual reality ... we are not fully in the land of intimacy/promise yet. When we realise our spiritual short-comings, **we will now look at the Negev and see with new eyes ... we will see a land that:**

- ***Shall be glad for us.***
- ***A desert that will rejoice (spin around in a new direction) and blossom.***
- ***Will blossom abundantly.***
- ***Will burst forth with singing of the Glory of GOD.***

*We need to see the Negev as our Father sees it
... a gift of purpose and destiny!*



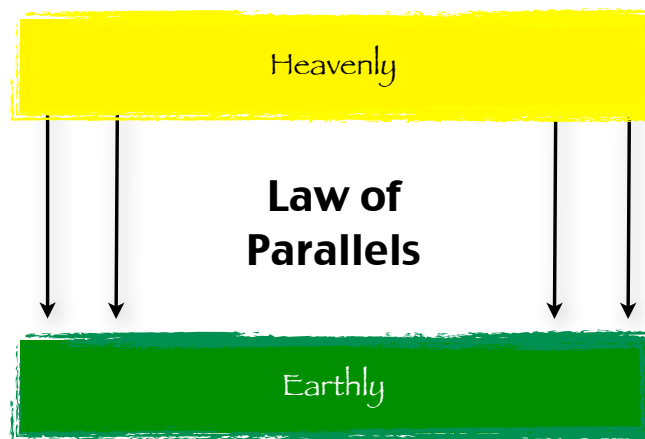
Only then will we be able to focus on the calling to return to the Garden, and we will taste the physical and spiritual goodness of GOD out of that which seems barren.

Deuteronomy 32:13 "13 He made Israel ride on the high places of the earth, and he ate the increase of the field; and He made him suck honey out of the rock and oil out of the flinty rock,"

The principle of parallels ...

Peter tells us that Paul's words are not easy to understand ... but, we see that he sets out principles that are applicable in the heavenly/spiritual realm. One of the most important of these, is found in:

*1 Corinthians 15:44-49 "44 It is sown a natural (physical) body; it is raised a supernatural (a spiritual) body. [As surely as] there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality); the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life]. 46 **But it is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual.** 47 The first man [was] from out of earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man [is] the Lord from out of heaven. 48 Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from heaven, so also [are those] who are of heaven (heavenly-minded). 49 And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image [of the Man] of heaven."*



Paul tells us that GOD has set everything that we need to understand, grow, and survive in the natural/physical realm – it is through nature and the seasons, as well as the Tabernacle, that we find the Pathway back to GOD. Paul focuses on the Tabernacle as a specific example ... man looks at the form of the physical “thing”. GOD on the other hand, looks at its function, its purpose, and the role it will play in the overall plan.

What we see ...	Symbolized in the Tabernacle ...	How GOD sees ...
“Things”.	The Menorah and the Table of Shewbread.	Revelation.
Shape, size, form ...	The poles and coverings.	Intimacy.
Rituals.	The sacrifices.	Drawing near.



Paul tells us, we must understand/ comprehend the spiritual meaning of the physical tabernacle because the real Tabernacle in the heavens is waiting for our arrival. If you do not understand the implications/protocols of the physical Tabernacle, here and now ... when we get there, will you know what to do?

Do we know the protocol to approach the KING?

As we therefore begin to apply the spiritual revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit, as we walk in obedience to GOD's Commandments, and do HIS Will ... we begin to change the physical man to the heavenly man.



Importantly, whatever we do in the natural/physical will manifest in the spiritual.

Conversely, whatever we fail to do will be recorded against us, closing doors to blessings ... and whatever we do in the realm of the kingdom of darkness will also reflect as a judgement of our choice to walk in rebellion. We have already alluded to the operation of the principle of parallel in the previous chapters, we will use this principle even more going forward.





*Fathers are called to
tend and keep their
garden ...*

The role-model for fatherhood is GOD, the One we call Abba. The Book of Isaiah provides the detailed description of how we are to go about this calling.

1. GOD has the VISION.



HE sees beyond the barrenness of the land. He sees the end-goal and the potential. In the beginning, HE saw beyond the chaos to see what the earth could look like. As soon as HE spoke², the power of creation was released and a world was created that GOD described as “good”

came forth. Fathers are called to use the same creative ability, placed inside of man in the beginning and **not which has not been annulled** by the fall of man, to bring forth children that reflect the attributes of the **seed of GOD**.

We know that the Negev is a desert ... we can see this with the naked eye – the barrenness and the harshness of the desert is plainly evident. But GOD sees:

*Isaiah 5:1 “LET ME [as God’s representative] sing of and for my greatly Beloved [God, the Son] a tender song of my Beloved concerning **His vineyard** [His chosen people]. **My greatly Beloved had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.**”*

GOD sees a place of joy where HE can sing a song to HIS Beloved, where HE will provide everything that we need out of HIS Vineyard. HE goes on to say that HE has given us a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.

Man tends to think in terms of the physical: **“I want to provide for my needs”**. As soon as I am satisfied, I want to accumulate resources so that I have enough in times of hardship ... as soon as I feel secure, then I accumulate in order to satisfy my ego. So we see the fruits as a product of our labour – we see any achievement as a consequence of self-effort and ingenuity, we define ourselves by what we have been able to do ... MY title, MY career, MY ministry, MY, MY, MY!

GOD looks into the spiritual realm. HE looks at man as a vineyard on a fertile hill, HE sees the potential harvests that are yet to come ... HE is looking for spiritual fruit.

Fathers, do you have a vision for your family?

Do you have some prophetic picture of how they will look, function, and react in the community of GOD? Do you see the potential of your family’s gifts operating at full power?

² For additional study on the impact of sound, see our booklet “*Gateways Of Influence*”.

2. GOD sees a FUTURE.

No one has a vision and works hard without expecting a future. We plant a tree expecting that we will see fruit over a period of time. **GOD has expectation of the trees in HIS Field.**

*Isaiah 5:2, 4 “2 And He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it and planted it with the choicest vine and built a tower in the midst of it and hewed out a winepress in it. **And He looked for it to bring forth grapes**, and it brought forth wild grapes. 4 What more could have been done for My vineyard that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to bring forth grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”*

So HE expected the vineyard to bring forth “good” grapes. While HE talks in the physical of grapes, GOD quickly goes on to discuss the spiritual purpose of man.

*Isaiah 5:7 “7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the **house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant planting** [the plant of His delight]. And He looked for justice, but behold, [He saw] oppression and bloodshed; [He looked] for righteousness (for uprightness and right standing with God), but behold, [He heard] a cry [of oppression and distress]!”*

The vineyard of GOD is defined as the House of Israel and the Tribe of Judah³ – together, these are HIS “pleasant plants”. We are GOD’s Trees. He expects to see good fruit, coming forth in our lives.



Fathers, after they have joined together with their wives to produce children, are empowered to be the “planters” of that seed. As such, we have an expectation that our trees will bring forth good fruit.

*Matthew 7:16-18, 20 “16 **You will fully recognize them by their fruits.** Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. 18 A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration]. 20 Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.”*

³ For additional study, see <http://jewsandjoes.com/> and Eddie Chumney’s teaching on the restoration of the Tribes, <http://www.hebrewroots.org/2housesch1.html#CHAP1>.

Each tree has a calling to grow, produce fruit, to have within them a seed which looks exactly like the source. If fathers carry a Godly seed, and role-model this lifestyle, then the children (trees) will produce Godly fruit. The converse is however also true. If we have laid the wrong foundation, or if we have neglected to teach GOD's Ways, or if we have abused our position, then we can expect to find "other" fruit.

Father, do you expect to see Godly seed/fruit?

What role-model⁴ are you setting? What words of blessing have you sown?

3. GOD is the OWNER of the field.

Without doubt, mankind very quickly in life starts to believe that he is in charge of his own destiny. At the earliest of age, we learn that we need to perform. We understand that those who achieve are considered important and successful ... and those who do not, are regarded as failures and drop-outs. **GOD on the other hand says that HE is the Owner of the field.**

Isaiah 5:1, 7 **"LET ME [as God's representative] sing of and for my greatly Beloved [God, the Son] a tender song of my Beloved concerning His vineyard [His chosen people]. My greatly Beloved had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant planting [the plant of His delight]. And He looked for justice, but behold, [He saw] oppression and bloodshed; [He looked] for righteousness (for uprightness and right standing with God), but behold, [He heard] a cry [of oppression and distress]!"**

From this perspective, we can see that it's not "my" performance at all that matters, but rather the Will of GOD. What's important for us to grasp is that GOD says, "I will plant a good vine". The potential for greatness is inside of everyone.

If we choose to **obey GOD's Commandments, to walk in His Paths of Righteousness, then our potential will be released.** The result of a child's up-bringing will depend on the father's input. The sages say, "The actions of a father determine the footsteps of the son". Somehow mankind battles to believe this, and either blames others for his failures, or else believes that he alone is the author of his own success.

Fathers, are you teaching your children that the fruit that they produce, is a direct result of the ground within which they are planted? That without the turning of the soil, the weeding of the field, working in of the manure and compost, and most importantly, the rains that water the garden ... they will not produce a great harvest.

Fathers, a child who understands their source will remain humble and will give glory to the Owner of the land ...

⁴ For additional study, see our article "*The Noah-Father vs. The Lot-Father*", available for download from the website at <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=181>

Fathers who understand that they have:

- Been taken out of bondage when GOD said “I LOVE YOU”,
- Been given the Water of Life when GOD poured out HIS Son from the Rock in the Wilderness,



... will REMEMBER to keep GOD's Commandments. Those who understand these points are always careful to remember, to not forget what GOD has done for them. They will always remember that the Power is in GOD's Hands ... and will always teach their children that we have to labour in GOD's Land.

Fathers who have this understanding take care to diligently follow the path that GOD has set out for them. This calling, to walk together with my children at all times is therefore the physical equivalent to the planting, tending, and keeping of GOD's Garden.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 “NOW THIS is the instruction, the laws, and the precepts which the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land to which you go to possess it, 2 That you may

*[reverently] fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, and **keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you** all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and **be watchful to do them**, that it may be well with you and that you may increase exceedingly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord]. 5 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might. 6 And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then] 7 You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and **teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.** 8 And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes. 9 And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

4. GOD prepares HIS Garden.

We have all seen **pictures of the barren, rocky hillsides of the desert**. We have some idea of the amount of work that we have to think about when we start to consider how we are going to turn this hillside into a garden. Those of you who have been to Israel will know that we are going **to build terraces all around the hillside** so that we can create this garden.

I have never had to do this sort of thing. Do you start at the bottom of the hill and work your way up, or do we do work from the other way around?

History has revealed that each family was allocated as the owner of one of these terraces. Clearly, the principle was that this piece of land was sufficient to meet all of their needs. Unfortunately, man is often driven by performance, to prove yourself better than others. For some of us there is just never enough – we will always strive for more.

*Isaiah 5:8 “8 Woe to those who **join house to house** [and by violently expelling the poorer occupants enclose large acreage] and **join field to field** until there is no place for others and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land!”*

We see in the recorded history of the Bible the **old story of man striving**. Man tries to add field to field, join house to house, and causes beautiful houses – once filled by people – to now be without inhabitants, empty.

GOD says, “Woe to those who have this goal as their life purpose”. We will be missing the point. In fact, the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that all is vanity unless we labour in GOD’s Kingdom.

*Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 “3 What profit does man have left from all his toil at which he toils under the sun? [Is life worth living?] 4 **One generation goes and another generation comes, but the earth remains forever.**”*

So how does GOD prepare the hillside?

- *God digs up the ground.*

GOD clears the soil of stones. As one starts to clear a piece of land, we need to remove the weeds and foreign trees that have been planted. Some of these trees would have developed a strong set of root system. We will have to cut down and root out that entire root system so that the ground can be able to support another crop/plant. **GOD fetches** compost and manure to enrich the soil. We do everything to create the environment that will allow a plant to grow. Preparing the ground is a profoundly prophetic declaration that you have returned to your calling.



*Amos 9:14 “14 And I will bring back the exiles of My people Israel, and **they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards** and drink the wine from them; they shall also make **gardens** and eat the fruit of them.”*

Often we see this part of the work as heavy and unfruitful. It’s also only the beginning of the season, and the end seems far away. This is a very lonely part of the work. Later on, others will join in when they can see the benefits.

From a father's point of view, this is also the long, hard walk. It's the **time for repetitive lessons**, for regular discussions on what it means to have a set of values, for consistent role-modeling of a lifestyle which reflects GOD's Principles and HIS Love. At this stage we don't always see the end-goal. GOD gives us a word of encouragement. HE tells us that if we do our part, we will overtake those who reap.

Amos 9:13 "13 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the **plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine and all the hills shall melt [that is, everything heretofore barren and unfruitful shall overflow with spiritual blessing]."**

- *God clears out all the stones.*

Stones are part of our daily walk. As we pick up the stones, we clear ground and make the soil more useful. Stones prevent us from being able to put the plough to work. Stones cause the amount of good soil to be limited, and consequently also limit the place where a good seed has the best chance to survive. We are talking about planting trees. When you plant a tree, you need to dig a fairly big hole. If the stones remain, you are going to struggle to make the hole big enough.

Fathers, we are called to remove stones. In the Book of Joshua⁵, these stones are called giants⁶. The enemy-tribes occupying the Promised Land, that moved in to live as tenants on the Land, **can be paralleled to the various forms of occult/pagan worship** that we have allowed to find a foothold in our families. These are all examples of un-Godly spiritual stones that have to be removed.

This process of spiritual warfare, of dealing with the generational curses that are inhibiting our progress, is an ongoing battle. It continues UNTIL the day that the land is cleaned up.

- *God takes the stones and builds a retaining wall.*

Once a stronghold has been destroyed, we replace it with a Godly Principle/Boundary Stone. **Our inheritance is on the slope of a fertile hill.** In order to bring **order out of chaos**, man **must create a place of safety**. Logic will tell you, that as soon as the rains come, we will find ourselves on the end of a stream of water that will flow downwards until it hits the valley floor. In order to protect your land from being washed away, you need to build one wall on the upper part of your piece of ground, and one wall below on the boundary of the land that you share with your neighbour. The wall has at least two purposes, it defines the boundary line, and it forms the framework that will retain the good soil. We use the stones that we dig out to build our wall.

Every stone that we find has a place. We need larger stones to form the bulk of the wall, and to provide the weight and substance that can hold back the ground. We need smaller stones to fill in the gaps, to close off the wall so that no ground will wash away.

⁵ For additional study, see our book on "Possessing The Land: Lessons From Joshua".

⁶ For additional study, see our article "Kundalini And The Nephilim Deception", available for download from the website at <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=175>

There are lesser and weightier Commandments ... we use the "bigger" ones more regularly!

We need to hammer the joining stones into the wall so that it is stable. We need to inspect the wall from time to time, especially after a rainstorm, to make sure that no stones are dislodged. If we find any holes/gaps in the wall, then we need to repair the wall.

Isaiah 5:5 "5 And now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be eaten and burned up; and I will break down its wall, and it shall be trodden down [by enemies]."



We see that the wall can be broken and trampled down. Neglect to inspect, to repair, will result in deterioration over time. A garden that is not weeded regularly will soon be overrun by weeds.

We often neglect those important Commandments, such as to "love your wife", "honour your parents", and so forth. We then find that we no longer have a secure family foundation!

The Book of Nehemiah tells a similar story. The Israelites needed to have the walls of the city rebuilt. Each family had to build their part of the wall. When I take time to repair my part of the wall, and potentially reach out to help repair my neighbour's wall, I am taking care of my garden, but also ensuring that the community is served.

Fathers, are you studying the wall of your garden to see if there are any gaps or openings?

To see if a weakness is forming that could cause the wall to fall over or be washed away in the event of a severe rainstorm? An important principle to remember is that stones can form the boundary of your field. In the physical, we will place large upright pillars as a sign and a symbol of the line that defines the property. In the spiritual domain, we must plant such pillars as well. What could these pillars be? Our actions to keep GOD's Commandments, the Feasts, and the willingness to wash someone else's feet in forgiveness.

5. GOD plants in HIS Garden.

Isaiah 5:2 "2 And He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it and planted it with the choicest vine and built a tower in the midst of it and hewed out a winepress in it. And He looked for it to bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes."

We see that GOD planted the “choicest” vine. The Hebrew word used here speaks of the “redness” of the grape, the richest variety of grape ... a noble root stock. GOD’s people are also planted into HIS Field.

*Amos 9:14 “14 And I will bring back the exiles of My people Israel, and **they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them.**”*

We see that there is a parallel between the good plants and the children of GOD. As we go through this study, we will see that there is a direct correlation between the two. Something is revealed in the harvest that we are to produce. The principle of firstfruit now has a new meaning. As you hold up your harvest, you are literally saying, “See the harvest of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit that I will bring as well”.

Later on we will look at the trees in the garden. At this stage, the most important thing to understand is that the plant is of the highest quality. One of the most important principles in the Torah is set out within the context of the quality/purity of the seed.

GOD tells us not to plant mixed seed in the same field.

We find this commandment set out in two Scriptures:

*Deuteronomy 22:9 “9 **You shall not plant your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole crop be forfeited [under this ban], the seed which you have sown and the yield of the vineyard forfeited to the sanctuary.**”*

*Leviticus 19:19 “19 You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your domestic animals breed with a different kind [of animal]; **you shall not sow your field with mixed seed, neither wear a garment of linen mixed with wool.**”*

Mostly we treat this as some agricultural law. GOD is however asking us to think further. Our minds are a field. **We can choose to plant GOD’s Word as seed in our hearts ... but at the same time, we are bombarded with information from this world system,** by man’s thoughts of a religious system, and by the attraction to the belief systems of a variety of pagan gods. GOD asks you to keep your field pure, to remove any seed which does not resemble His Seed.

THEN, GOD shows us in the battle-plan to invade and conquer Canaan and that we are to take NO prisoners. We are to destroy each and every one that we find in the land. For many people, with our new thinking of human rights, this sounds like unacceptable behaviour. We also hear people say “GOD is love” and therefore would never have meant this.

We fail to appreciate that the Old Testament is a physical manifestation of that which the newborn believer has to achieve in the spiritual domain. GOD was making sure that we understand that we can leave no stone unturned in the quest to renew our minds and transform our lives. We need to destroy each and every thought/action which elevates self, or which comes from the kingdom of darkness. Y’shua [Jesus] teaches us that every tree that has NOT been planted by GOD must be cut down:

Matthew 7:16-18, 20 “16 **You will fully recognize them by their fruits.** Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, **every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration],** but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. 18 A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration]. 20 Therefore, **you will fully know them by their fruits.**”

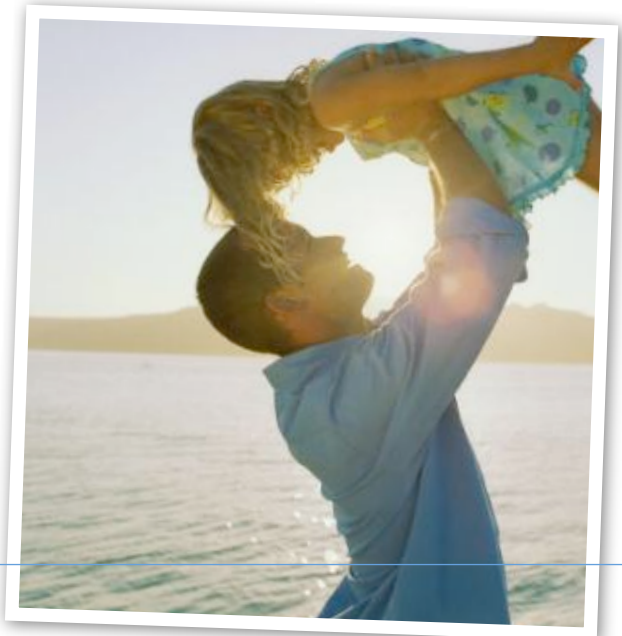
Matthew 15:13 “13 He answered, **Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be torn up by the roots.**”

In Isaiah 5:7, GOD tells us that this “grape/vineyard” is HIS set apart, holy nation, and Royal priesthood group of people, of which we become a part of because we have been adopted into the family of GOD. Amos confirms that GOD plants men into the land.

Amos 9:15 “15 **And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be torn up out of their land which I gave them, says the Lord your God.**”

Fathers who produce children are planting into the land. Fathers, have you made sure that you children have been:

- **Blessed as seed of GOD.**
- **Taken up into GOD's family by accepting their birthright.**
- **Have you spent your every waking moment with a determined plan to reveal GOD's Attributes to your children/family?**
- **Has this been a mission of love, or have you presented GOD's Word as a set of legalistic rules/laws?**



Deuteronomy 6:1-9 “**NOW THIS** is the instruction, the laws, and the precepts which the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land to which you go to possess it, 2 That you may [reverently] fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, and keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and **be watchful to do them,** that it may be well with you and that you may increase exceedingly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord]. 5 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might. 6 And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then] 7 You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them **diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.** 8 And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes. 9 And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Do your children serve GOD with passion? Do they reveal HIM to their community?

6. God tends HIS Garden.

We are introduced to this term for the first time in the Book of Genesis.

*Genesis 2:15 “15 And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **tend and guard and keep it.**”*

It is here that we find the use of the word often translated as *tend* or *dress*. In Hebrew [Strong's 5647], the word is *abad*, meaning: “to work, to serve (servant), to till, worshipper”. Not surprisingly, Y'shua [Jesus] tells us that He came to serve. He demonstrated this being prepared to wash the feet of His disciples. The concept of **tending** therefore means that we are created to serve others. How do we do this? By producing the fruit that shows how much we care for GOD's people.

*Isaiah 5:2 “2 And He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it and **planted it with the choicest vine** and built a tower in the midst of it and hewed out a winepress in it. And He looked for it to bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.”*

GOD tells us that HE built a winepress. HE had an expectation that there would be a harvest of the noblest of the vines. HE expected to produce wine of the highest quality ... HE was ready to serve the very best.

Isn't it amazing when we read the New Testament with this background? Y'shua [Jesus] starts HIS ministry on earth at a wedding feast. When the bridegroom runs out of wine, Y'shua [Jesus] changes the water into wine.

Most certainly this story was not only meant to be a miracle and to indicate GOD's Hand of Blessing on Y'shua [Jesus], BUT also showed that GOD always **gives the very best of the harvest**. More importantly, HE demonstrates to us that HE will change the water of the Wilderness – the Water of the Torah/Word – into the Fruit of HIS Love.

