

The Bible and Trees – Rev. 1

Daniel 4:5ff

The Bible has much to say about trees. There are more than 50 references to trees in God’s Word and there is a symbolic representation much like the parables of the New Testament.

Examples:

- I. The fall of man is related to a tree in [Genesis 2:9](#) *“the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”* [Genesis 3:17](#) *“And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the forbidden tree, of which I commanded thee saying, Thou shall not eat of it; cursed is the ground for thy sake; and in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”*
- II. The salvation of mankind is related to the tree in [1 Peter 2:24](#) *“Who his own self carried our sins in his own body on the tree.”*
- III. The soul winner is likened to a tree in [Proverbs 11:30](#) *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.”* [Jeremiah 17:8](#) presents the fact that the believer will not *“cease from yielding fruit.”* [Matthew 7:17](#) *“Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit.”*
- IV. Christian advance and prosperity are related to a tree in [Psalm 1:3](#) *“For he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*

So, we find the following subjects – all related to a tree – in God’s Word:

FALL OF MAN – SALVATION – EVANGELISM – CHRISTIAN ADVANCE – PROSPERITY

Now in [Daniel Chapter 4](#), we find a flourishing tree witnessed by Nebuchadnezzar which greatly disturbed him. It was not uncommon in ancient days for a prosperous man to be represented under the image of a “flourishing tree.” ([Psalm 92:12](#)) The original language is: “growing green.” We are aware of the fact that about 25 or 30 years after the fiery furnace experience that Nebuchadnezzar has had time to build a great empire. Daniel, who came on the scene as a teenager, is now perhaps 45 or 50. Over the years, many things have occurred and at

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this time, the king is at ease. Peace, prosperity and tranquility characterize his life. He has no fears, no apprehensions, no enemies on the border – but *WOW* – now a *DREAM* – that caused great consternation.

(Daniel 4:5)

1. The king did not realize that this dream was a divine revelation from God.
2. The most valuable possession in the world is the salvation of the soul.
3. The king needed to realize, as every person, that there is no true or permanent security or peace apart from regeneration.
4. All the possessions brought no lasting comfort to his soul. [Mark 8:36, 37](#) declare: *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*
5. God’s design for this dream-vision was the eventual salvation of the king; however, many years were to pass before he would learn the great lesson of the book of Ecclesiastes: In that book we see Solomon returning from the broken and empty cisterns of the world to the fountain of living water, recording his own folly and shame, the bitterness of his disappointment and the lessons he had learned. When Solomon said “Vanity of Vanities, all is vanity” ([Ecclesiastes 1:2](#)), he was saying that “there is absolutely no substitute for fellowship with God.” The hunger of the soul cannot be satisfied with whatever the world has to offer. ([Ecclesiastes 2:11](#))
6. Now the king, immobilized by fear, seeks human solutions to a spiritual need. How sad! Unbelievers as well as many believers seek solutions to their problems, not from God and His Word, but from human resources. ([Daniel 4:6, 7](#))
7. Daniel, being spiritually mature, waited while all the so-called wise men floundered and were unsuccessful. Daniel waited for the divine appointment. It pays not to be “pushy.”
 - Joshua – served under Moses for 40 years before promotion. ([Joshua 1:5-9; 3:7; 6:27](#))
 - David – cared for his father’s sheep until the Lord opened the door for service ([1 Samuel 17:4, 16, 32](#))
 - Our Heavenly Father wants to use us in His own way, not ours.

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8. The king had bestowed upon Daniel the highest ranking office in the Chaldean State Department ([Daniel 2:48](#)) which reveals that even he as an unbeliever recognized that Daniel's power came from a supernatural source.
9. Daniel's wisdom and patience made it possible for him to see the need to wait for the God-appointed time to deal with the dream of the Tree. ([Daniel 4:10-19](#)) The flourishing tree would become only a stump. Nebuchadnezzar would lose his power and glory, but his life would be preserved.
10. Leaving "*the stump with its roots*" ([Daniel 4:15](#)) "*a band of iron and brass around it*" illustrates a great principle: The band around it kept it from splitting so that the tree could grow again. (NOTE: As long as you are breathing, God has a plan for your life.) Even in the midst of discipline, God was protecting Nebuchadnezzar's life.

Bronze Related to discipline (From our posted study on the subject of [Wrath](#)):

- The word bronze was used for bad decisions in [Isaiah 48:4](#) (mulish, inflexible, unyielding, stubborn, unbending, obstinate).
 - In [Deuteronomy 28:23-25](#) it was used for disaster in a national economy.
 - Discipline in [Lamentations 3:6-8](#) is the kind that "*bronze*" is used in the Bible to express judgment of the fifth cycle of discipline (recall the study of the [Five Cycles of Discipline](#)).
 - In [II Kings 25:7](#) the word is used to express divine judgment on believers living in Satan's sphere of power.
 - [Leviticus 26:19](#) also presents bronze as related to discipline.
11. Daniel 4, [Verses 20-33](#) (Only time to read)
 12. Repentance ([Daniel 4:34](#))
Testimony ([Daniel 4:36, 37](#))