

**Healing
Of
A
Dry
Tree**

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Table of Contents

Preface	3
Introduction	4
The State of a Dry Tree	6
Men Liken as Trees	10
Two Kinds of Trees	12
The Nature of the Fruits from a Tree	15
Reason for Fruit Inspection	18
The Lord Jesus Christ and The Dry Tree	21
The Only Way to Bear Fruits	26

This book is originally part of a sermon preached concerning a dry tree. There are important lessons to be learned from a dry tree which characterizes fallen men and the kingdoms in this world. As such, more materials have been added and the state of a dry tree is discussed in greater details. Most importantly, this study is to teach the saints to avoid becoming a dry tree and encourage those who are desperately in need of deliverance from whatever setbacks and discouragements to become fruitful again for Christ instead of remaining as a dry tree. The Lord does use many things in this world to teach His people objective lessons. A dry tree is one of those chosen instruments recorded in the Scriptures given by inspiration of God to teach the child of God to aspire to be a fruitful tree bringing forth fruits rather than becoming a dry tree withering away under the bondage of sins. May this book be a blessing to many saints in need of encouragement to know that he needs not be a dry tree devoid of fruitfulness in the service of the great King!

There are many kinds of trees mentioned in the Holy Bible. The most prominent of which is the tree of life that was planted in the midst of the Garden of Eden. The other tree which caused so much pain and trouble to this world and fallen men is the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This tree was also planted in the Garden of Eden to test the obedience of the first man created on planet Earth. There was only one law of forbiddance given to the first man Adam. The tree of knowledge of good and evil was the instrument used by God to test whether Adam and Eve would obey Him and His words. Had Adam not eaten of this fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the tree of life would be their reward of eternal life. Hence after the fall of man, they had to be kept away from the tree of life. So the fate of men has always been closely intertwined with trees. Trees do tell stories. Trees reveal the state of affairs of this fallen world and the nature of men. Trees symbolically represent men and kingdoms in this world.

Ever since the fall of man, the whole creation was also plunged into bondage of corruption. They did not enter into corruption with man willingly, but suffered with the fallen human race waiting for the future full manifestation of the sons of God. The Bible shows there are trees that are prospering and bearing fruits in their seasons. There are also trees that are withering and dying every season. The starkest contrast with a healthy fruit-bearing tree is that of a dry tree. Indeed, a dry tree is a pathetic sight. This dry tree tells a story. It reveals its glorious past and a bleak uncertain and hopeless future. A lot has transpired between the two states of the tree. The dry tree is crying out for deliverance. It is looking up to heaven for the precious dew to renew its strength and be restored back to former fruitfulness. It is waiting patiently hoping for the former and the latter rain to come and become fruitful again (Joel 2:23).

There are three references of a dry tree in the Old Testament. The significance of a dry tree cannot be ignored. There are precious lessons to be learned from a dry tree. It speaks much of the state of fallen men. The dry tree symbolizes the condition of a man and the reason for his parched dry state. The man has traveled down memories' lane with much transpired in the few short years of sorrow and pain. Vanity has been his experience and his constant companion with few fruits to show given the grace showered upon him from above. It is the time of famine of his soul and the dryness is causing him to cry out for nourishment which only heaven can dispense. May a child of God learn to avoid such tragic state as that of a dry tree and be obedient to the law of Christ to walk in the paths of righteousness

bringing forth fruits to delight his Master and Redeemer during this earthly pilgrimage!

Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. (Isaiah 56:1-3)

Here is a record of the condition during the time of Isaiah concerning the nation of Israel. Isaiah was living in appalling times where the children of Israel were apathetic towards the spiritual things of Jehovah God. It was indeed not a happy state to be found in a nation called of God to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before Jehovah God. Israel had seen better days during righteous kings leading the nation in glorious worship of Jehovah God. But now, Israel was generally in apostasy. Isaiah saw what would be coming for the Southern Kingdom. He knew the present state of the nation was a far cry from what it used to be when they had righteous kings reigning in Israel. Under king David, they had true worship of Jehovah God with the ark brought back to Jerusalem. During the time of king Solomon, the temple was built and the whole nation congregated to worship Jehovah God and offered sacrifices. It was a glorious time when there was peace and quietness throughout the kingdom of Israel. But the children of Israel turned their back on Jehovah God and worshipped false gods. This brought the wrath of God upon the kingdom.

