

THE RIGHTEOUS MAN

The Cedars of Lebanon

Psalm 92:12-15

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

~Psalm 92:12-15

Solomon’s Temple...I Chronicles 22; I Kings 5-6

David and Solomon houses...I Chronicles 17; I Kings 7

The righteous man...righteousness...Defn. *The truth that God works and acts in accordance with what is true and right...and since He is truth, He is Himself the final standard of what is right...righteous.*

I. DEEP FAITH:

The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon (vs. 12)...

What you see above ground with the cedars in Lebanon is beautiful. What you don’t see are the *roots* that go *three* to *five times deeper* than what is above ground. This is a picture of *deep faith*.

Faith...

- **Little faith...**Peter when he tried to walk on water.
A faith that believes that God can do something.
- **Sustaining faith...**A faith that believes and trust God.
A faith that believes that God will do something.
- **Deep faith...**Hebrews 11...God spoke, each believed (trusted), each obeyed. Peter in the book of Acts. Acts 2:14-36; Acts 3:12-26; Acts 4:5-14; Acts 5:27-33.
A faith that considers it as already done.

Difference between **faith** and **presumption**.

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

~Hebrews 11:6

II. FIRMLY PLANTED:

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God (vs. 13)...

Deep *roots* grow deep *faith*!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

~I Corinthians 15:58

III. YIELDS ABUNDANT FRUIT:

They will still yield fruit in old age (vs. 14a)...

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing...My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

~John 15:5, 8

IV. SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT:

They shall be full of sap and very green (vs. 14b)...

There is a **sap** that protects the *cedar tree* from every *insect* and *disease*. There is *one exception*...there is *only one insect* that can penetrate this **sap**...the **honey bee**. And the *honey* that is produced from the *cedar trees* in **Lebanon** is a very special type of *honey*.

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

~II Corinthians 1:21-22

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

~Ephesians 1:13

Honey...appears more than *60 times* in the Bible. I.e. Used to describe the **Promised Land** (*a land flowing with milk and honey*) ...**Psalm 19:10**, talking about *the sweetness of God’s judgment*).

To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him (vs. 15)...

One additional thought. The *pine cone* of the **cedars** in **Lebanon** grow *upward...not downward* as do the typical pine cones that we normally see.

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

~Philippians 1:9-11

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- **Righteousness is character with deep roots of faith.**
God speaks in terms of *righteousness*...and *without faith* it's impossible to please God.
- **Righteousness is to be pursued so it can/will bear fruit.**
Ie. In your *children*...Your *character*...Your *witness*...
Look at your *fruit* to *test your rightness* with God.
- **There is no retirement with the righteous one.** The *older* the *righteous* get...the more *refined*, *stronger*, and *useful* they become.