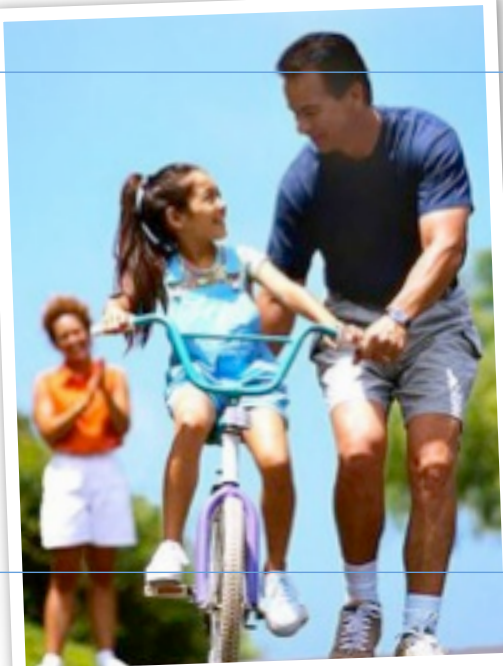
Fathers, have you build a press so that you can harvest the
Fruit of the Holy Spirit that you see in your family, and
turn this into a product of love, patience, long-suffering
... that will serve the community?

Sadly, we know that there are men who do not look after the garden that they have been given. Such men are described as slothful and devoid of understanding. What do we mean by this? These words describe someone who is **indolent** and without heart. Any man should have the courage to stand up and fight for his family. He should be concerned as to every aspect of their future. Instead we find the picture of an overgrown vineyard ...

Proverbs 24:30-31, 34 “30 I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, behold, **it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles** were covering its face, and its stone wall was broken down. 34 So shall your poverty come as a robber, and your want as an armed man.”

How sad a picture ... a father that fails in his calling and purpose.

This verse tells us that this kind of father will cause poverty to come walking towards his children, to the extent of the father’s “deficiency” in his teachings/role-modeling ... many times the father’s defense against the plight of his children will be that his own armour was lacking, his shield was made up of the scaly hide of a crocodile.



Proverbs 24:33 “33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—“

A father should at all times be holding up his child’s hands to ensure success. We should be reliving daily the scene where Moses stands on the hill, with his friends helping him keep his hands up UNTIL **his son Joshua obtains the victory.**

7. GOD keeps HIS Garden.

Once again I refer back to the first use of this word in the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 2:15 “15 And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and **keep it.**”

The word translated as “**keep**” is the Hebrew word **shamar** [Strong’s 8104], meaning:

- **To hedge about.**
- **To guard about/protect.**
- **To observe.**
- **To be a watchman.**

Isaiah 5:5 “5 And now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: **I will take away its hedge**, and it shall be eaten and burned up; and I will break down its wall, and it shall be trodden down [by enemies].”

GOD tells us that there is a **hedge** around the garden. We know that the Garden of Eden was set apart. In the day that Adam and Eve sinned, they were expelled and placed on the “outside”.

Isaiah 5:2 “2 And He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it and planted it with the choicest vine and **built a tower in the midst of it** and hewed out a winepress in it. And He looked for it to bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.”

GOD says, ***“I built a tower in the garden”***. A watchtower is a place where you can store your tools and rest in the midday heat, and yet still be a watchman from the tower.

GOD shows us how to protect our family. In the Garden of Eden, HE tells Adam to be a watchman. Adam, fails in this task – he either never taught Eve properly, or else he slept on the job ... either way, the serpent slides in.

This example is given to us so that we can understand and react upon the news – we are meant to become wise stewards because we have learned from the lessons of those who have gone before us.

Fathers, as men of GOD, we have to issue warnings. We must be careful to warn only when real danger lurks by, so that those who follow us trust in our judgements. False warnings will cause those who follow to begin to doubt and to think twice about the warning. This is dangerous ground. We therefore have to take our watchman role seriously.

*Ezekiel 33:7-9 “7 So you, son of man, **I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel**; therefore hear the word at My mouth and give them warning from Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his perversity and iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his evil way and he does not turn from his evil way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.”*

Those who keep on making the same old mistakes cannot expect to reap the blessings.

Fathers, do you have:

- A prayer shield around your garden?
- Knowledge of what's happening to your children?
- A battle plan in the event that some or other giant arrives knocking on your door?

8. GOD waters HIS garden.

Man tends to think that he needs a spring or a well before he can plant a garden. GOD tells us that we must learn to trust. HE will bring the early and the latter rains. This calls for an attitude of prayerful submission.

*Joel 2:23-24 “23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord, your God; for He gives you the former or early rain in just measure and in righteousness, and He causes to come down for you the rain, **the former rain and the latter rain, as before.** 24 And the [threshing] floors shall be full of grain and the vats shall overflow with juice [of the grape] and oil.”*

What do we understand by the “former”? **The Hebrew word for “former” implies an archer and/or teacher (teaching). The early rain is therefore something that comes to teach us of GOD’s Faithfulness.**

Every time we see this rain, we need to remind ourselves that GOD intends to shoot “something” out into the world just as an archer would shoot a bow. What could this be?

To cement the concept of Feasts/harvest, GOD couples a type of harvest to each Feast:

- **Pesach** (Passover) = barley.
- **Shavuot** (Pentecost) = wheat.
- **Sukkot** (Tabernacles) = fruit.

We would have planted some seeds in the early season. This would have been **barley**. GOD’s Word contains a promise, that those who obey HIS Commandments would have a huge harvest. Shortly after this early rain, the shoots of the seed will push through the ground. The principle of every seed reproducing after its own kind will be launched – as an arrow – into the world for all to see.

These rains are “moderate”. The Hebrew word for “moderate” implies righteousness, justice, and moral virtue. The harvest that comes forth from the ground will always look like the seed. The extent of the harvest will always bear witness to the amount of time spent tilling the soil. The care invested in weeding the garden will be reflected in the overall state of the garden.

These acts of physical work, and the results of the harvest, also reflect in the spiritual domain. Justice is a fruit of the values of hard work, fairness, and equality. The harvest reveals the attribute of righteousness. The principle of cause and effect has been operating. There is a just reward equal to the work done.

The Hebrew word for “**latter rains**” reveals the **attribute of eloquence and latter growth**. From this definition, **we can see that the latter rains are meant to provide the finishing touches, to round off the harvest**. What GOD provides in the latter stages is that growth that is needed to provide a polished finish to the harvest. We should at this stage be revealing more clearly to others, the Attributes of GOD.

Fathers, there is something very powerful in these images. We are called to be providing these early and latter rains to our children. **There is a time to invest in daily teaching and role-modelling that will launch your child into life.** There is a time for a latter rain, where you mould them with words of wisdom, patience, and love.

Fathers, have you ever watered your garden? Or perhaps you have been digging a cistern, something to hold your glory, power, and position in ... GOD tells us that man-made cisterns always leak.

Joel tell us that fathers who water their garden will have an overflow of Oil and Wine.



9. GOD tells us what kind of trees must be planted.

From the very beginning, GOD gave us HIS Image of a garden.

Genesis 2:8-9 “8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden [delight]; and there He put the man whom He had formed (framed, constituted). 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired—good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life also in the center of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of [the difference between] good and evil and blessing and calamity.”

After the Exodus, GOD takes the Israelites to the Land of Promise. HE tells them that they can go in, to eat from a Tree that they had not planted. Note the following description:

Numbers 13:23 “23 And they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two [of them]; they brought also some pomegranates and figs.”

We see an abundant harvest of a noble grape and together with this, we are told of two other fruits – the fig and the pomegranate.

Let's take note ... we see **no evidence of the basic foodstuffs**, the barley and the wheat. Clearly GOD is telling us something ... **we must focus on the fruit trees of Israel, those elements which will show the abundance.** So, let's have a look at the trees of Israel – first in the physical, then in the spiritual domain as Paul teaches (principle of parallels), that we can understand how to reveal GOD's Attributes to this world.

There are five trees in Israel. As we go through a study of these individual trees, we will come to see the spiritual attributes that they reveal. It is this fruit that we should be cultivating in each child.

Grape Knowledge of the sweetness and the Spirit of HIS Truth and Wisdom.

Fig Natural kindness and benevolence.

Pomegranate Natural usefulness and love.

Date Palm Gladness and joy.

Olive Knowledge of GOD's Goodness and Faithfulness.

How do we apply these trees to our family? I have suggested to you, that man, when he sees a reference to a harvest, fruit, and blessings, that he almost always translates this into:

- **Food for the now, followed by,**
- **Surplus for a rainy day, followed by,**
- **How wealthy am I, followed by,**
- **Look how great I am.**

This is the typical western mindset. However, the Bible teaches something different:

- **It's GOD's vineyard, and HE planted the tree.**
- **We are the trees.**
- **Because GOD is diligent in HIS Preparation,**
- **GOD expects a great harvest.**
- **The fruit from the tree BELONG to HIM.**

Paul tells us to identify a principle in the physical/natural realm. We need to study the life lessons that we see from nature and GOD's Plans. As we progress to be able to define the various stages and seasons, we will be able to establish the pattern in the natural.

We can then move forward into the New Testament and search for the spiritual revelations and truths that mirror the chain of events/patterns that we have seen in the Torah. It is only when we can match the natural with the spiritual, that we can say that we are walking in alignment to GOD's Covenant Terms.

GOD expects fruit. In the natural, what does GOD give us to look at?

God expects "good" NOT "wild" grapes (Isaiah 5:2, 4).
grapes ... NOT briars and thorns (Isaiah 5:6).

He expects a fertile field ... NOT a waste land (Isaiah 5:17).

How does God define "fruit" for the Old Testament "church"?

God looked for justice ... But found oppression (Isaiah 5:7).
But found those who call evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20).
But found those who justify a bribe (Isaiah 5:23).

God looked for righteousness ... But found a cry for help (Isaiah 5:7).
But found those who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, those who call bitter sweet, and sweet bitter (Isaiah 5:20)

*God gave enough for
a family ...*

But man was greedy (Isaiah 5:8).

*God expected fruit
as an offering ...*

But man turned it into excess, intoxicating wine and wild music, with no recognition for GOD's Labours.

I have not tried to highlight every parallel. Suffice to say, it's clear that GOD was not focusing on the here and now – HE wanted to provide for the physical man, BUT more importantly, HE wanted man to grow and reveal GOD's Attributes to a community around about them. Now let's turn to the New Testament ...

John 15:1-5 "I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. 2 Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit. 3 You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you]. 4 Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."

John tells us that GOD is the Vinedresser, that Y'shua [Jesus] is the Vine, that Israel is the Land ... and we are the branches. Paul tells us that we must produce the Fruit of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. GOD does NOT want to see envy, murder, drunkenness, idolatry, uncleanness, adultery ... and so forth.



Let's just summarize ... GOD uses the **physical grape**, its goodness and nobleness to reflect Godly attributes. GOD uses the **physical grape**, covered with fungus, to reflect un-Godly attitudes and behaviour.

In **Isaiah 5:2**, the Hebrew word for "wild grapes" is the Hebrew word **B-(u)-SH-(i)-Y-M** [Strong's Hebrew 891], meaning "**poison berries**".