The kingdoms were then divided and the children of Israel of the Northern Kingdom started worshipping false gods almost immediately after the split. They wanted to position themselves on religious matters that will ensure that the children of Israel would not return to Jerusalem to worship Jehovah God which would thus weakened the kingdom in the north. So they established their own religious authority in worshipping idols to prevent a future reunification of the faith of the northern state with their brethren in the south who were worshipping Jehovah God in Jerusalem. Thus they got worse and worse and eventually, this left Jehovah God with no choice but to bring an end to this rebellious kingdom. It was during the time of Isaiah that the Northern Kingdom was completely destroyed and her people carried away by the Assyrians. It was tragic that Jehovah God who redeemed this people from Egypt should now become captives again in a foreign land. This army that wiped out the Northern Kingdom threatened to do the same to the

Southern Kingdom of Judah during the reign of king Hezekiah. This army led by Sennacherib taunted the children of Israel in the South who were taking refuge behind the walls of Jerusalem to drink their own piss and eat their own dung.

It was a time of desperation and rebuke for the people of God. They had gotten so far away from Jehovah God that they found themselves out of favour with their God who allowed their enemies to oppress them. It was during such a time that people mourned and remembered better days in the past. They cried out and lamented that they were like a dry tree just like an eunuch bearing no fruits. Israel was at one time fruitful living in a land flowing with milk and honey. Their glorious past was indeed a thing of the past. What they were left with was memories and stories told them by those who knew what it was like during better days with heaven smiling upon them and Jehovah God watching over them. Peace and tranquility were their portion and quietness and assurance their lot. Now they had become dried up like a dry tree. Their peace and security were all taken away. Their prosperity was no more. There were times when the children of Israel were under siege by their enemies that they resorted to eating their own children as prophesied by Moses of yesteryears. How sad and tragic for such tragedies that happened to a nation chosen by Jehovah God to manifest the righteousness and holiness of the Creator God to sinners on earth! Such was the pathetic state of the nation of Israel. They did not live up to their calling as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before Jehovah God.

As such, the Lord left them to be oppressed by their enemies in hopes that they would repent and return to the true and living God. The nation of Israel as a fruitful tree had now turned into a dry tree. The children of Israel were generally apathetic towards the spiritual things of God. They failed to carry out the mission to wipe out the Canaanites and now they had even incorporated their gods into their national life in place of temple worship in Jerusalem for Jehovah God. Perhaps they thought they could achieve unity in diversity in worshipping the gods of the nations around them. They were so accustomed to sinning that their apostasy became cyclical in nature. Whenever they were oppressed by their enemies, they would turn to the true and living God to seek for deliverance. When they became strong, they were lifted up with pride and went back into apostasy. Those whose hearts were yet tender cried out to God and interceded to God to spare their nation. These people realized that their present conditions were the result of their own rebellion. They saw their fruits as a nation all dried up and gone. They

recognized that they had become a dry tree waiting to be burned. They lamented that they were like a dry tree incapable of bearing fruits like a eunuch. How sad to fall into this pathetic state for a once fruitful tree branching out full of righteous fruits to delight the God who redeemed them to be a special people from Egypt to be a light to the Gentile nations.

We are likewise living in such appalling times. Like Israel, the Church in general is also in apostasy denying that God has preserved His infallible words for us. The Church has become so commercialized that she has become a business enterprise. Church leaders are entrepreneurs and the flock is the marketing agents soliciting businesses from the outside world to join them in their Christian enterprise. It is full of activities and vibrancy but not in spiritual activities for the Lord. If Christ were now on earth, he would no doubt overturn the business enterprises and disband the marketing strategies of the church leaders for bringing in goats into the church. Those remnants who have seen better days throw in the towel preferring to justify their inactivity in spiritual things citing this as their liberty in Christ. It is between them and God so they said. They condemned others for church activities but they do not condemn their own inactivity for the things of Christ. What supreme hypocrisy! The Church is also like a dry tree bearing no fruits for her Saviour.

