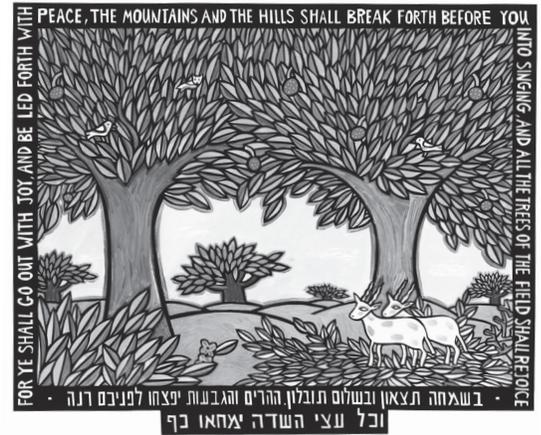




July 2011



Summer blessings in Yeshua!

## Trees and Fruit

This month, the Lord has led us to focus on TREES, a very prominent Bible symbol, and an integral part of Israel as a country. Trees frequently serve as analogies and metaphors of men in the Holy Scriptures. For example, Psalm 1 likens the righteous person to a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in its season. Fruit bearing trees are especially important to God. The first mention of trees in the Torah is found in Gen 1:11, *"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."* Man was also created, and "re-created" to bear fruit. Yeshua, the Messiah emphasized this in John 15:16, *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."* This is our destiny: **bearing fruit.**

## Time For Luscious Ripe Fruit

While we please our Father in Heaven by exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit all year long (love, joy, peace, etc.; See Gal. 5:22.), we sense Him calling us to bear another kind of fruit this summer: SOULS for His Eternal Kingdom. *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."* (Prov. 11:30)

The phrase "tree of life," *etz chaim* in Hebrew, is connected with fruitfulness in many other ways in the Tenach. The first *"etz chaim"* is found in Gen. 2:9. It is the "tree of life" that God planted in the midst of the garden of Eden. Its fruit was forbidden to Adam (Gen. 3:22), but is offered to "overcomers" in the Book of Revelation (2:7). The Torah, God's Wisdom, is an *"etz chaim"* to those who take hold of her (Prov. 3:18). We also read in Proverbs 13:12 that *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life (etz chaim)."* A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, according to Proverbs 15:4. We understand by these verses that fruitfulness is associated with the Torah, answered prayer, and wholesome speech. Abba, please make us fruitful this summer!

## Laws Concerning Fruit Trees

There are actually laws in the Torah concerning the protection of trees. The law concerning fruit trees is called *"orlah."* When God told Moses to give various laws to all the congregation of the children of Israel, He specifically mentioned trees: *"When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the Lord. And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD your God"* (Lev. 19:23-25).

Think of the obedience, self-control, trust, love for and dependence upon God required of the Israelites in fulfilling this particular commandment! God, not man, determines the "seasons." The earth is His. The fruit is His. The timing is His. [Be patient with new believers. It takes time for fruit to develop.]

To determine the age of a tree, the rabbis of talmudic times designated a day (15th of Shevat) as the "*Rosh Hashanah*" or New Year of the trees. This is when the fruit of trees in Israel begins to form. This holiday "*Tu b'Shevat*," is still observed in the land of Israel. Israelis plant saplings on this day. As they grow into trees, their "birthday" is always on *Tu b'Shevat* (Jan. 20, 2011 and Feb. 8, 2012).

### **Fruit Trees and War**

Another law concerning fruit trees shows what an amazing God we serve, a God of detail who thinks of everything! He forbid cutting down fruit trees in time of war: "*When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees...for the tree of the field is man's food*" (Deut. 20:19). The God of Israel is making provision here for soldiers, whether Israelite or enemy, since they both must have food and sustenance.

In stark contrast to this respect for men and trees is something that occurred during the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and the period directly following it. The kibbutz Kfar Etzion was located strategically on Jerusalem's southern approach from Hebron. The brave defenders of the kibbutz were positioned to help relief convoys get through to Jews who were starving in Jerusalem. Despite their valiant efforts, and incredible self-sacrificing, the kibbutz fell on May 12, 1948. Arab forces massacred the entire population of Kfar Etzion, soldiers and civilians alike, with only three men and one woman surviving. They then destroyed all the buildings, and UPROOTED THOUSANDS OF TREES WHICH HAD BEEN PLANTED IN THE VICINITY OF GUSH ETZION. They left only one very old oak tree standing, which has become a symbol of Gush Etzion.

