



(SLIDE #1) TRUTHS TAUGHT BY TREES!

Introduction:

A. Many Kinds Of Trees Were In The Biblical Lands:

1. Cedar
2. Fig
3. Sycamore
4. Terebinth
5. Oak
6. Acacia
7. Myrtle
8. Olive
9. Cypress
10. Fir
11. Tamarisk
12. Mustard
13. Juniper
14. Almond
15. Gopher
16. Palm
17. Willow
18. Apple

B. **(Slide #2)** Some Are Deciduous (They Shed Their Leaves); Some Are Evergreens.

1. Some deciduous trees are ash, aspen, beech, birch, cherry, elm, hickory, maple, oak, poplar, and willow.
2. Some evergreen trees are pines, firs, cypress, yew, holly, cedar, juniper, and hemlock.
3. Deciduous trees shed leaves to conserve water and energy and to survive the harshness of winter.

C. **(Slide #3)** Trees Provide:

1. Syrup
2. Some Medications
3. Lumber -- Flooring, Baseball bats, Toothpicks, Popsicle Sticks, Fire Wood
4. Shade
5. Chocolate
6. Apples
7. Nuts -- Almonds, Hickory Nuts, Walnuts
8. Bananas
9. Lemons
10. Oranges
11. Peaches
12. Pears
13. Tangerines
14. Coconuts

I. **(Slide #4) The AMAZING Wisdom Of God -- Glorify Him!**

A. Look At Trees As A Part Of Creation!

1. Trees were created on Day 3 of Creation.

2. Gen. 1:11-13 “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day.”
 3. WHY were they created on Day 3?
 - a. They could not exist without light (Day 1), water (Day 2), and dry ground (Day 3).
 - b. Those things were prerequisite for plants and trees to live and grow!
 - c. The sun was created on Day 4! Plants and trees could not survive without the sun -- if a day was millions or billions of years as many affirm, the plants and tree would have all died!
- B. They Brought Beauty To The Earth And Provided Food!
1. Gen. 2:9 “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.”
 2. Gen. 1:29,30 “And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food’; and it was so.”
 3. Solomon appreciated this aspect of trees: Ecc. 2:5,6 “I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all *kinds* of fruit trees in them. ⁶I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.”
- C. They Only Reproduce “After Their Kind!”
1. Gen. 1:11,12 “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.”
 2. This is true of trees, plants, and animals!
- D. They Provide Shade For Animals And Man!
1. Mk. 4:31,32 “*It is* like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; ³²but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

2. They provide shade for animals -- Job 40:22 “The lotus trees cover him *with* their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.”
 3. Have you ever watched cattle congregate under shade trees on a hot day?
 4. People do the same thing!
- E. David in Psalm 148:9 (a psalm song [Scripture song] in our song books entitled “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”) talks about trees being a part of creation: “Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars;”
- F. Dave Miller, Of Apologetic’s Press, In An Article “Divine Design And The Pine Tree” Gives Some AMAZING Facts That Can Be Learned From The Design Of Pine Trees:
1. There are 120 species and subspecies of this one tree throughout the world.
 2. The Ponderosa pine:
 - a. It has a brownish-black bark that changes to an orange-brown color as the tree grows older.
 - b. The bark is segmented into large plate-like structures that appear to be like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.
 - c. There is a purpose for that design -- if the tree catches on fire, those plates “pop off” as the tree burns. In essence, the tree sheds its burning bark!
 3. The Lodgepole pine:
 - a. It has cones that are a little smaller than a golf ball.
 - b. They remain closed; however, if a fire comes, its heat caused them to open up.
 - c. After the fire, the cones open and reseed the forest. It regenerates itself even though the forest fire kills the tree itself.
 4. The whitebark pine:
 - a. This tree is dependent upon the Clark’s Nutcracker bird for reproduction.
 - b. This tree’s cones remain closed until the Nutcracker comes along, pries the cone open, and puts the seed in a pouch under its tongue.
 - c. It stores the seeds to be used for food later.
 - d. The bird does not eat all of the seeds; some of them fall on the ground and the tree reproduces.

- G. Examination Of Trees Will Cause Man To Declare:
1. Ps. 19:1-4 “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³*There is* no speech nor language *Where* their voice is not heard. ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,”
 2. Rom. 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”
 3. Trees declare intelligent design, a designer, and point to the planning of God the Father and the creative power and genius of Jesus Christ!
 4. David pointed observed: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘*There is* no God.’”
Ps. 14:1

II. (Slide #5) Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil -- A Test Of Faith!

- A. Gen. 2:9 “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”
- B. God Gave Only 2 Rules: Gen. 3:2,3 “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”
- C. And He Gave A Stern Warning! Gen. 2:16,17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- D. Gen. 3:1-22
1. Satan tempted Eve and Adam:
 - a. “Did God really say, “Don’t eat of that tree?” 1
 - b. He pointed out the fruit on the tree and how beautiful the tree was! 6
 2. God had told them that they would die [spiritually] in the day that they ate of that tree! 2,3
 3. When they ate, guilt because of disobedience flooded their hearts! They tried to hide from God! 8

4. Adam, Eve, and Satan were all cursed. 14-19
 5. God drove them out of the precious, perfect Garden of Eden!
- E. This Tree Was A Test Of Their Respect For God And His Commands.
- F. Every Time God Gives Us A Command In Scripture, It Is A Test Of Our Respect For Him And Of Our Faith!