We are truly living in perilous times. Those who have spiritual eyes to see indeed lament like those Jews in the past that we are like a dry tree bearing no fruits for Christ. Where are our fruits and fruitfulness? We are supposed to be living under the blessings from the above. The dryness felt by the remnants cause them to cry out to God to grant the Church a little revival in the midst of the years. They know that the Church is not supposed to be a dry tree. They remember reading in the Scriptures the fruitfulness of the ministry in the New Testament where Christians lived gloriously for Christ. They won victories after victories and the Church grew from strength to strength. They fought gallantly under the banner of Christ and brought down strongholds and cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. But now, all the victories led by the vanguard of those Christian soldiers were a thing of the past. The glory has departed from the Church. Ichabod has been written on the Church door and some do not even recognize the handwritings on the wall. They have no spiritual eyes to discern what is coming their way. How pathetic for the

Church of the living God on earth to degenerate to this state of apathy. Is there no balm in Gilead as lamented by the Jews of old?

The Jews in the Southern Kingdom still had the Temple standing during that time. They went through the motion with all their ceremonies and celebrations but it did not stop their enemies from taunting them and oppressing them. We likewise have church worship but how many times it was just a form to sooth our conscience for coming to church for some semblance of the Christian faith? We went through the motion of worship but the blessings from above did not fall on us. The enemies of our soul taunt us to return to our own vomit and wallow in our own mire. Like Pharaoh, we do not mind spending one more night with the frogs and we do not mind one more sip to get drunk in the flesh and worldliness. We do not mind one more indulgence to the flesh for we are now so accustomed to sin and sinning and it seems like God does not mind anymore. The enemies of darkness accuse us before our God day and night and laugh us to scorn and we feel nothing about it. They ridicule us and challenge us to show them our power to live for Christ. We are like a dry tree ready to die. We just wait for that appointment to come. How tragic for the ambassadors of Christ who have given up representing this far country of a land that is fairer than day. They forget that they represent this far away glorious country which has foundation whose builder and maker is God. They have raised the white flag and join with the host countries in their vanity and condone their unlawful acts vexing their righteous souls day after day waiting for the time of their dry tree to be cut down and burnt. Is this the lot for the Church? Should the Church become a dry tree?

Indeed men are like trees in the Scriptures. One time the Lord was healing a blind man. When he first opened his eyes, this was what he said: **And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. (Mark 8:24)** Men and trees do have an intimate relationship. In fact, man's life also depended very much on the health of trees. There are specific instructions given to the children of Israel not to destroy trees indiscriminately. **When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege: Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued. (Deuteronomy 20:19&20)** Men cannot escape the fate of having to rely on trees that provide the cover and sustenance for nature for their survival even as Solomon said: **Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. (Ecclesiastes 5:9)**

Another time King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream.

O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof. Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. (Daniel 4:9-16)

Here is the interpretation from Daniel.

The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. (Daniel 4:20-22)

The tree was this king who was humbled because of his pride. He thought it was by his own wisdom and power that brought him his kingdom. He became high-minded when all things were subjected unto him in his own little glorious world on earth. He had a very myopic view living in his own sphere of influence on planet Earth. He had destroyed many kingdoms and brought the children of Israel into his own kingdom to become his servants. He did not know that it was the God of heaven and earth that gave him a kingdom and power of life and death over all men and beasts. This tree represents king Nebuchadnezzar. This tree was flourishing until he was lifted up with pride. That tree was eventually cut down to its stump like a dry tree. It was later allowed to renew and given a new lease of life. In fact, men are supposed to live long lives like a tree according to Isaiah: **They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. (Isaiah 65:22)** It is sad that God's people often fall short of living the life like a fruitful tree. Hence, there is a great need to learn how to avoid becoming a dry tree and how to overcome the dry spell during the time of the dry tree to become fruitful again.

God's people are promised length of days like that of a tree. This is supposed to be the days of heaven on earth for the elect of God. Unfortunately, God's people often turned their back to God and a flourishing fruitful tree can soon turn into a dry tree. However, even literal trees are also capable of rejoicing like a man during the day when Christ's reign on earth is fulfilled. **For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)** The trees can clap their hands like men. The trees can rejoice in the day of Christ. When God's people feel like they are like dry trees, God makes the green tree to rejoice in that day. So Christians ought to resemble some kind of trees.

The psalmist tells us: **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)**

This blessed man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. How often is a Christian like this blessed man? Then where are the fruits from Christians? Christians are supposed to be fruitful. **The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. (Proverb 11:30)** Christians who are unfruitful are misnomer.

