

The Palm Tree

Psalm 92:1-15

INTRODUCTION: There are Palm trees growing from 3 to 100 feet tall with over 3,000 species.

1. The date palm produces over 300 pounds of dates annually.
2. The African oil palm, very widely cultivated in the tropics, gives a higher oil yield per hectare than any other oil plant. It produces two quite different types of oil, and that from palm kernels, used for making margarine and soap, and that from the fleshy part of the fruit, used more widely for industrial processes. This is one of the most rapidly expanding plantation crops today.

Historically the palm tree has been called the representative tree of Palestine. It has stood through the years as a symbol of the land of our Lord. In the Middle Ages, large groups of people made pilgrimages to the Holy Land. The name Palmer was given to these pilgrims. At the triumphal entry when Jesus made His entry into the city of Jerusalem before His death, the people broke off palm branches and waved them in front of Him.

When a picture of the victorious children of God is given by John in the 7th chapter and the 9th verse of the Revelation, he says, among other things, that they were "clothed with white robes and palms in their hands" (Gray 2).

The Bible says in Psalm 92:12, "**The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**" The palm tree has several characteristics about it that picture the life of the Christian.

I. THE PALM TREE BREAKS THE BANDS

A. Other trees do not break the bands put around them. As the tree grows, the bands dig into the wood. Many of us have seen an old clothesline wire sunk deep into the trunk of a tree.

B. The palm tree breaks the bands as it grows.

C. The child of God can claim and have the victory through Christ.

1. We do not have to continue in sin: Romans 6:1-2,6,11-14.
2. I Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory ..."
3. Romans 8:37: "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

II. THE PALM TREE WILL BEND BUT NOT BREAK.

A. The strong winds of storms uproot and break ordinary trees.

1. In 1979, Hurricane Frederick's winds broke thousands of pine trees in the South.

2. The storms of life cause many disasters for those not serving God.

B. The palm tree will bend, but it does not break.

III. THE PALM TREE NOT ONLY SURVIVES BUT FLOURISHES IN THE DESERT.

A. The palm tree does not simply grow in the desert; it flourishes. We can make it in this desert world.

1. The roots of the palm tree go deep below the burning sands and find moisture down deep below the surface.

2. The Christian must go deep with God if he is going to flourish.

a. To go deep, we must live the Christ life (Galatians 2:20).

b. To go deep, we must be prayer warriors. I Thessalonians 5:17 says; "Pray without ceasing." Not theology, not psychology, but kneeology.

B. Many Christians are not flourishing because they are seeking nourishment on the surface. They are running their roots of life out laterally.

1. Shallow Christians look to the world for refreshment and come away thirst. The world will never satisfy. NEHI

2. The fashion, literature, and entertainment of the world are shallow and unfruitful.

C.

Child of God, send your taproot deep in the Word of God and prayer.

IV. A GROUP OF PALM TREES FORMS AN OASIS.

A. One palm tree standing alone will not provide much shade from the burning sun.

B. A group of palm trees forms an oasis. Stay together and stand as Christians. Get in and stay in the N.T. church.

1. The oasis provides shade for the weary traveler.

2. Often in the desert, you will find orange and lemon trees growing beneath the shade of the palms grouped together. When we group ourselves together in the church, we provide shade for those weaker than ourselves. This is why Hebrews 10:25 is so important to us. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."

V. THE PALM TREE CAN WITHSTAND ABUSE.

A. The heart of the ordinary tree is dead. The vulnerable area of an ordinary tree is the outside. Hollow, empty-- weed eater.

B. The heart of the palm tree is alive.

1. The life of the palm tree is on the inside.

2. Outward abuse does not affect the life or quality of the palm tree.

3. Because we have life deep within, in our hearts, we are free from sin (Romans 6:17-18). "You hath He quickened..."

C. The life of the child of God is within. II Corinthians 4:16 says, **Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**"

VI. THE OLDER THE PALM TREE THE SWEETER THE FRUIT (PSALM 92:14).

A. As a palm tree grows older, its fruit grows sweeter.

B. As Christians grow older, they should grow sweeter.

C. They say the older trees with scarred trunks produce the sweetest fruit.

1. The scars of life produce the fruit of holiness.
2. The trials of life conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29).

VII. THE PALM TREE CANNOT BE GRAFTED.

A. Horticulturists say that to graft a palm tree is to kill it.

1. The palm tree is distinctive and unusual.
2. This is why grafting kills it.

B. To graft a Christian into the world is to kill his testimony and influence.

1. The Christian is to be distinctive, easily distinguished from the world.

2. Romans 12:1-2 "**I beseech you therefore brethren....**"

3. When a Christian hooks up with the world, he injures his service for Christ.

VIII. THE PALM TREE WILL NOT BURN.

A. Folks do not use the palm tree for firewood because it refuses to burn as ordinary wood.

B. The child of God will never, not even for a moment, suffer the fires of hell. He will never burn; he is a palm tree.

C. The lost 1. Matthew 25:41,46.

2. Revelations 20:14-15

IX. THE PALM TREE IS AN EVERGREEN.

A. The evergreen is a symbol of immortality.

B. The child of God will never die; he has everlasting life (John 3:16, 18, 36).

Palm-tree, the

- First mention of, in Scripture
Exodus 15:27
- Jericho celebrated for
Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 1:16
- DESCRIBED AS
 - Tall
Solomon 7:7
 - Upright
Jeremiah 10:5
 - Flourishing
Psalms 92:12
 - Fruitful to a great age
Psalms 92:14
- The fruit of, called dates
2 Chronicles 31:5
- Requires a moist and fertile soil
Exodus 15:27
- Tents often pitched under the shade of
Judges 4:5
- THE BRANCHES OF, WERE
 - The emblem of victory
Revelation 7:9
 - Carried at feast of tabernacles
Leviticus 23:40
 - Used for constructing booths
Nehemiah 8:15
 - Spread before Christ
John 12:13

- Blasted as a punishment
Joel 1:12
- Represented in carved work on the walls and doors of the Temple of Solomon
1 Kings 6:29,32,35; 2 Chronicles 3:5
- ILLUSTRATIVE OF
 - The church
Solomon 7:7,8
 - The righteous
Psalms 92:12
 - The upright appearance of idols
Jeremiah 10:5