

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

March 10, 2015

Issue No. 187      Mark Aites, Editor

## **Trees**

"The boughs that bear the most hang lowest." – Anonymous

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself." – Thomas Fuller, M.D., *Gnomologia*

"The forest is the poor man's overcoat." – New England Proverb

"A tree falls the way it leans." – Bulgarian Proverb

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never see." – Greek Proverb

The initial thought is that what do trees have to do with sacred writings? Actually, sacred writings center around three specific trees.

In the Garden of Eden, what tree was it that draws our attention? Yes, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but 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'" (Gen. 2:16-17). "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of it fruit and ate, She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:6).

The second tree of interest is the very one on which our precious Lord was crucified, which we commonly refer to as The Cross of Christ. "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree" (Acts 5:30). "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree" (Acts 10:39).

The third tree is found in the last book of sacred writings, Revelation. Here we find that man finally obtains his right to partake of the Tree of Life. "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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 nations."

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, The Tree or The Cross on which our Lord was crucified, and the Tree of Life. Isn't it interesting how that all three events have had a significant impact upon man?!

The trees we enjoy in this life certainly are testimonies to the creation of God, but also are a reminder of their involvement in the history of mankind.