The blessed man is also a righteous man that brings forth fruits. He is supposed to be like a tree of life giving lives to others through the gospel of Christ. Are you like this kind of tree? Are you wise? But a wicked man is also like a tree. **I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. (Psalm 37:35)**

This wicked man may look like a good tree from the outside. He may even be prosperous in this life basking in luxury in want of nothing. But his end is not the same as that of a righteous blessed man in whom the Lord imputes not iniquity. For we are told of his end in Psalm 37:36: **Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.** The flourishing appearance of a wicked tree can only appear for a while. They cannot fake it forever. They produce different kinds of fruits

from the righteous trees. The two kinds of fruits will never be the same till the end of time.

So there are two types of trees on this earth representing two types of people. The Lord is actively blessing and cultivating the good trees and at the same time destroying the wicked trees in due time. This is what God said personally.

And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it. (Ezekiel 17:24)

A good tree may also find itself becoming dry when the famine sent by God to chasten God's people to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. This is to be expected as the Lord is also watching over this tree and causes it to flourish again in his season when repentance is found. There is hope in a dry tree for a righteous man. In contrast, the tree of the wicked has a different end. There is no hope for an outwardly flourishing tree whose end is to be burnt. The Lord will personally ensure that his will be done for the two kinds of trees. The Lord is the Lord of harvest and will cast in the sickle when harvest time is due.

And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein. And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched. (Ezekiel 20:47&48)

The Lord is intensely interested in what kind of trees to keep and what to destroy. The fake green tree of the wicked will be cut down and burned in the fires of God's wrath. The account here concerned Egypt where the remnant of the children of Israel thought it was safe to take refuge there after King Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and carried the people away to Babylon. Despite the pleading of the prophet Jeremiah for them to remain in the land after the destruction of Jerusalem, they went into Egypt (Jeremiah 42-44). They trusted in the arms of flesh which could

not save them. This time even the dry tree will be affected. When the entire forest becomes corrupt before God, all the trees will have to go. There is no escaping of the wicked flourishing like a green bay tree. The fire of God will follow them all the way to their imagined place of safety and will devour them there.

Nevertheless, the ends of the good tree though dry from time to time are not the same as that of the wicked tree though look green in appearance. For Solomon spoke of the two ends of two different people: **For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. (Proverbs 24:16)** There is hope for a dry tree of the righteous but the seemingly green bay tree of the wicked is hopeless. There is this constant theme of comparison between two trees in the New Testament.

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (Matthew 7:17-19)

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruits and likewise a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruits. This is the law of nature. An apple tree will not bring forth oranges. The tree produces after its kind. This law is fixed and not subject to change. Those wicked trees that bring forth no good fruits will eventually be cut down and burned in the fire. The Lord gives the following options to the tree.

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. (Matthew 12:33)

There is no middle ground between the two kinds of tree. By their fruits we shall know what kind of trees they are. Are you consciously examining the fruits of your own lives to check what kind of trees you are? Are you not concerned you could be cultivating the wrong kind of tree? The Lord is quite serious about the fruits we bear. The severity is more than what we care to imagine. The Lord even pronounced a curse upon a fig tree when He found no fruits there.

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! (Matthew 21:19&20)

Fallen men always take this passage to ridicule God for being an unjust and merciless God. They thought God is cavalier in His attitude and go around cursing whenever He felt like it. They thought God is like a wicked man who is hateful and profane. But how can we expect fallen men to discern the spiritual things of God? Here Israel is supposed to be a good tree bringing forth fruits for her God. They had been established for a millennium since the time of king Saul. They were carried away and then restored back to their own homeland after a seventy-year period. Even after being chastised by the Assyrians and Babylonians, they still did not learn

their lessons. The nation of Israel as a whole was unfruitful. The Lord who cultivated them, showered His blessings upon them year after year and yet when He came to look for fruits, He found none. So the fig tree was cursed and withered away and became a dry tree. They failed miserably and were cursed. They were set aside and no good fruits will be produced by this tree until the end of the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled. This dry tree of Israel has only gone into hibernating state like king Nebuchadnezzar. They are left as a stump of a dry tree. They will be restored one day in the future. The healing of the dry tree will come according to God's perfect will and timing. We are told about this concerning the breaking off of the natural branch of Israel and the grafting of the wild branch of the Gentiles.