III. (Slide #6) Trees -- Build Vital Things That Bring You To God!

- A. Gopher Tree (Wood) -- "Build An Ark!"
1. Because the people of the world were so ungodly, God determined to destroy the world.
 2. He spared Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives.
 3. He commanded Noah to build an ark! Gen. 6:14
 4. Commands:
 - a. Gopher wood (cypress -- NIV) 14
 - b. It had many rooms in it. 14
 - c. It was to be pitched inside and out. 14
 - d. It was to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. 15
 - e. It was to have 1 window, 1 door, and 3 floors! 16
 - f. He was told how many clean and unclean animals to take into the Ark.
 5. Gen. 7:5 "And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him."
 6. Thus, he and his family escaped the devastation and death of the Flood!
 7. This tree provided the Ark to bring them to safety!
- B. Acacia Tree (Wood) -- Tabernacle Furniture.
1. God told Israel to bring items to assist in building the Tabernacle, its furniture, and coverings. One of those was acacia wood. Ex. 25:5; 35:7; [The people brought the acacia wood; Ex. 35:24]
 2. Ark of the Covenant Ex. 25:10; 37:1 and its poles. Ex. 25:13; 37:4 [It was overlaid with gold. Ex. 25:11]
 3. Table of Presence or Table of Showbread. Ex. 25:23; 37:10 and its poles. Ex. 25:28; 37:14,15 [It was overlaid with gold. Ex. 25:24; 37:11,15]

4. The boards that made up the walls of the Tabernacle. Ex. 26:15; 36:20 the bars that laid across the middle of those boards. Ex. 26:26; Ex. 36:31 [They were overlaid with gold. Ex. 26:29; 36:34]
5. The pillars that held the veil. Ex. 26:32; 36:36 [They were overlaid with gold. Ex. 26:32; 36:36]
6. The pillars that held the door. Ex. 26:37 [They were overlaid with gold. Ex. 26:37]
7. The Altar of Burnt Offering. Ex. 27:1; 38:1 and its poles. Ex. 27:6; 38:6 [It was overlaid with bronze. Ex. 27:2; 38:2,6]
8. The Altar of Incense. Ex. 30:1; 37:25 and its poles. Ex. 30:5 [They were overlaid with gold. Ex. 30:3,5; 37:26]
9. This tree provided the Tabernacle and furniture where the people worshiped God!

IV. (Slide #7) Fruit Trees -- Bearing Fruit Or Being Fruitless!

A. Many Trees Are Fruit Trees.

B. What A Blessing They Can Be To Provide Food.

C. **(Slide #8)** If A Tree Is Healthy And Productive, It Is A Blessing; If It Is Unhealthy And Unproductive, It Is Worthless!

1. Mt. 7:15-20 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”
2. In the Parable of the Fig Tree, Jesus taught that if a tree stops producing well or if it becomes diseased, the owner will just cut it down! Lk. 13:6-9
3. Jesus cursed the barren fig tree! Mt. 21:19-21

D. The Lesson For Christians:

1. David describes the godly man by a productive fruit tree! That is what God wants His people to be! Ps. 1:3 “He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”
2. David again describes the righteous: Ps. 92:12 “The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”
3. Solomon says that productive righteous people should be intent upon winning souls! Pr. 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous *is a* tree of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise.”
4. And productive Christians grow the fruit of the spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control.” Gal. 5:22,23

V. (Slide #9) Sycamore Tree -- LONGING To See Jesus!

A. What Was A Sycamore Tree?

1. (Slide #10) Picture of sycamore trees today.
2. (▶) Picture of sycamore trees in Israel.

B. Amos Was A Tender Of Sycamore Trees. Am. 7:14 “Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: ‘I *was* no prophet, Nor *was* I a son of a prophet, But I *was* a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit.’”

C. Of Course, The Most Familiar Sycamore Tree Was In Jericho; Zacchaeus Climbed It! Lk. 19:1-10

1. Text: “Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. ²Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³And he sought to see who *Jesus* was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. ⁵And when *Jesus* came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’ ⁶So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. ⁷But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, ‘He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.’ ⁸Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’ ⁹And *Jesus* said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”

2. Zacchaeus LONGED to see Jesus; thus he climbed the sycamore tree!
3. This led to Jesus seeing him, coming to his house, and bringing salvation to him!

VI. (Slide #11) Almond Tree -- Aging

- A. In Ecc. 12:1-7 Solomon Urges Men To Leave Materialism, To Realize That Age Sneaks Upon Us SO Quickly, And That Man Needs God NOW!
- B. He Describes Aging And The Frailty Of Man.
- C. One Of Those Descriptions: “Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails.” 5
 1. “When the almond tree blossoms”
 2. **(Slide #12)** What is the analogy? The white blooms of an almond tree remind us of the white hair that comes with aging!
- D. The Lesson:
 1. Ecc. 12:6 “*Remember your Creator!*”
 2. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is mans all.”

VII.(Slide #13) Tree Of Life -- When Lost, Alienation! When Available, LIFE!

- A. LOST!!!
 1. Gen. 2:9 “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”
 2. Gen. 3:22-24 “Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ -- ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

B. FOUND = LIFE!

1. Jesus told the Church of Thyatira -- Rev. 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”
2. It is seen again in Heaven! Rev. 22:2 “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.”
3. Rev. 22:14 “Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

(Slide #14) Invitation:

A. How Does God View You? What Kind Of Tree Are You?

1. DEAD? You need life!
2. Productive? Protect yourself; bear more fruit!
3. Waning? Unfruitful? You need restoration quickly!

B. Job In Answering Zophar Gave This Analogy: “For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease.

⁸Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground,
⁹*Yet* at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant.” Job 14:7-9

1. The tree may appear dead; however, life may still exist in the root!
2. A Christian may be almost dead; CHRIST is the answer to raise restore life!