We need to ask ourselves, how is it possible that a good, noble plant can become a poisonous berry?

The clue, I believe is hidden in:

Isaiah 5:18 “18 [1] **Woe** to those who [2] **draw** [calamity] with [3] **cords of iniquity** and falsehood, who bring punishment to themselves with a **cart rope** of wickedness,”

We see that the willful decision of a family to get involved in the occult, in immorality, and in bloodshed – and to perpetuate this practice from one generation to another – forms the basis of the transplanting of the “good fruit” with poison roots until the stage is reached where there is no longer evidence of the good plant.

Let's work through the verse in detail to see the progression of decay ...

- **WOE**

This determines that there are **fathers whose focus in life is to distance themselves from GOD as far as possible**. This role-model of actions/words that reflect everything that is un-Godly, will determine the child's path. Although fathers are warned of the consequences (woe) of this path, some still choose this road.

- **DRAW**

The Hebrew word for “**draw**” is **M-(a)-SH-(a)-K** [Strong's Hebrew 4900], meaning:

- **To sow.**
- **To prolong, delay.**
- **To march.**
- **To develop.**



What an interesting set of descriptions. **We know that the father will determine what seed is sown into the child's life**. This word however gives us a clear idea of the results. **We see that the child is set to march off on man's idea of right and wrong**, is developed in the form and substance of this world's norms and standards ... and more importantly, we see the clear strategy to prolong or delay the date/time when the child will be exposed to GOD's set of Commandments. In fact this father, wants to delay this meeting until he has firmed the pattern that he has determined.

- **INIQUITY**

Iniquity means perversity and moral evil – note, this is the very opposite to GOD's Attributes. BUT note, this iniquity is pulled into his descendants. **The father's acceptance of sin is the propensity to do wrong**, to make the wrong choices – described earlier in this same passage as drunkenness, excesses coupled to music, adultery, immorality, bribery ... to name a few.

• PURSUIT OF VANITY.

The Hebrew word [Strong's 7723] for "**vanity**" implies these concepts:

- **Acts which lead to destructive evil.**
- **Acts of utter uselessness.**
- **Actions which reveal a desire to be idolized.**

We see in these descriptions that man's desire to be in power, to have excessive possessions, and to be in control are acts which **form a pathway away from GOD**. In order to make the decision to follow GOD's Path, we need to examine and understand the meaning of the words which describe how a child is drawn into generational curses.

*Isaiah 5:18 "18 [1] Woe to those who [2] draw [calamity] with [3] cords of iniquity and falsehood, who bring punishment to themselves with a **cart rope** of wickedness,"*

The first word to study is the Hebrew word for "**cords**" [Strong's 2256]. We see the following elements:

- **A twisted rope.**
- **A noose which ties you together with the company of people that look and act like you do – that formed your mindset.**
- **A snare.**
- **A twisted measuring line which determines your inheritance.**

The second word is "**cart rope**" [Strong's 5699/5688]. We find the following elements: a string and/or intertwined wreath made of foliage (the victor's reward at the gladiators games). Fathers who follow the world system and reject GOD's Path of Righteousness will twist the Godly potential of a child, will present them with a false image of glory and success, while all the time knowing that they have robbed them of their legacy.

If we think back to our example from the Garden of Eden, then we realize that such fathers have chosen to eat fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil ... and consequently, their children reproduce a plant with has the same seed.

David describes this for us in:

*Psalms 94:5-11 "5 They crush Your people, **O Lord, and afflict Your heritage.** 6 They slay the widow and the transient stranger and **murder the unprotected orphan.** 7 Yet they say, The Lord does not see, neither does the God of Jacob notice it. 8 Consider and understand, you stupid ones among the people! And you [self-confident] fools, when will you become wise? 9 He Who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He Who formed the eye, shall He not see? 10 He Who disciplines and instructs the nations, shall He not punish, He Who teaches man knowledge? 11 The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vain (empty and futile—only a breath)."*

Fathers, do you have good fruit?

Or are you role-modelling fruit that is bitter to eat and which poisons the heart and soul of your child?

Father, are you cultivating Godly Trees and Fruit?

In each tree/plant following, we can see a Godly Attribute we should be developing in our children/family.



The Grape



What are the attributes of the grape that we must build into our lives? Righteous Noah planted the first grapevine after the flood. This act of planting was both physical, in the sense that it meant that man was replanting the plants, trees, and herbs that had been destroyed. Noah was recreating and re-enacting the work of GOD set-out in Genesis:

*Genesis 1:11 "11 And God said, Let the earth put forth [tender] vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit **whose seed is in itself, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And it was so.**"*



*Man was renewing
the multiplication
principle of the seed.*

In the spiritual domain, Noah was making a prophetic declaration that GOD's Plan would come to pass, that mankind would be a true reflection of his Creator. Y'shua [Jesus] turned the water into wine as the first miracle of HIS ministry. John tells us that Y'shua [Jesus] was in the beginning and HE was the WORD. The vine produces wine, which we will see represents HIS Blood.

The act of turning the water to wine is directly compared to the image of GOD being turned into the Living, Walking Word. This is therefore a clear message that our fruit, if indeed we do reflect the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, will be a direct reflection of GOD.

*John 2:10 "10 And said to him, **Everyone else serves his best wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then he serves that which is not so good; but you have kept back the good wine until now!**"*

[1] It represents faith and truth. The righteous will have their garments washed in HIS Blood. The fruit of the vine (wine) is a symbol that we use **to show our in-grafting into the Body of Messiah.** Our faith in GOD is the one thing which set us apart from any other belief system. Abraham more than any other, visibly demonstrates faith to us:

- He leaves everything that he knows to go where GOD tells him.
- He waits for a son that never seems to arrive.
- He prepares to offer this son on GOD's request knowing, by faith, that GOD WOULD provide.

Genesis 49:11 "11 Binding His foal to the vine and His donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washes His garments in wine and His clothes in the blood of grapes."

[2] It represents forgiveness. The picture of the Messiah on the cross has long been seen as a symbol of the complete sacrifice. There in front of all who gathered to witness the event, Y'shua [Jesus] cries out "FORGIVE them, they do not know what they are doing". The Blood of the Messiah mingles with the water in HIS Body ... In the physical, John tells us that the WORD of GOD is like a water/well. In the spiritual, water/well represents salvation.

We have the picture of the **WORD of GOD giving us salvation, providing the complete forgiveness that we so desperately need. Those for whom this forgiveness has become a reality, this remnant will choose to obey GOD's Commandments and celebrate HIS return every Shabbat.**

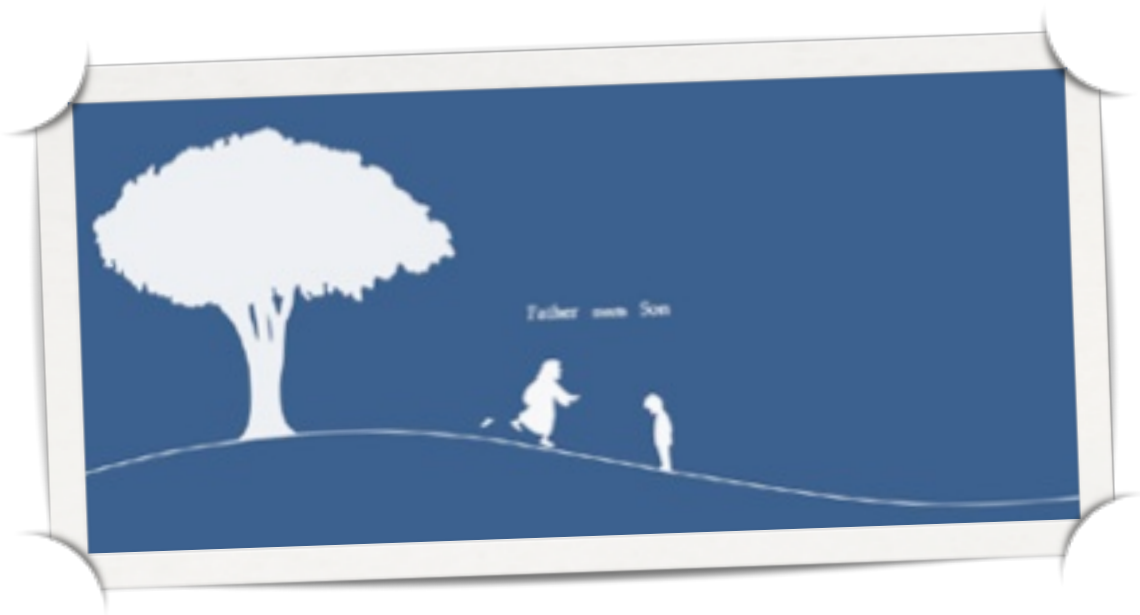
Revelation 14:18 "18 And another angel came forth from the altar, [the angel] who has authority and power over fire, and he called with a loud cry to him who had the sharp scythe (sickle), Put forth your scythe and **reap the fruitage of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are entirely ripe.**"

Genesis 49:11 "11 Binding His foal to the vine and His donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washes His garments in wine and His clothes in the blood of grapes."

Y'shua [Jesus] tells us that as we celebrate HIS Victory, we can expect to receive rest, peace, and full provision.

[3] It represents faithfulness. GOD understands that man will stray. **GOD knows that a remnant will always return.** As Father Who has lost a Son, HE continues to watch for the prodigal's return. HE waits to receive and restore the son. HE declares,

"How can I give up on you?"



In the searching, HE sees the son's potential (the grape and the fig).

Hosea 9:10 “10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; **I saw your fathers as the first ripe fruit on the fig tree in its first season**, but they went to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to that shameful thing [Baal], and they became detestable and loathsome like that which they loved.”

HE proclaims the son's restoration.

Hosea 14:5-7 “5 I will be like the dew and the night mist to Israel; **he shall grow and blossom like the lily and cast forth his roots like [the sturdy evergreens of] Lebanon**. 6 His suckers and shoots shall spread, and his beauty shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like [the cedars and aromatic shrubs of] Lebanon. 7 They that dwell under his shade shall return; they shall revive like the grain and blossom like the vine; the scent of it shall be like the wine of Lebanon.”

[4] It represents freedom. The Israelites have **been delivered out of Egypt**. They are about to enter the Promised Land. Largely due to the fact that although they are physically free, in their hearts they remain slaves. When the **twelve spies** go into the Land to see what they will inherit, they return with a bunch of grapes that is so big that they are forced to have two men carry it. **The bunch of grapes shows the enormity of the gift of freedom.**

Our worldview of freedom has largely been reduced to the removal of all forms of slavery and oppression. We think in terms of the making of the bricks! However, the Israelites showed us clearly that slavery is also a state of the mind. **As soon as they experienced other hardships in the desert, they wanted to go back to the known**, rather than to face the unknown. True freedom therefore means that we are free to follow GOD and willingly obey HIS Commandments.

Amos 9:13-14 “13 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; and **the mountains shall drop sweet wine** and all the hills shall melt [that is, everything heretofore barren and unfruitful shall overflow with spiritual blessing]. 14 And I will bring back the exiles of My people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and **they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine from them**; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them.”

The Bible often speaks of “drunkenness” or the fact that we are not to indulge in strong alcohol. Is this only a matter of a restriction in the physical domain, or is there another important message for us?