And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? (Romans 11:17-24)

The breaking off of Israel is only temporary and they will be restored again in the future. The Gentiles are grafted in when the natural branch, Israel, is broken off. Israel as a dry tree is now set aside until the fullness of the Gentiles is complete. No Christians can take pride in being planted in the true olive tree and pour scorn on Israel for being removed. The Gentiles are wild by nature and there is no basis for them to glory in the setting aside of Israel. For Israel is the natural branch. Israel is set aside because of their unbelief and Christians are now standing by faith. The unbelief of Israel is only temporary and one day this nation will be converted and her status restored to her again. The dry tree of Israel will definitely be healed. There will be healing of the Gentiles nations as well where the tree of life will be restored in eternity. The severity that fell on Israel resulted in the goodness

of God experienced by the Gentiles. It is indeed contrary to nature to graft a wild olive tree into a true natural olive tree but God is able to accomplish this miraculous engrafting.

Instead of boasting over the removal of Israel so that the Gentiles are grafted in, Christians ought to fear and not be lifted up with pride and become high-minded. There are Christians who are ignorant of this fact. They thought that God is forever through with Israel and the Church has replaced Israel completely and permanently. However, this is just not the case for Israel will one day be restored to her glorious state and her present state as a dry tree will flourish again in the courts of the Lord's house.

Why is the Lord so obsessed with trees and their fruits? Throughout the Holy Bible, the Lord's is always looking for fruits in the lives of His people. Notwithstanding fallen men living in this sin cursed world, they are still capable of bearing fruits that delight the Lord God and move heaven to their favour. Calvin's concept of total depravity is a depraved idea that fallen men cannot respond to God's dealing and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. This false doctrine absolves men for their rebellion because it implies that God has in some way made fallen men that way, especially for those that God deliberately bypassed for salvation according to Calvin's false system of interpreting the Holy Bible. Fruit bearing capability is independent of the depraved nature of fallen men. It is a cruel mockery to imply that man cannot respond to God's commandment and God's law are superfluous meant to be broken. It implies that the fig tree will naturally be unable to bear fruits just waiting for the time for the Lord to come around and curse it. Can anyone be so ridiculous to believe that the purpose of creating the fig tree is for the fig tree to wait for the curse to come? Did God will the fig tree that way before the foundation of the world for the praise of the glory of God?

Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: (Zechariah 3:8; 6:12)

The Lord is actively looking for fruits from fallen men throughout the Bible since the beginning of time. He looked for fruits from Abel and Cain and one was accepted and the other rejected. He looked for fruits from the two sons of Isaac, one was loved and the other hated. The Lord also looks for fruits from Christians and those who respond to God's gentle dealing and bring forth fruits are rewarded and those who fail to mortify the deeds of the flesh become castaway. Ever wonder why the Lord is so obsessed with fruits finding? This is because the Lord is the BRANCH Himself. That is why the Lord is this divine fruits Inspector who will audit the nature of our fruits. Christians are to become more and more like Christ even as they walk with Him and talk with Him everyday of their earthly life. The glorious reflection of the nature and attributes of Christ should transform the believer into a tree of life just like Christ. Those who refuse to walk close with the Lord and

follow Him afar off wearing a worldly veil on their face will not be fruitful and bring forth fruits for the glory of God.

Being the BRANCH, the Lord Jesus Christ is the true olive tree where Israel is first grafted in. It is in this olive tree that Israel ought to bring forth fruits for God to be a light to this dying world crying out for deliverance from the bondage of the cursed pronounced upon the earth. Because of the curse, dry trees are the natural results brought upon them by the fall of man. The Lord Jesus Christ comes to restore this world and make all things new. In particular, He saves sinners and makes them new creatures in Christ. The natural man will eventually go the way of all the earth and turn into a dry tree before it is cut down and perished. The spiritual man born again in Christ will be a different kind of tree that brings forth fruits day by day even as the tree of the old man is dying by the day. A Christian has two natures and he has two types of trees residing in him. He can choose to cultivate the tree of the old man or the tree of the new man in Christ. The task is up to him. Notwithstanding, the Lord will be watching over this Christian and seeks fruits from him. The Lord has a penchant looking for fruits from His people.

