

"THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL FLOURISH LIKE THE PALM TREE"

(Psalms 92:12)

Introduction: The palm branches spread in the path of Jesus on Palm Sunday, at the Triumphant Entry into J^ulem. Palm trees in Florida. The text.

There are over 1200 different kinds of palm trees, and 600 of them are now found in Florida.

I. The references to trees in the Scripture.

A. Psalms 1.. "Blessed is the man... He shall be like a (a tree planted) by the rivers of waters."

B. Isa. 65:22, "As the days of a tree are the days of my people."

C. Like a green olive tree, Ps. 52:8

D. His beauty shall be as the olive tree. Hosea 14:6.

E. The cedar of Lebanon is a noble tree that grows among the snow near the highest part of ^{Mr.} Lebanon. Some are very old, supposed to be over 1,000 yrs. old. Large. height of 72 feet, trunk 12 yds in circumference, ^{largest} boughs spread diameter of 37 yards. The wood is red and has an aromatic odor and is very durable.

F. Date Palm of Near East, about Beyrouit & Jericho.

G. Trees in connection with the life of Christ. - Sidney Lanier

II. Characteristics of the palm tree.

A. Uprightness.

1. May grow to a height of from 80 to 100 ft. The trunk is tall and unbroken.

2. It will not be pressed or bound downward, or grow crooked, though heavy weights ^(captured little Prince) be laid upon it.

3. Grows as far as possible from earth and as near as possible to heaven. - set your affections on things above

B. Beauty - Ole Bull, Norwegian Violinist - "the music of 1,000 winters"

1. Top is a crown of emerald-green plumes, like a diadem of a gigantic ostrich-feathers.

2. The leaves are from 6 to 12 ft. long, (often even more) droop slightly at the ends, and whisper musically in the breeze.

3. The whole tree has an orderly & regular aspect.

4. The foliage is perpetually green. ^{v. 14. "flourishing" = green}

5. Name Tamar occasionally given to Heb. women.

C. Usefulness

1. The Syrians have enumerated 360 different uses to which it may be put. The date fruit is a great part of the daily diet of millions of people of the Near East. An oriental drink is prepared from the sap.

The seeds are ground down for camels to eat; the leaves are made unto brushes, mats, couches, and baskets; the hard boughs or strong leaf stems make fences; the juice makes arrack; the threads of the web-like material between the leaves make rope; the wood serves for valuable timber for building and for firewood. In fact, this one tree supplies almost all the wants of the Arab or Egyptian.

2. It bears its best fruit in old age.

3. It provides a refreshing shade. (Elim, Ex. 15:27)

D. Principle of Growth

1. It is an endogen, and grows from within.

III. Biblical symbolism of the palm.

A. Victory. Rev. 7:9,

B. Rejoicing, Joel 1:12

Neh. 8:15 (Feast of Tabernacles)

Lev. 23:40

C. Worship, praise, honor;

1. Triumphal Entry, Jno. 12:13

2. New restored Jewish temple, Ezek. 41:19; 40:16.

D. Constancy; "Planted in the house of the Lord",
established in the church.

Conclusion: Going out to meet an approaching guest, escorting him to one's house with a show of honor, is a common custom throughout the East. A ruler of any sort, or a conquering hero, is welcomed in that way as a matter of course.

Abraham welcomed by kings of Canaan after conquest of David - after slaughter of Philistines. Herodotus records that when Xerxes was crossing the bridge of the Hellespont the way before him was strewn with branches of myrtle which burning perfumes filled the air. Flowers were scattered before Alexander the great when he entered Babylon.

So palm branches were strewn along the way before Jesus when he entered Jerusalem.

Have you so welcomed into your heart & life?

Are you preparing the way of the Lord for His second triumphant return in glory?

Comparison & Contrast Between the Old and New Covenant; the Perfect & Ultimate Revelation in the Son. Hebrews 1:1-22.

I. the Resemblance & unity between the old and the new covenants

- and the new covenants
- A. Acknowledgement of the fundamental importance & divine authority of the Scripture.
 - 1. Unto them committed oracles of God - Rom.
 - 2. Gains confidence of Heb. brethren.
 - B. Same God is Author of Revelation in both.
 - C. Illustration of Mark 16: 7 - 2 men bearing clusters of grapes.
 - D. Augustine: "The New Testament is enfolded in the Old, and the O.T. is unfolded in the New."

II. Notice the Contrast-
not merely by, but in, the Prophecy.

- A. But spoke not merely by, but in, the Prophets.
- B. Yet, notice their imperfection
1. They ~~were many~~ -
 2. spoke in "diverse manners" - visions, symbols.
 3. They were sinful men
 4. They did not possess the Spirit constantly -
 5. They did not understand the heights & depths of that message that was entrusted to them
 6. all testified, like John, "I am not the light I am only sent to bear witness of that light"
 7. Not a single type could stand by itself, but needed to be supplemented, showing its imperfect & fragmentary character.
- a. Examples: Abel = Righteous slain
Enoch = lifted up into the heavens
Noah = save others out of judgment
- b. Joshua + Moses
 - c. Melchizedek - priest, King
Aaron - atonement, intercession
 - d. Parts of the tabernacle -

c. notice the contrast "by the son."

1. prophets many - saw only
2. demands - " the Lord
3. " temporary - " abideth forever
4. " imperfect - " abideth forever
5. " guilty - " pure - able to purify
6. " point to future - " says, "Here am I."

D. The Son not merely says, "Verily, I say--
but He himself is the message.

E. He is the Eternal Incarnate Word.

1. sent not to condemn but to save
2. to confess His sonship is to become
a son of God. 1 Jn. 4:15

14. This is the Ultimate Revelation..

A. there can be nothing higher

B. There can be nothing further

C. "In these last days" the hath spoken.