What do we need to understand about this in the spiritual domain? Drunkenness is also a description in the spiritual domain. It is revealed by those who use the Bible as a means to control and manipulate others. We see it in:

- Those who have no spiritual insight, who have dogmatic, repetitive words.
- Those who speak/preach in contradiction to Biblical truth.
- Those who take part in argumentative debates and are always right.

... are the ones who are drunk on the wine of self-effort and deceit.

Leviticus 10:9 “9 **Do not drink wine or strong drink, you or your sons, when you go into the Tent of Meeting**, lest you die; it shall be a statute forever in all your generations.



Isaiah 16:10 “10 And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; **and in the vineyards there is no singing, nor is there joyful sound**; the treaders tread out no wine in the presses, for the shout of joy has been made to cease.”

Isaiah 29:9-10 “9 Stop and wonder [at this prophecy, if you choose, whether you understand it or not; soon you will witness the actual event] and be confounded [reluctantly]! Blind yourselves [now, if you choose; take your pleasure] and then be blinded [at the actual occurrence]. **They are**

drunk, but not from wine; **they stagger**, but not from strong drink [but from spiritual stupor]. 10 For the Lord has poured out on you the spirit of **deep sleep**. And He has closed your eyes, the prophets; and your heads, the seers, He has covered and muffled.

Let's have a look at the Hebrew letter-picture for vine ...

The Hebrew word for “vine” is **G-(e)-P-(e)-N** [Strong's Hebrew 1612]. It is made up of the following letters:

- **Gimmel** = ripen, nourish until completely ripe, reward, weaned, man in motion.
- **Pey** = mouth, speech, opening, entrance, border (a place where significant things happen).
- **Nun** = to root, to sprout, propagate, to flourish.

We find a very interesting picture in these descriptions. The “body” of the word (the outer two letters) create the picture of something that has life, is growing fast and also shows that the fruit will be good/ripe. Man is to be this body that produces a fruit, which is carried on the inside and which is brought forth by opening his mouth to declare prophetic words of blessing.

Compassion.

This blessing is captured in the word **compassion**. What are some aspects of compassion that we can define:

- **Bonding with your children**, teaching them that a father always loves unconditionally.
- **Providing a secure and stable environment**, showing them that GOD's Ways are true irrespective of the tribulations that we face.
- **Ensuring that we teach our children to help those who do not have**, learning to share.

Ruth and Naomi.

If we build this kind of foundation, our children will know how to see the need and give in faith.

I think that Ruth learned to be compassionate. We find someone who:

- **Grows up in a pagan house.**
- **Comes to a place where she is adopted into the Tribe.**
- **Realizes that her adopted mother has a connection with a Living God,**
- **And makes a commitment to serve in the same way that the Messiah would many years later.**
- **Practically, she lives out the Commandment to honour one's parents.**



Naomi, is old and cannot look after herself. Ruth goes back with her to her home, and works in the corners of the fields, to pick up the meal-of-the-day. She serves with love.

Ruth 2:2-3, 11 "2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor. Naomi said to her, Go, my daughter. 3 And [Ruth] went and gleaned in a field after the reapers; and she happened to stop at the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 11 And Boaz said to her, I have been made fully aware of all you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and mother and the land of your birth and have come to a people unknown to you before."

The Fig



What are the attributes of the fig that we have to build into our lives? The fig tree is the first tree mentioned in the Word. **Mankind turns to the fig to cover the sin ... however GOD provides HIS Own Remedy.**

[1] It represents living in safety, prosperity, and security. The fig fruit has always been seen as a delicacy. In its natural form, the **multiple sweet seeds inside seem to suggest the very seed of man.** We see the picture of regeneration in the seeds. As a dried or treated form, it makes a sweet jam/preserve. A single tree can produce such a **bountiful harvest** that many a mouth will be filled. The Torah references always picture a man and his family at rest, under a fig tree.



1 Kings 4:25 “25 Judah and Israel dwelt safely, **every man under his vine and fig tree**, from Dan to Beersheba, all of Solomon’s days.”

2 Kings 18:31-32 “31 Hearken not to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: **Make your peace with me and come out to me, and eat every man from his own vine and fig tree** and drink every man the waters of his own cistern, 32 Until I come and take you away to a land like your own, a land of grain and vintage fruit, of bread and vineyards, of olive trees and honey, that you may live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he urges you, saying, The Lord will deliver us.”

Haggai 2:19 “19 Is the harvested grain any longer in the barn? As to the grapevine, **the fig tree**, the pomegranate, and the olive tree—they have not yet borne. From this day on I will bless you.”

[2] It represents the returning Messiah. Y’shua [Jesus] teaches on the **end-times** and the returning Kingdom of GOD. Shortly after this, **He uses the flowering/fruitfulness of the fig as a sign and as a symbol of the time of His return.**

This prophetic word has multiple levels. In the physical domain, we have seen this come to pass. Israel has been born-again in one day as an independent nation, Jews have been returning home over the past fifty or so years,

Matthew 24:32-35 “32 **From the fig tree learn this lesson:** as soon as its young shoots become soft and tender and it puts out its leaves, you know of a surety that summer is near. 33 So also when you see these signs, all taken together, coming to pass, you may know of a surety that He is near, at the very doors. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation (the whole multitude of people living at the same time, in a definite, given period) will not pass away till all these things taken together take place. 35 Sky and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

[3] It represents friendship. We try to be **neighbourly. We try to love our fellowman.** The pursuit of the world’s goals however clouds man’s idea of values ...

The person who stands back for others, who turns the other cheek often is seen as soft/weak instead of humble. However, we know that a time will come when we will not have to try to find out what our friends' real motives are, a day when your word will be your word.

*Zechariah 2:11 "11 And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day and shall be My people. **And I will dwell in the midst of you, and you shall know (recognize and understand) that the Lord of hosts has sent me [His messenger] to you."***

How critical it is therefore to show this attribute to your children, to have them learn the value of trust. **A father's word must be his honour.**

Zechariah 3:10 "10 In that day, says the Lord of hosts, you shall invite each man his neighbor under his own vine and his own fig tree."

[4] It represents righteous rulers. Those who are placed in **positions of leadership** have a great responsibility. GOD specifically says that **HE will judge those who lead/teach harshly, if they fail to represent Him in Truth and in Spirit.** We are at all times to seek to walk in integrity with our fellowman.



We see also the example given where the Assyrians will try to give the Israelites a false promise, where they say that we will sit in peace under our own fig tree if we listen to the words of the kingdom of darkness.

*2 Kings 18:31 "31 Harken not to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me, and eat every man **from his own vine and fig tree** and drink every man the waters of his own cistern,"*

*Proverbs 27:18 "18 **Whoever tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit;** so he who patiently and faithfully guards and heeds his master shall be honored."*

Paul tells us that the ONE GOD Who plants and waters is the same **One Who holds everything that we are in HIS Hand.**

*1 Corinthians 3:8 "8 He who plants and he who waters are equal (one in aim, of the same importance and esteem), **yet each shall receive his own reward (wages), according to his own labor."***

*Judges 9:10 "10 Then the trees said to the **fig tree**, You come and reign over us."*

The fig that is cursed/barren represents those leaders who do not reveal GOD's attributes. In a sense, it therefore also states that such men are really part of Babylon. They are men who have lost direction.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah is a prophet who can see the destruction that is being caused in his time. However, he can see a picture of a future time when fathers will be true leaders of integrity. He uses the fig that is very good to define Godly leadership, and figs that are inedible as those who represent the worst fathers/men.

*Jeremiah 24:3 “3 Then the Lord said to me, What do you see, Jeremiah? And I said, **Figs—the good figs very good, and the bad very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten.**”*

Here GOD tells us that good seed produces good fruit will always have a pathway back to GOD set out for them. As soon as they would repent, then GOD will respond.

*Jeremiah 24:5-7 “5 Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: **Like these good figs, so will I regard the captives of Judah** whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. 6 For I will set My eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. 7 And I will give them a heart to know (recognize, understand, and be acquainted with) Me, that I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.”*

Here GOD tells us what the end result will be of a father who fails to produce a harvest of good fruit from his garden. So few people understand or accept their responsibility to role-model a Godly lifestyle. Many a son have heard the words, “I had to carve my own success ... you will have to do the same”.



*Jeremiah 24:8-9 “8 And as for the **bad figs**, which are so bad that they cannot be eaten, surely thus says the Lord, So will I give up Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes and the residue of Jerusalem who remains in this land and those who dwell in the land of Egypt. 9 I will even give them up to be a dismay and a horror and to be tossed to and fro among all the kingdoms of the earth for evil, to be a reproach, a byword or proverb, a taunt, and a curse in all places where I will drive them.”*

Any form of religion that does not turn it's belief system into practical good works is equal to a fig tree that is withered.

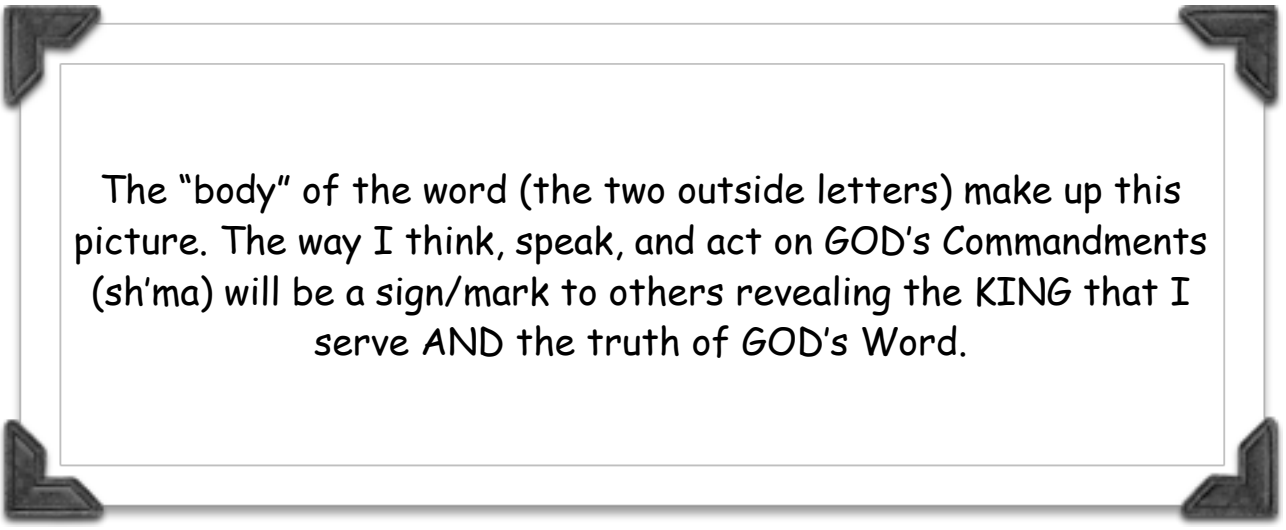
*Revelation 14:8 “8 Then another angel, a second, followed, declaring, **Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!** She who made all nations drink of the [maddening] wine of her passionate unchastity [idolatry].”*

Let's Look at the Hebrew Letter-picture for “fig” ...