He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? (Luke 13:6&7)

A born again Christian is given a chance and a privilege to cultivate this new tree to bring forth fruits. He is given time and space to learn how to grow this new tree in him. Generally, the usual time frame is threescore years and ten for fallen men living on earth. Some have more time and some have less. Nevertheless, a Christian should learn the ropes from the Scriptures and from those faithful saints that have gone on before him to cultivate the new tree in him. The Lord will soon come around looking for fruits and it will be exceedingly embarrassing to be found wanting with no good fruits to serve the Master and Redeemer of man's soul. It shows that this Christian is a careless and ungrateful servant of Christ. He could not be bothered to be ever ready to serve his Master with fresh fruits to delight this Divine Being who saves him from hell fire. Solomon shows the love a woman has for her beloved by producing fruits to delight him during his visit: **Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my**

garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. (Song of Solomon 4:16) Christians should yearn like this woman to delight the soul of her beloved. Such Christians certainly will be fruitful and will not allow the dry tree to greet their Master when He comes.

It is truly sad when the Lover of our soul comes, all He finds is the old tree of the old man standing where it ought not bringing forth strange fruits that poison the soul. On the other hand, the new tree is becoming like a dry tree in need of renewal. This new tree has become so malnourished due to neglect of spiritual food that it has become dry and swaying in the wind of worldliness and bending over to the fertilizer from the deceitfulness of riches. So when the Lord comes around and when He finds no fruits from the new tree, a certain time span is given to allow this Christian to get his act together and ensure that his new tree grows and flourishes. Those trees that are not bearing fruits will be removed in due time. The apostle Paul is very conscious of this fact when he wrote: **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (1 Corinthians 9:27)** Should a Christian allow the new tree from his new man to become like a dry tree, he will become a castaway in due time. Truly, why allow this tree to cumber the ground? It should be cut down as an object lesson to others as well as to allow others opportunity to grow on the piece of ground once this dry tree is removed. A Christian not serving the Lord in the field of his calling will be removed to make way for others to take his place.

Because of the transgression of Adam that plunged the whole world into sin, green trees start turning into dry trees. For this tragic corruption of the world, we are told: **For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. (Romans 8:22)** As trees do represent the state of a man, the Lord Jesus Christ is no exception. The Lord understands what it was like to be a dry tree. In fact, He had personally tasted such a state for fallen men. The apostle Paul wrote this about the Lord who certainly can empathize with what fallen men had to experience: **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)** The sufferings of Christ can also be illustrated as a dry tree. The Lord also spoke about the green and dry tree while treading up to Mount Calvary to be crucified for sinners most deserving of hell fire.

And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? (Luke 23:26-31)

The Lord Jesus Christ had been badly beaten and was on the way to Mount Calvary to be crucified. He was so severely weakened through the beatings that Simon was compelled to carry the cross for Him to Calvary. Along the way, a great company of people including women bewailed and lamented because the Lord was on His way to be put to death on the cruel cross. They saw His sufferings and the unjust trial that led to the soon crucifixion of Christ. They remembered what the Lord had done for the poor, healing the sick, casting out devils, restoring the sight for the blind and many more good works that He did. But now all hopes of this Prophet to bring in the Kingdom were gone. So they lamented and cried for Christ who was supposed to restore the Kingdom for Israel living under Roman tyranny.

However, the Lord told them not to weep for Him but for themselves. The day is coming where all these that were done would be required during the day of the vengeance of the Lord. These sinners were plotting the murder

of their Messiah and the Lord likened this act as doing these things in a green tree. If such acts of treachery and wickedness are done in a green tree during the Lord's day of earthly ministry, what would it be when the day of the dry tree is come. During the day of the green tree under great signs and wonder performed by the Lord sinners refused to repent and accept Him, what would it be like when the dry tree of judgment is come and vengeance is exacted from sinners who would call upon the mountains and for the rocks to fall on them to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. The day of the green tree is gone and the day of the dry tree is on the way about to be burnt to a crisp during the time of Jacob's trouble. The wickedness done to the green tree will come back to judge fallen men during the time of the dry tree.