This true story is highly symbolic of what is happening in Israel today. The Arabs (Palestinians) do not want the "land" of Israel. They want to completely UPROOT THE TREES from the Land. In other words, their goal is to RID ISRAEL OF JEWS. This is the truth that the world media is not reporting! Consider what happened in Gaza. There were fruitful fields and greenhouses filled with luscious vegetables. Everything was uprooted and destroyed.

Allah, the god of Islam, is not the same as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is not a god of love, but a god of violence and chaos. Our God is a God who brought order out of chaos, light out of darkness, beauty out of dust. Two different deities. Two completely different mentalities. "...every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." (Matt. 7:17) After hearing personally from ex-Palestinian terrorists such as Walid Shoebat, we can say with conviction that Islam at its core is not a religion of peace, but of war. Jews and Christians alike are considered infidels. The goal of Islam is world domination, with Sharia Law the law of the land. Pray, pray, pray for eyes to be open to the truth: "...By their fruits you will know them" (Matt 7:20). Millions of Arabs and Palestinians in the Middle East are perishing for lack of knowledge. They have believed a lie. They are captives of *hasatan*. The same God who saved Walid Shoebat can save them! But miracles are needed—NOW.

### **The Fruitful Branch**

There is only one solution to the world's problems—the Messiah! He came once, and is coming again. This was prophesied in Holy Scripture. His life history is connected with "trees." Messiah's coming to earth to die for the sin of mankind was God's way of saving man from the sin inherited by Adam's partaking of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. The Messiah's voice is heard in the pages of the Tenach. "...Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." (Ps. 40:7-8) One of the ways in which Yeshua appears in the Tenach is as "the Branch," *TZEMACH* in Hebrew. When the *Tzemach* made the final atonement for sin, it was on a tree. In summary: The forbidden tree brought death into the world; the tree of death brought life back again—eternal life.

What about the *Tzemach*? The messianic title "Branch" is found in the writings of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah. The Jewish Targum particularly identifies "*Tzemach*" with *Mashiach*.

One contemporary traditional rabbi wrote that the "Tzemach" of the *Neviim* (Prophets) often remains underground, out of sight for long periods of time, before rising to the surface, in the same way that Messiah remains hidden until he will come to the fore.

## Yeshua, The Tzemach

TODAY is the day for Messiah to be revealed, hidden no more from Jewish eyes! According to David Baron in *Rays of Messiah's Glory*, and Walter C Kaiser, Jr. in *The Messiah in the Old Testament*, Messiah as TZEMACH, the BRANCH, reveals four aspects of this character: 1) His Davidic ancestry, 2) His servanthood, 3) His humanity, and 4) His divinity.

Yeshua's Davidic ancestry is prophesied in Jeremiah 23:5, "Behold, the days are coming", says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper..." This Branch of righteousness, Tzemach Tzedek will also be called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (*Adonai Tzidkenu*) (Jer. 23:6). Jeremiah 23:5 is the verse most generally quoted by Jewish scholars as proof that the Messiah is the Son of David. This kingly aspect of the Messiah corresponds to the Messiah King of the Davidic dynasty presented in the Gospel of Matthew.

Yeshua is Mashiach Ben David! He is the fulfillment of the everlasting covenant that God made with David in which his seed would reign over the house of David forever (2 Sam 7:12-13). When the angel Gabriel announced the birth of Messiah, he connected that promise with Yeshua: "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32-33). Yeshua the Messiah will yet reign on the earth over a restored and blessed Israel. This is literal not figurative. He is coming back to Jerusalem. Share this truth with others.

The "Tzemach" would also be a "Servant," according to the prophet Zechariah, "...For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH" (Zech 3:8). This is the same Servant of the LORD mentioned in Isa. 42:1, Isa. 53:2, and Isa. 11:1. Yeshua was that Servant. The entire Gospel of Mark portrays that aspect of His messianic character. We see Yeshua, "who, being in the form of God... made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6-7). We read in Isa. 53:11 that Yeshua's perfect obedience to His Father, even unto death, resulted in making righteous all those who would appropriate His sacrifice by faith.