The Hebrew word for “fig” is T-(e)-N-(a)-H [Strong’s 8384]. It is made up of the following letters:

- **Tav** = mark, sign, label, or a seal of truth.
- **Nun** = to root, sprout, flourish.
- **Hey** = to behold, here is, divine manifestation or life, a self-expression of how you see GOD, your thoughts, words, actions.

What a wonderful picture this is!



The “body” of the word (the two outside letters) make up this picture. The way I think, speak, and act on GOD’s Commandments (sh’mā) will be a sign/mark to others revealing the KING that I serve AND the truth of GOD’s Word.

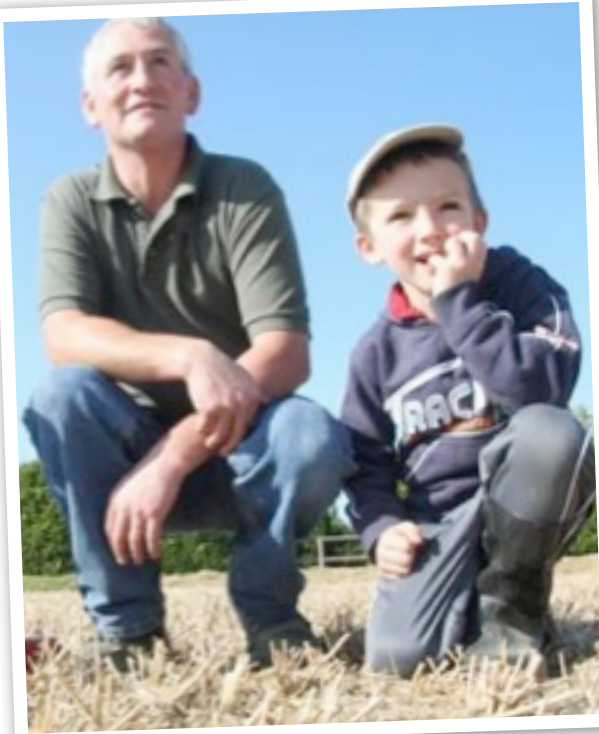
When I SH’MA⁷ GOD’s Commandments, the seeds which I sow will take root and flourish. This element that we need to include in the foundations is called humility. ***Humility, can be described with the following distinctive attributes:***

- ***By building character into each child.*** The job of establishing a basis of values/principles by which we measure every situation with fairness and integrity.
- ***Teaching your child to keep their feet on the ground,*** to realize that success, power, and possessions are not the measure of a man, and that setbacks do not determine the final result.
- ***Building the capacity of tenacity to remain standing even when we have been disappointed,*** learning to understand that the overcomer will get the full benefits.

David’s captain, Shammah.

The example that I would like to use to highlight this attribute of humility is the **story of one of David’s men**. We often speak of humility as that aspect of being the least in the kingdom, we tend to think this means being weak or quiet. In fact, we are speaking about the ability to stand up for what is right, but not to do so for self-glory and reward.

⁷ For additional study understanding the concept of SH’MA, see the article “SH’MA, A Hebraic Concept That Everyone Can Embrace”, available for download at <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=173>



David's captain, Shammah is a good example of this attribute. The people planted the seed and expected a good harvest. At the time when the lentils were ready to be harvested, the enemy – who had been doing no hard work themselves – came to take the fruit their labour. These farmers put in the effort, but together with their families, go hungry until the next season comes again.

It's a long time to wait to eat!

This man goes to stand in the middle of the field. Note, not his own field – he is taking on someone else's battle. ***He decides that it's time to stand and fight against the big bullies of this world, to overcome and to give the harvest back to its rightful owners.***

2 Samuel 23:11-12 "11 Next to [Eleazar] was **Shammah** son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines were gathered at Lehi on a piece of ground full of lentils; and the [Israelites] fled from the Philistines. 12 **But he stood in the midst of the ground and defended it and slew the Philistines; and the Lord wrought a great victory.**"

The Pomegrante



What attributes does the pomegranate have that we are to bring into our lives?

The Hebrew word for this tree is “raman” and means “to rise up” and “to be mounted up”. This fruit has a unique shape, very much like a bell-shaped flower. The fruit can be sweet or sour.

[1] It represents the element of grace and usefulness.

Exodus 28:34 “34 A gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe.”

Exodus 39:26 “26 A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe for ministering, as the Lord commanded Moses.”



In the Scriptures, we find this fruit used as a means to prevent the “clang” that will be heard if two bells are knocked together. Each bell has a beautiful sound on it’s own, however if we were to bring them together we would hear a clang, a harsh sound.

Each one of us has a combination of the gifts of GOD. Those attributes that we contribute to the Body of Messiah are important. However, sometimes our gifts are too similar to someone else’s gifts, and if we have not yet come to a place of maturity, we will react to one another in the flesh, for example, in jealous and competition ... this is an example of the bells clanging.

The high priest’s robe was fitted with a pattern of bell, pomegranate ... a bell, pomegranate ... and so forth.

Exodus 28:33 “33 And you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] around about its skirts, with gold bells between them;”

[2] It represents the element of abundance and fertility. The juicy seeds inside of the fruit are thought to number in the hundreds (the average number of seeds is 613, often associated with GOD’s Commandments) AND can be made into wine. Solomon uses this wine when he describes his love for his bride.

Song of Songs 8:2 “2 I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother, who would instruct me. I would cause you to drink spiced wine and of the juice of my pomegranates.”

[3] It represents purity, goodness, and healing. It is well known that pomegranates are very healthy, containing several powerful antioxidants. In fact, pomegranate juice is used to prevent/cure some of the major diseases.

[4] It represents harmony. Solomon writes a *love song to his beloved*, to his bride. We see in this the hidden meaning that **God as Bridegroom is also speaking to HIS Bride**. The entire song is a reflection of the unity between two lovers – the interaction between two people who want to share everything they have with one another.

This song speaks to the fact that **everything I have I am prepared to give up in order that my bride can be fulfilled**. This act of servanthood, of washing someone else's feet, is demonstrated by Y'shua [Jesus] when as the Messiah, He chooses to let the disciples know that they are of utmost value.

Harmony is demonstrated when those in positions of authority choose to lift up the hands of those whom they lead.

Song of Songs 4:3 "3 Your lips are like a thread of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a **pomegranate behind your veil.**"

Song of Songs 6:7 "7 Your cheeks are like halves of a **pomegranate behind your veil.**"

Song of Songs 8:2 "2 I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother, who would instruct me. I would cause you to drink spiced wine and of **the juice of my pomegranates.**"

Let's have a look at the Hebrew letter-picture for "pomegranate" ...

The Hebrew word for pomegranate is **R-(i)-M-M-(o)-N** [Strong's Hebrew 7416], made up of the following letters:

- **Resh** = head, principle, prince, ruler, freedom.
- **Mem** = to incline, out-stretched arms, flowing waters.
- **Nun** = to root, sprout, propagate, flourish.

The picture that is formed by these letters makes up the following image ... the KING of kings, Messiah, is the Father/Ruler of the Body of Messiah, and HIS Creative Words, cause "good" things to flourish out of that which in the past was chaos.

When we allow GOD to change us, and mould us into HIS Image then, we become HIS Outstretched Arm and our actions become streams of Living Water.

The word loving-kindness sums up this fruit. Some of the aspects of loving-kindness can be defined as:

- **The capacity to always think of others**, to realize that we don't always know the circumstances that other people have to deal with, and therefore we become careful not to judge.
- **The preparedness to care and help those who are weaker** or less able to stand on their own, to understand how to reach out to others without them taking offence or feeling inadequate.
- **The commitment to think of and develop the community** – to empower others to build a legacy on their own.
- **The ability to be on the look-out to see others doing good**, and then to heap praises on the work.

David.

The example of loving-kindness that I want to highlight is that of **David's commitment to the covenantal promise that he made with Jonathan.**

After Saul had been killed, David is anointed as King. Not long after he becomes king, he sets out to see whether there are any relatives of his former friend still alive.

He finds the lame-son of Jonathan, **Mephibosheth**, and brings him to his table with the promise to care for him. As new king, he has inherited and taken over all that belonged to Saul.

When he finds the lame son, **he restores all property that belonged to the family.**



2 Samuel 9:1, 7, 13 **“AND DAVID said, Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake? 7 David said to him, Fear not, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your father [grandfather], and you shall eat at my table always. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table, [even though] he was lame in both feet.”**

The Date Palm



What attributes do we find in the date palm that should build into our lives? The date palm has been found as an **emblem on documents and stone carvings from the earliest of times**. These images have also been found on coins, and most often reflected **fertility, peace, or victory**.

[1] It represents the ability to stand
in spite of circumstances.

The palm **grows in areas where very little else will exist**. The date has the capability to continue reaching up to the heavens.



Man too, is blessed with GOD's Potential. In the Garden of Eden, Adam revealed that he had the creative ability to name every animal with a name which described its characteristics. The fact that Adam sinned and was removed from a place of intimacy with GOD, does not mean that the gifting, talents, and abilities that GOD put into man have been cancelled as well. Paul tells us that these callings are irrevocable.

Generation after another in the Bible have stood out as men and women who would be prepared to follow GOD without compromise and through all manner of tribulations. Fathers are required to teach their children that GOD will always provide an answer to a problem.

Psalm 92:12 "12 The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like the palm tree [be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful]; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible]."

[2] It represents abundance. From this tree we **get the date fruit**, which is a **source of food**. We get a **juice which is fermented into a wine ... this was more than likely the milk which formed part of the promised "milk and honey"**.

We get **timber** from the stem, which was used to **build the Tabernacle**. We get the leaves that form baskets, coverings, and ropes.

The children of Israel are on their way through the wilderness. One of the places they come to is the oasis of Elim. Here they find food (dates) to sustain them and water to invigorate them ... and the **shade of the palm to protect them from the hot desert sun**. This is however not a place to stay. The stop-over gave them the strength to tackle the next stage of their journey. Abundance, in this case, is also the **restoration** of their mental state so that they could face the desert again.

*Exodus 15:27 "27 And they came to **Elim**, where there were twelve springs of water and **seventy palm trees**; and they encamped there by the waters."*

[3] It represents victory, peace, and uprightness. The symbolism of this **very tall, very straight tree reflects the type of walk we should have. We should be upright in all of our doings.** Such a walk will reflect the full potential of righteousness. We are not promised a life without trials and tribulations – these are like the strong winds that blow across the desert. These storms are described vividly, as a time when you should take shelter, of the intense stinging of the sand as it is whipped-up against your body. **The palm stands strong, has the ability to sway, allowing the wind to move over it without breaking the trunk.**

Fathers, should learn to role-model this strength of purpose ... to show that our values are more important than the power of the storm.

John 12:13 “13 So they took branches of **palm trees** and went out to meet Him. And as they went, they kept shouting, Hosanna! **Blessed is He and praise to Him Who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!**”

Song of Songs 7:7-8 “7 **Your stature is like that of a palm tree**, and your bosom like its clusters [of dates, declared the king]. 8 I resolve that I will climb the palm tree; I will grasp its branches. Let your breasts be like clusters of the grapevine, and the scent of your breath like apples,”



[4] It represents the fact that GOD will provide our shelter. We so often think that we can make it happen – the news reports are always tuned into the bad news, the falling stock exchange, the financial disaster that is at hand, the wars, and the famines.

In all of this, we are taught that we should provide for our families. **While it is clear that GOD has given us a Commandment to work, it does not mean that we should not learn to rely on HIM as our Source for provision.**

The sukkah.

Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, is that one time of year when we recognize and acknowledge that GOD provides. How do we do this? We take the date palm leaves and build a eight-day temporary home, a sukkah (booth).

Leviticus 23:40 “40 And on the first day you shall take the fruit of pleasing trees [and make booths of them], **branches of palm trees**, and boughs of thick (leafy) trees, and willows of the brook; **and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.**”

This act, of keeping this Commandment, has the goal to focus our attention on GOD as the Provider. Joshua enters Canaan and goes to war against the city of Jericho, known as the “city of palms”. It is from here that the Israelites go on to take the Land.

*Deuteronomy 34:3 “3 And the South (the Negeb) and the plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho, the **City of Palm Trees**, as far as Zoar.”*

[5] It represents the Power of GOD's Message
that HE will return.



On Masada, a few years ago, a number of date seeds were found. These have been dated back to the time of Messiah. One of these seeds has been germinated and is growing today. If a two-thousand year old seed can be resurrected, so to could the Messiah! **A two-thousand year old testimony of GOD's Faithfulness.** This seed is a prophetic declaration that when the Attributes of GOD are in the seed, the tree that grows from it will look just like GOD.

Let's have a look at the Hebrew letter-picture for the date palm ...

The Hebrew word for **date palm** is T-(a)-M-(a)-R [Strong's Hebrew 8558], made up of the letters:

- **Tav** = a mark, seal of truth, sign, label.
- **Mem** = to incline, to bend, an out-stretched arm (in deliverance), flowing water (the carrier of potential).
- **Resh** = head, principle, in charge of, freedom.

Once again, we see a powerful picture taking form before our eyes. The image is ... the One Who is the Head of the Body of Messiah, and Whose mark or symbol we wear by our ability to exercise our freedom of choice to serve GOD, stretches out HIS Hand to bring us to a place of peace when we stand under HIS ever flowing WORD.

The attribute that sums this aspect of GOD up is discipline. We chose to be **obedient** to GOD's Commandments. Some aspects that define this are:

- How we **teach our children** to determine right from wrong.
- How we **teach our children** to stand on their own two feet, to make their own choices and to exercise self-restraint.
- How we **train people** to take responsibility for their choices and the consequences that follow.

Deborah.

The example that I would like to use to highlight this attribute of being a disciple is **Deborah**. We start off with the story when we find Deborah **sitting under a palm tree**.

We soon see that this is a place where people come to **ask for justice, and where she determines a course of action**. When circumstances become too harsh for the people, she calls up Barak to ask him why he has not gone to war to defend the people.

He is called for the job, and it's time for him to accept the responsibility.



Judges 4:4-8 "4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, judged Israel at that time. 5 She sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. 6 And she sent and called Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded [you], Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun? 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you at the river Kishon with his chariots and his multitude, and I will deliver him into your hand? 8 And Barak said to her, If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

The Olive



What attributes does the olive have that we should be building into our lives today? The olive can provide a source of food, but far more critically, **provides a finished product called oil**. The olive grows in some pretty **barren and difficult circumstances**. The olive needs the chill of a winter to cause the flowers to bloom, but can bear fruit in the hottest of summers. The fruit is taken and crushed in a press. This process of pressure to tribulations causes the purest oil to emerge.

Fathers, we must revert to the words spoken to Joshua just before he is about to enter the Promised Land ... on three occasions he hears the words:

“Stand and take courage!”

[1] It represents the elements of honour, love, and charity. One of the most striking images that you bring back from a visit to the Garden of Gethsemane, is of the **very old olive trees** standing in the courtyard of a church at the site. **These trees are ancient**, and could in fact be from Y'shua's [Jesus'] time. The stems are interwoven with the shoots that have come up from the roots.

The coupling of the picture of an olive with a father, mother, and their children also highlights another principle. Those parents who have accepted GOD's Seed into their hearts, and who willingly obey (SH'MA) HIS Commandments, will bring forth shoots that contain the same seed and look like their father in heaven.



Psalm 128:3 “3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house; your children shall be like olive plants round about your table.”

Hosea 14:6 “6 His suckers and shoots shall spread, and his beauty shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like [the cedars and aromatic shrubs of] Lebanon.”

[2] It represents the attribute of a holy lifestyle. Holiness is the opposite of any form of self or sin. We learn to trust at the Feet of GOD.

Psalm 52:8 “8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in and confidently rely on the loving-kindness and the mercy of God forever and ever.”

In reality, the oil is used to anoint any man-made thing and to dedicate his use and full potential to Godly service.

A very good example to follow is the **life story of Jacob**. **Before he sets out on his journey** into the wilderness, and **again when he returns, we see that he builds an altar**. Holiness is taking a moment in time to stand still at an altar ... and remember GOD's Faithfulness.



Interestingly, **Jacob sets up a stone, anoints it with oil, and gives it a new name**. This act of faith was a permanent image in Jacob's mind. Every time that he experienced problems he could sit down, think about the altar, remember GOD's Covenantal Promise, and take courage.

Genesis 28:18 "18 And Jacob rose early in the morning and **took the stone he had put under his head, and he set it up for a pillar (a monument to the vision in his dream), and he poured oil on its top [in dedication].**"

Genesis 35:14 "14 And Jacob set up a **pillar (monument)** in the place where he talked with [God], a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it and **he poured oil on it.**"

[3] It represents the attribute of wisdom and light. We use the **oil to burn in the Menorah** all day long, to produce **permanent light**. Spiritually, this means that we must have a continual crushing of the fruit that we produce so that our source of oil never ends. In fact, GOD commands that every person must bring their own oil.

Zechariah 4:3 "3 And there are **two olive trees** by it, one upon the right side of the bowl and the other upon the left side of it [feeding it continuously with **oil**]."

This picture of being always ready to have your fruit crushed for more oil is vividly portrayed to us when Y'shua [Jesus] goes to Gethsemane to pray and to prepare for the crucifixion that was to come. Gethsemane means "an oil press".

Mark 14:32 "32 Then they went to a **place called Gethsemane**, and He said to His disciples, Sit down here while I **pray.**"

The parable of the wise virgins also attests to this attribute. Once again, while the image portrayed to us in the story is about physical oil, we need to focus on the spiritual olive fruit that we are to be producing. The oil that you buy from GOD is found in the amount of time you spend in GOD's Word and in HIS Presence – in order that you SH'MA HIM and you DO what HE commands.

[4] It represents man at peace with God. When the dove returned to the ark, it carried an **olive branch**.

Genesis 8:11 “11 And the **dove came back** to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a **newly sprouted and freshly plucked olive leaf!** So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the land.”

[5] It represents the united, single House of GOD. Paul tells us that there is **only one olive tree ... we all need to be grafted into that tree.** Y’shua [Jesus] tells us the same thing, but uses the imagery of a vine (John Chapter 15).

Romans 11:24 “24 For if you have been **cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and against nature grafted into a cultivated olive tree,** how much easier will it be to graft these natural [branches] back on [the original parent stock of] their own olive tree.”

1 Kings 6:31 “31 For the **Holy of Holies** he made [folding] doors of **olive wood**; their entire width was one-fifth that of the wall.”

The olive as wood became a part of the Tabernacle.

*Fathers, are you standing tall, walking in integrity
so this lifestyle forms the structures of your home?*

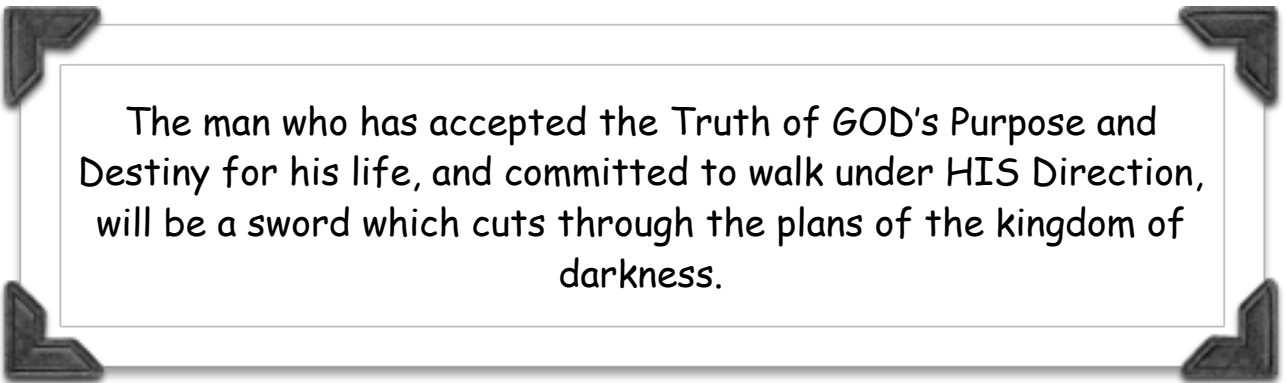
Let’s have a look at the Hebrew letter-picture for olive ...

The Hebrew word for **olive tree** is **Z-(a)-Y-(i)-T** [Strong’s Hebrew 2132], made up of the letters:

- **Zayin** = weapons, sword, movement (as in the concept of either for good or in order to oppress).
- **Yod** = a hand (as in obedience to Commandments), power, strength, monument (in the spiritual sense as a gateway in time).
- **Tav** = a mark, a sign, a label, the seal of the truth.

The word picture is truly dramatic!

The body of the word (zayin and tav) come together to say this ...



The man who has accepted the Truth of GOD’s Purpose and Destiny for his life, and committed to walk under HIS Direction, will be a sword which cuts through the plans of the kingdom of darkness.

Such a man reveals the **Light of GOD by burning the oil of the olive** and opens the gateway to GOD's Cycle of seasons of blessing.

The **attribute** which sums this aspect of GOD up is **leadership**. Elements that make up what defines this is:

- How we **teach our children** to build and enhance their individual gifts, how we identify the uniqueness of each child, giving them the confidence to utilize the talents.
- How we **motivate our children** to attempt new challenges and build endurance, how we look at tribulations as opportunities to try something new.
- How we **teach them to understand** the rules of the game, how we make sure that they always stay tuned into the Holy Spirit, to lead them with new insights for every circumstance.



Gideon.

The story that I have chosen to use to illustrate this **attribute of leadership is Gideon**. Gideon is an ordinary fellow, but one with a special calling. He had not been encouraged by his father (obviously because he served a pagan god), but he responded to the call after a while.

He goes to war with only three hundred men. They take a trumpet and pitcher with a candle on the inside of it. The candle is symbolic of the **oil of the Menorah, the Light of GOD**.

Judges 7:2, 6-7, 16, 20 “2 The Lord said to Gideon, The people who are with you **are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands**, lest Israel boast about themselves against Me, saying, My own hand has delivered me. 6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was **300 men**, but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink

water. 7 And the Lord said to Gideon, **With the**

300 men who lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others return every man to his home. 16 And he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them trumpets and empty pitchers, **with torches inside the pitchers**. 20 And the three companies blew the trumpets and shattered the pitchers, **holding the torches in their left hands**, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow [leaving no chance to use swords], and they cried, The sword for the Lord and Gideon!”



Man, by his nature will count the seeds inside of each grape. GOD on the other hand, sees the potential of a grape in every seed.