The Lord is the green tree but wicked sinners are hell bent in turning it to a dry tree. They are determined to cut down this divine green tree out of envy and turn it into a dry tree like theirs bearing no fruits. They could not bear the fruitfulness of this green tree in contrast with their own fruitless fig tree and so they went about to destroy this fruit bearing green tree. They forgot that their fathers had in the past been accused by Jehovah God for committing sacrilege and worshipping idols under every green tree (1 Kings 14:23; 2 Kings 16:4; 2 Kings 17:10; 2 Chronicles 28:4; Isaiah 57:5; Jeremiah 2:20; 3:6,13, Ezekiel 6:13; 17:24; 20:47). Their infidelity to Jehovah God performed under every green tree were infamous and now they sought to cut down this divine green tree of the Lord.

In fact the Lord did command the children of Israel to cut down some things connected with green trees. **These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 12:1-4)** They were supposed to cut down all the places, idols and their images under every green tree of the false gods that the Canaanites worshipped. They were not supposed to destroy the worship of Jehovah God. But they refused to obey God and allowed the worship of false gods in their lands under every green tree to continue. Moreover, they were doing it

to the green tree of the true and living God seeking to turn it to a dry tree to prevent this green tree from bearing fruits.

Under the leadership from the fiends of hell, they went about to turn this green tree to a dry tree so much so that the Lord while hanging on the cross cried out: **I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. (Psalm 22:14,15)** But this dry tree from the Lord will never die. It will flourish again on resurrection morning bringing many sons to glory. The fruitfulness of the Lord's green tree is beyond compare. The Lord will certainly bring forth fruits because He is the BRANCH and the true vine and fruitfulness is expected from Him.

The sufferings of Christ can also be likened to that of a dry tree. The sufferings of the cross are like a man hung up to dry on a tree. The apostle Peter preached about this suffering of the Lord on the day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ where Christ's body was said to be on the tree: **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)** Though the Lord was like a dry tree on the cross, the healing properties and the saving grace for sinners were accomplished and made available to fallen men. This dry tree is going to bring forth much fruits beyond the imagination of all the enemies from hell.

The apostle Paul told the Galatians that Christ as a dry tree was made a curse for sinners for hanging on a tree: **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13&14)** Indeed, those who hanged on the cross resembled very much like a dry tree from afar. This green tree of the Lord had been made a curse for us. **For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)** Through this dry tree of the Lord, sinners had been redeemed from the curse of the law as well as being made the righteousness of God in Christ. The world and the enemies of God underestimated the power of this dry tree of the Lord. They were completely mistaken to the effect this dry tree lifted up upon the earth would

bring. For the Lord Himself declared: **Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die. (John 12:31-33)** They did not expect this dry tree had a strange attraction for sinners.

Peter and the other apostles also accused those who crucified Christ as hanging Him on a tree: **Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. (Acts 5:29&30)** The sufferings of Christ hanging on the cross did look very much like a dry tree from a distance. Peter once again mentioned that the Lord Jesus was hanged on the tree by wicked men when he preached to Cornelius and his household: **And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. (Acts 10:39-41)** The apostle Paul also preached about the Lord's body being brought down from a tree after His death: **And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. (Acts 13:29-31)**

Notwithstanding, the dry tree of the Lord is not a permanent state of affair. It was only temporary going through a phase providentially allowed for the redemption of fallen men and for the remission of their sins. This dry tree blossomed again on resurrection day into a tree of life. The dry tree of the Lord was just a passing phase according to the apostle Peter: **For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18)** The apostle Paul also confirmed this healing efficacies of the dry tree from the body of the Lord: **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (Hebrew 9:28)** Hence the Lord Jesus Christ is not a permanent dry tree. He is no longer on the cross. He did not see corruption in the grave. He rose again on the third day according to Scriptures. He was victorious over the dry tree. The lifting up of the dry tree of the Lord's body on that cruel cross has drawn many lost

sinners to Christ. The Lord no doubt understands very well what it is like to be a dry tree. So for a child of God going through his season of parched dryness can certainly look to the Lord for succour and grace and for restoration to his fruitful state. There is no reason why a child of God should remain as a dry tree.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:1-8)

God is not only the true olive tree. The Lord is also the true vine. The Father is the husbandman. Christ the BRANCH brings forth fruits to please the Father and likewise Christians should also bear fruits to please God.