Messiah as "Tzemach" is also a "Man": "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD...He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne..." (Zech. 6:12-13). Yeshua was born of a Jewish virgin (Isa. 9:6), and lived for thirty-three years as a man in the land of Israel. The Gospel of Luke presents Yeshua in his human aspects. Many Jewish (and non-Jewish) people do not realize that Yeshua also appeared in the form of man before His birth in Bethlehem. He is the Angel of the Lord that appeared to Manoah (Judges 13:17, 18), and others in the Tenach. Yeshua, as the Son of God, became the Son of Man, so that the sons of men could become sons of God. "...In all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (Heb. 2:17)

Finally, the Tzemach Adonai, The Branch of the Lord is identified as divine. The prophet Isaiah portrays Messiah in much the same way as John in his gospel, as the divine Son of God: "In that day the Branch (Tzemach) of the LORD shall be glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing...when the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion..." (Isa. 4:2, 4). Only God can forgive sin. This Tzemach has the power to cleanse from sin and make everything holy. "Just now the Jews object to the doctrine of the Messiah's Divinity, but it is mostly because they have not yet learned the real object of the Messiah's mission on the earth." [Baron, p. 91] Israel shall yet be

remarried to the LORD, delivered from the bondage of sin, and recognize The Divine Branch as their Redeemer. Together, we are laboring to see this reality come to pass.

### Branches from The Branch

As Messiah is, so are we in the world. David Baron points out that the *Tzemach* prophesied in the Tenach, took root in the earth, and as He did so, He developed into a Tree with branches. As the branches abide in this Tree (also called a Vine), they bear fruit, and God is glorified. Be that connected branch! Fruitfulness is the only thing which will demonstrate to the world that we are the disciples of Yeshua (John 15:8). Share The Branch, The *Tzemach*, this summer with your Jewish relatives, friends, and neighbors. Tell them that God sent forth His Branch, in Whom all the fullness of the Tree (the Father) dwells.

### Jewish Jewels Grove of Trees in Israel

Trees have played a crucial role in the resettling and redevelopment of the Land of Israel. The Jewish National Fund has spearheaded the effort to make Israel green, but there is a long history of valuing trees that dates back to the sages before the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. One ancient rabbi said: "If you have a sapling in your hand and you are told, 'The Messiah has come!' first plant the sapling and then go to greet him." Nogah Hareuveni explains this attitude in *Tree and Shrub in Our Biblical Heritage*: "For in Jewish tradition the coming of the messiah is unconditionally bound up with the settlement of the Land of Israel. Thus, if you first plant the sapling and then go to greet the Messiah, you will have accomplished two good deeds that complement each other!"

Last December, while we were on our Mercy Mission to Israel, approximately 1.5 million trees were destroyed on Mt. Carmel in the worst ecological disaster in the history of modern Israel. By faith, we have committed to plant A GROVE OF 1,000 TREES in Israel to help restore the trees that were lost, and to welcome Yeshua when He returns. You can plant one or more trees in Israel in honor of, or in memory of, a friend, a loved one, or for a special occasion, at a cost of only \$25 each. In this way you can become a part of our ongoing Mercy Mission, and at the same time bless someone close to your heart. We will send either you or your designated recipient a lovely certificate with each order. Please fill out the enclosed special "TREE" order form.

Praying...*"that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being FRUITFUL in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Col. 1:10).

*Love in Yeshua, Nell & Janice*

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## Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - July 2011

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### LOCAL TV STATIONS

AIRTIME:	STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:
TUE 6:00 PM	AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4
SUN 2:30 PM	FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22
THU 11:30 AM	FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45
SUN 1:30 PM	FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45
SAT 10:30 PM	FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61
SUN 2:30 PM	GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16
SUN 1:30 PM	IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40
SUN 1:30 PM	MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25
SUN 4:00 PM	NJ/NY	NYC/New Jersey	WMBC TV 63
SUN 2:30 PM	OH	Columbus	GTN TV 23
SUN 12:00 PM	OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26
SUN 12:00 PM	OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21

### SATELLITE NETWORKS (EST)

#### DirecTV

SUN 3:00 PM Ch. 367 - WHT (World Harvest TV)  
 SUN 4:00 PM Ch. 93 or 900 - WMBC  
 SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)  
 SAT 10:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

#### Dish Network

SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 267 & 9399 - CTN (Christian Television Network)  
 SAT 10:30 PM Ch. 267 & 9399 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

#### AT&T Cable

SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 578 - WHT (World Harvest TV)

#### GTN - Insight Digital Cable

SUN 2:30 PM Ch. 283




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