Paul uses the example of the olive as the tree which represents the Body of Messiah. He uses the principle of the olive as GOD's Seed. Paul tells us that the firstfruit offering made in the wilderness was holy, and that the roots are holy ... and anyone that becomes a part of that root will produce of the fatness of that Tree. He goes on to say that we (Gentiles) are the Wild Olive, and now have been grafted into the Natural Olive.

Who made up the Natural Olive?

This is not connected or related to the Tribe of Judah (the Jewish people). This happens long before GOD forms the House of Judah. ***The Tribes go down to Egypt. Those, who live like their father Abraham, by faith accept GOD's Commandment to put the Blood on the doorpost of their lives, become the first Natural Olive.*** But please note, ***this Tree is made up of believers from all Twelve Tribes AND all the Gentiles*** (strangers and foreigners) who chose to follow GOD.



Romans 11:17 "17 But if some of the branches were broken off, while you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them to share the richness [of the root and sap] of the olive tree,"

Paul then goes on to say that those – whether Jews (of Judah) or Gentiles – ***who do not have the Seed of GOD (the Tree of Life) inside of them are branches that have been cut off from the Tree.***

Romans 11:19-21 “19 You will say then, Branches were broken (pruned) off so that I might be grafted in! 20 That is true. **But they were broken (pruned) off because of their unbelief** (their lack of real faith), and **you are established through faith** [because you do believe]. So do not become proud and conceited, but rather stand in awe and be reverently afraid. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches [because of unbelief], neither will He spare you [if you are guilty of the same offense].”

We have discussed the manner in which GOD uses something in the physical domain to provide us with an image of a spiritual truth.

Fathers, your children are shoots around your tree.

Naturally, children will want to try things for themselves. By definition, they will make mistakes. The question is this, have you been pruning the wild branches that grow from time to time?

Have you made sure that they always return to the root and fatness of the Olive Tree?

This may sound like a difficult task. But, GOD has empowered you to succeed. Moreover, we have a unique promise ... those who overcome will eat of the Tree of Life, and inherit the white stone of victory.

Revelation 2:7 “7 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and give heed to what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). **To him who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant to eat [of the fruit] of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.**”



Revelation 2:17 “17 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and **heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (conquers), I will give to eat of the manna that is hidden, and I will give him a white stone with a new name engraved on the stone, which no one knows or understands except he who receives it.**”

A final thought ,

Our minds are dominated by the **Greco-Roman worldview, a system which looks at the external to judge the so-called success or failure of man's actions.** Even as we transform our way of thinking about things, we will always find those still left in the system being ready to speak their minds. **We also see that rewards are passed on to those who excel in the physical world.**

Sport for example, has been one area where the desire to achieve and be recognized is so great that many of today's athletic achievements are not the effort of man, but rather the result of the steroids used.



*I started this book by describing our time in Israel – I also spoke of the **extreme conditions in the Negev**. Every now and then, we would come across **a tree** growing out in the middle of nowhere.*

On those **extremely hot days**, these trees **provide shade** that causes you to feel a tangible difference in temperature.

What struck me was this – in most cases, the trees would **only be two or three meters high**, but on odd occasions, we came across the same type of tree, but **one that stood four or five meters**. In our world system, we **would choose the tall tree as the most successful** ... after all, it had grown the most and had the widest spread of branches, and provided the most shade.

I spent some time with our guide – this is what he said. **There is no difference between the trees**. They have the same seed, the same fruit ... **BUT**,

They have **different root systems**.



Why?

Because they do not have the same access to water. **The small tree is far from any water. Its root system will grow down, for anything up to forty meters, in search of water**. The bigger tree is growing at the site of an underground spring.



What is the life lesson here?

Circumstances can affect our outward appearance, ***but when we draw deep into the well of GOD's Word/Torah, we will survive and even provide shade for some weary traveler!***

Wherever we are planted is GOD's Grace ... ***what we produce are our works of obedience.***

May your desert bloom into a garden ... may you reap a bountiful harvest!

May your fruit bring joy to others! Shalom!

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and
He will guard you with a hedge of protection,
YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being
toward you, bringing order, and He will provide
you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH
will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look
upon you, and He will set in place all you need to
be whole and complete."

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (*מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים*), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ *בְּרַכָּה* (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ *שָׁמַר* (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

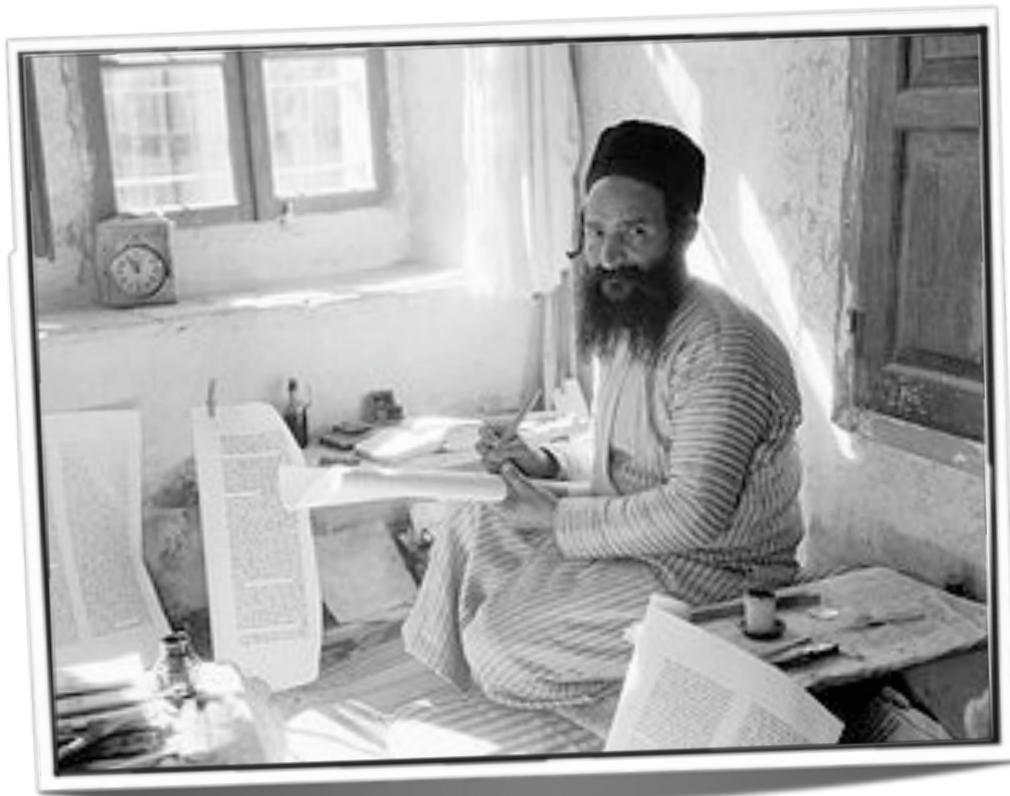
⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. *Shalom* (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. *Shalom* is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.

The Hebrew Language

The Hebrew Language ...

What's the context? It is so important to ask – and answer – this question, particularly when studying the Scriptures. We need to know what the meaning, understanding, culture, and value system of the text was in the language and time the text was written. Our modern-day mindsets cause us to define words within today's meanings, understanding, culture, and value systems ... however, this is often quite a way off from what was the original – and intended – understanding.

The Scriptures were written thousands of years ago in HEBREW, and in an Eastern-Semitic culture. If this is truth, then can we come to a different interpretation of any given passage?



In order to expand our study and understanding of the Word, we need to have a “crash course” in the original language the text was written, ancient Hebrew.

Ancient Hebrew has an alphabet of TWENTY-TWO letters. Obviously, words are written using a combination of these letters [note, there are no vowels]. However, what makes this language even more of an “adventure” is that each individual letter of the alphabet has a unique meaning, picture [symbolism], and number. This means, you can study and understand the plain text as is ... and you can study further by delving into the individual symbolism of the letters. Often, doing this kind of study brings out further meaning and richness to the passage. You will find that we have used this type of study – examining the picture-meaning of the Hebrew words – throughout our materials. We have found this such a blessing in our own understanding of the Scriptures, and trust you will enjoy it just as much! Truly, God's Word is ALIVE!

Ancient Hebrew⁸

Ancient Hebrew						
Early	Middle	Late	Name	Picture	Meaning	Sound
			El	Ox head	Strong, Power, Leader	ah, eh
			Bet	Tent floorplan	Family, House, In	b, bh(v)
			Gam	Foot	Gather, Walk	g
			Dal	Door	Move, Hang, Entrance	d
			Hey	Man with arms raised	Look, Reveal, Breath	h, ah
			Waw	Tent peg	Add, Secure, Hook	w, o, u
			Zan	Mattock	Food, Cut, Nourish	z
			Hhet	Tent wall	Outside, Divide, Half	hh
			Tet	Basket	Surround, Contain, Mud	t
			Yad	Arm and closed hand	Work, Throw, Worship	y, ee
			Kaph	Open palm	Bend, Open, Allow, Tame	k, kh
			Lam	Shepherd Staff	Teach, Yoke, To, Bind	l
			Mem	Water	Chaos, Mighty, Blood	m
			Nun	Seed	Continue, Heir, Son	n
			Sin	Thorn	Grab, Hate, Protect	s
			Ghah	Eye	Watch, Know, Shade	gh(ng)
			Pey	Mouth	Blow, Scatter, Edge	p, ph(f)
			Tsad	Man on his side	Wait, Chase, Snare, Hunt	ts
			Quph	Sun on the horizon	Condense, Circle, Time	q
			Resh	Head of a man	First, Top, Beginning	r
			Shin	Two front teeth	Sharp, Press, Eat, Two	sh
			Taw	Crossed sticks	Mark, Sign, Signal, Monument	t

⁸ http://elshaddaiministries.us/hebrewalphabet_old.html

Modern Hebrew⁹ ...

MARK	NAME	PRONOUNCED	TRANSLITERATION
א	Aleph	Silent letter	‘ (or none)
ב/בּ	Bet / Vet	b as in boy (no dot: v as in vine)	b / v
ג/גּ	Gimmel	g as in girl	g
ד/דּ	Dalet	d as in door	d
ה	Hey	h as in hay	h
ו	Vav	v as in vine; “consonantal vowel”	v
ז	Zayin	z as in zebra	z
ח	Chet	ch as in Bach	ch (or h)
ט	Tet	t as in time	t
י	Yod	y as in yes; “consonantal vowel”	y
כ/כּ	Kaf/Khaf *	k as in kite (no dot: ch as in bach)	k / kh
ל	Lamed	l as in look	l
מ/מּ	Mem *	m as in mom (sofit form)	m
נ/נּ	Nun *	n as in now (sofit form)	n
ס	Samekh	s as in son	s
ע	Ayin	Silent letter	‘ (or none)
פ/פּ	Pey/Fey *	p as in park (no dot: ph as in phone)	p / ph
צ/צּ	Tzade *	ts as in nuts (sofit form)	ts / tz
ק	Qof	q as in queen	k (or q)
ר	Resh	r as in rain	r
ש/שׁ	Shin/Sin	sh as in shy (s as in sun)	sh / s
ת/תּ	Tav	t as in tall	t

* Has a different form when it occurs at the end of a word (sofit).

⁹ www.hebrew4christians.com

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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