So Christ is this true vine called the BRANCH in the Old Testament. We are told He prunes His branches regularly. No branches can bear fruits except they abide in Christ. Without Christ, the branches can do nothing. If this man abides not in Christ, his end is to be burned. This burning is not hell fire. The instruments of burning are men who will gather them for the burning. The Lord uses men to chastise His people just like He used the pagan nations to destroy Israel. When they become unfruitful, they become a castaway. They loose their testimony and have no desire to testify for Christ and for what Christ has done for them. If the branches bear fruits, these are evidences that they are the disciples of Christ.

So what are your fruits after all these years of walking with Christ and hearing the word preached to you? Are your fruits just some walls of a property like a pigeonhole in the sky? Are your fruits just a set of wheels for you to move around? Are your fruits just a huge bank account to tide you over for two generations? Are your fruits just some paper qualifications where fallen men will be impressed but not Almighty God? What are the fruits that you have contributed to the body of Christ?

Are you feeling like you are a dry tree? Are you feeling like you are not bearing fruits unto Christ anymore? Have you examined your own lives where you have left your true vine and you are no longer abiding in Christ?

Fear not, your end is not the same as that of the wicked. The end of the wicked is very different. They may fake a healthy fruit-producing tree for a while. The description of this type of tree by Jude gives believer an insight into the true nature and end of such trees.

These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. (Jude 1:12&13)

The tree of the wicked made bare under scrutiny from the Scriptures is very ugly indeed. They are full of iniquity and are literally dead. Their fruits withered away and the whole tree is completely uprooted. The destruction of this kind of tree is complete and without warning and remedy. This kind of tree has passed the time of grace and its nature becomes permanent: **He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. (Proverbs 29:1)** These fake trees of the wicked will be destroyed forever. They will be burned in hell fire. But the end of a child of God is not the same for we are told: **That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:12&13)**

Christians are no longer without Christ and strangers from the covenants of promise. Christians are not without hope and without God in this world. Christians are not outside of the commonwealth of Israel. Christians are no longer a stranger for they have been grafted into the true olive tree. Christians are encouraged to look to the Lord for mercy, grace and blessings. For the Lord says: **Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. (Isaiah 56:3)**

Christians have been joined unto the Lord by being born again into the family of God. Christians have believed in Christ and accepted Him as personal Lord and Saviour are now accepted in the Beloved. There is hope

of a restoration from being a dry tree. For the promise unto Christian is to be fruitful again.

For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8)

Do you desire to bear fruits again? Then you have to abide in Christ. Go back to the place from whence you have fallen and leave your burdens at the foot of the cross on Mount Calvary. Look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith to restore you. Do not rebel and be obstinate or one day you might be consigned to the home of the castaway. The promise of fruitfulness is yours to receive. Please take a look at what the psalmist saw of the righteous tree. This should be the state of the righteous flourishing with fruitfulness as a healthy tree.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. (Psalm 92:12-15)

Christians need not be a dry tree and lament his pitiful and pathetic state. There is restoration for those who desire to bear fruits for the wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians can still bring forth fruits in old age. Old age is not an excuse for inactivity. Old age is a time of consolidation of fruitfulness over the years. The dry spells that cause the tree to dry up from time to time must not be a permanent affair for Christians. Fruitfulness in old age is a promise to Christians if he abides in Christ, the true vine. Christians are to hold on to their fruitfulness and be consistent about bearing fruits for Christ. For the divine fruit Inspector is coming and the instruction He left is this: **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (Revelation 3:11)** So Christians ought to hold fast his fruits and remain fruitful even in old age. The Lord of the harvest is coming and Christians should be ready for harvest time and enter into joy and rejoicing in that day of the Lord's return.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)

The glory of this tree of a righteous man is certainly attainable. This tree is nourished by the rivers of water of the grace of God. The fruits of this tree are the result of abiding in Christ, the true vine, bringing forth fruits in his season. The state of a dry tree need not be the lot for a child of God. Christians can be like a blessed man whose tree is flourishing in old age. Christians are to cultivate the tree of the new man by abiding in Christ. Blessings will flow again from Calvary. No Christian should be a dry tree. Indeed there is no excuse for a Christian to be a dry tree or remain as a dry tree. The Lord had gone through the state of sufferings as a dry tree for sinners. He knows what it is like to be a dry tree. Christians must ever be looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith to be fruitful and remain fruitful till old age. Let not the dry tree be the constant companion of a Christian and that he lives his life in defeat. There is healing of a dry tree from the Lord of harvest.

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kjb-asia.com.