

Exodus 25:31-40
Jesus is the Tree of Life
July 31, 2011
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction: Pictures of Heaven & Hell

Psalm 145:15–16

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their **food** in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Luke 13:4–5

...those eighteen on whom the **tower in Siloam** fell and killed them: *do you think that they were worse offenders* than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ **No**, I tell you; but *unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*”

2 Peter 3:9 (Cf. Revelation 11:16–18)

The Lord is **not slow** to fulfill *his promise* as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach **repentance**.

II. The Lampstand: Understanding the Picture(s)

A. Seven Lamps (Next Sunday)

B. A Tree in Heaven

Exodus 25:31–36

³¹ “You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its *stem*, its **cups**, its *calyxes* (bulbs, buds), and its *flowers* shall be of one piece with it. ³² And there shall be *six branches* going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; ³³ three **cups** made *like almond blossoms*, each with *calyx* and *flower*, on one branch, and *three cups made like almond blossoms*, each with *calyx* and *flower*, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ³⁴ And on the lampstand

itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their *calyxes* and *flowers*,³⁵ and a *calyx* of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand.³⁶ Their *calyxes* and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it a single piece of hammered work of pure gold.

B. Almond Blossoms? & A Tree?

1. Why Almond Blossoms?

HCSC Study Bible: The Hebrew word for "almond" is associated with a verb that means "watch over" or "keep watch," so that almond blossoms seem an appropriate decoration for an item that enhanced visibility.

Jeremiah 1:11–12

¹¹ And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an **almond branch**." ¹² Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

"The almond tree is the first to awake from its wintry sleep. When all other trees are held in frozen slumber the almond blossoms are looking out on the barren world. And God is like that, awake and vigilant." *

2. The Tree of Life

ESV Study Bible: [The Lamptand's] description in terms of cups, calyxes, and flowers shows that it was a symbolic tree, recalling the tree of life in Eden.

a. Lost in Adam

Genesis 3:22–24 (NASB95)

²² Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from

* John Henry Jowett. <http://christianbookshelf.org>. My Daily Meditation for the Circling Year, May 15.

the **tree of life**, and eat, and *live forever*”—²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ So He drove the man out; and **at the east of the garden of Eden** He stationed the **cherubim** and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the **tree of life**.

b. Regained through Jesus

Revelation 22:1–3

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from *the throne of God* and *of the Lamb*² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the **tree of life** with its **twelve kinds of fruit**, yielding its fruit each month. The *leaves of the tree* were for the *healing of the nations*.³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the *throne of God* and *of the Lamb* will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

Key Idea

Jesus, the Word of God, brings his people the healing and nourishment they need; the tree of life is an eternal testimony to His life-giving and life-sustaining work.

III. The Tree of Life Points to Jesus

A. Living on the Food from Heaven

John 6:63

It is **the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The *words* that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Matthew 4:1–4

¹ Then Jesus was led up **by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the

Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.***””

John 4:31–34 (John 4:5–6)

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”³² But he said to them, “***I have food to eat that you do not know about.***”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**”

B. The Life of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 12:9 (Cf. 1 Cor. 4:11; 2 Cor. 11:23–12:10)

But [the Lord] said to me, “***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.***” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the **power of Christ** may rest upon me.

Philippians 4:12–13

¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, **I have learned the secret** of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.¹³ ***I can do all things through him who strengthens me.***