



PSALMS 001-02 TREES OR CHAFF?

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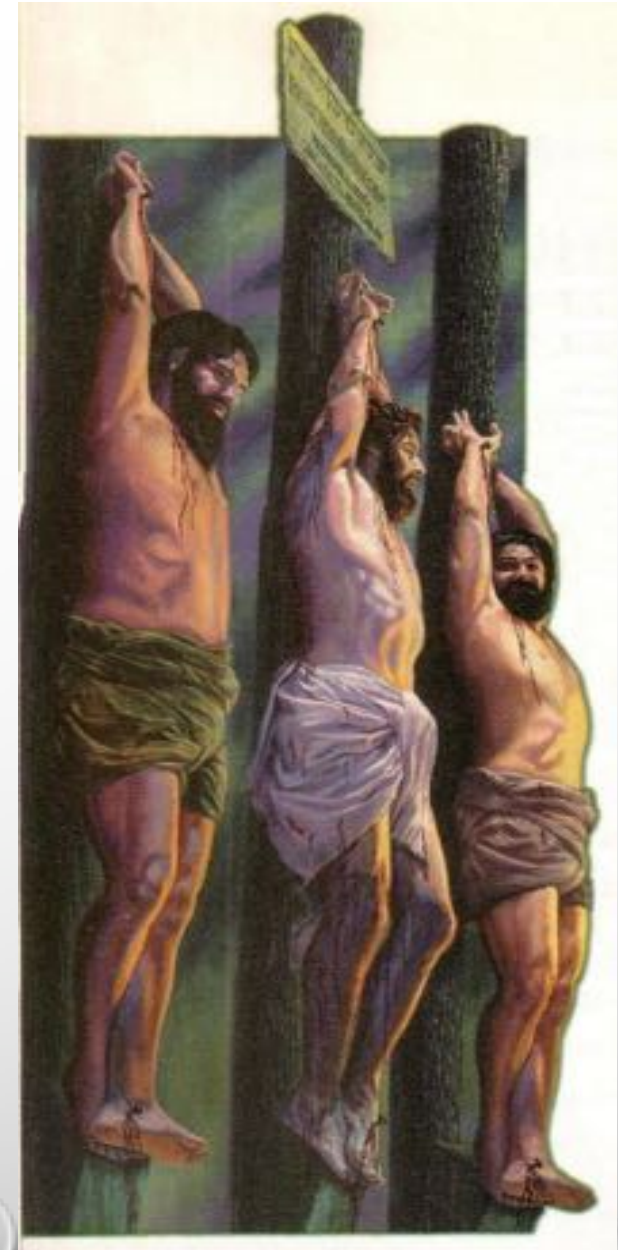
PSALMS 1:3-4

PROLOGUE: ALL ARE ON THE ROAD OF ACCOUNTABILITY (JE 21:8)

- CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE ROAD (JN 14:6)
 - EVERYONE STARTS ON THE WIDE, BROAD SINNER'S HIGHWAY (MT 4:14-16)
 - JESUS PUTS THE SAVED ON HIS PATH; CHRISTIANS WERE FIRST KNOWN AS PEOPLE OF *THE WAY* (AC 22:3-8)
 - PERSECUTION OF CHRIST'S BELIEVERS IS PERSECUTION OF CHRIST WHO IDENTIFIES WITH THEM
- DO NOT BLASPHEME CHRIST'S NAME BY DOING WRONG AS THE JEWS (RO 2:24; 1PE 4:12-19)
 - CHRISTIANS WILL SUFFER BECAUSE THE WORLD HATES CHRIST
 - BE CAREFUL NOT TO DO EVIL, WILLFULLY SIN, WHICH BLASPHEMES CHRIST'S NAME TO THE LOSS
 - CHRIST WILL JUDGE THE SAVED: SALVATION IS NOT A *GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD* (2CO 5:10)

PROLOGUE: CHRIST'S ROAD OF PEACE{ISH}

- ROAD OF CHRIST IS NOT PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS BUT WITH HIS BLOOD BY WHICH **HE** PURCHASED YOUR SALVATION
 - CHRIST CARRIES YOU WHILE THE LOST SEEK YOUR DESTRUCTION (MT 5:10-12; 10:34-38; 11:28-30)
 - SCOFFERS SHAME YOU FOR BEING SAVED (HE 13:12-13)
 - ONE CHOSE SIN'S ROAD {FROST-TOLKIEN}; ONE CHOSEN FOR CHRIST'S ROAD (LK 23:39-43)
- WHICH ARE YOU? RESTLESS OR AT PEACE?
 - CHRIST IS ROAD LESS TRAVELED WHOSE END IS PEACE



DUALITY OF CONTRASTS: FRUITFUL TREES OR WORTHLESS CHAFF

BELIEVER'S PATH

- BELIEVER'S *PATH* IS SMALL, NARROW AND DIFFICULT TO TRANSIT (MT 7:14)
- BELIEVERS ARE COMPARED TO TREES
- BELIEVERS ARE PLANTED; GUIDANCE
- WATERED BY STREAMS; HOLY SPIRIT
- FRUIT IN ITS PROPER SEASON FOREVER

SINNER'S ROAD

- SINNER'S *ROAD* IS BROAD, EASY TO FIND AND ENTER (MT 7:13)
- SINNERS ARE COMPARED TO GRASSES
- SINNERS GROW WILD; NO SELF-CONTROL
- BLOWN BY CHANGING SPIRITUAL WINDS
- NO FRUIT; WORTHLESS CHAFF THAT BURNS

BELIEVER ASSOCIATED WITH TREE OF LIFE

- TREES RUN THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE FROM FIRST TO LAST CHAPTERS
 - GOD CONTRASTED TREE OF KNOWLEDGE {GOOD-EVIL} WITH TREE OF LIFE (GE 2:16-17)
 - MAN CHOSE KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT GOD OVER LIFE; GOD PREVENTED MAN FROM BEING FOREVER ASUNDERED FROM HIM BY GUARDING THE TREE OF LIFE (GE 3:1-7, 22-24)
 - GOD PROFERRED WISDOM AS A *TREE OF LIFE* TO THOSE WHO WOULD LAY HOLD OF HER (PR 3:18)
 - FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A *TREE OF LIFE* AND WHOSO CAPTURES SOULS IS WISE (PR 11:30)
 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEMONSTRATES TRUTH OF ONE'S SALVATION (GA 5:22-24)
 - *TREE OF LIFE* BESIDE *RIVER OF LIFE* FLOWING FROM CHRIST'S THRONE IN NEW JERUSALEM
 - SAVED FREELY PARTAKE OF FRUIT OF LIFE FOR ETERNITY WHEN VISITING *NEW JERUSALEM*

LOST ASSOCIATED WITH GRASS OF DEATH {CHAFF}

- GRASSES GROW WILD WHEREVER BUT CANNOT BE SUSTAINED APART FROM WATER OF LIFE
 - GRASSES, GRAINS, PROVIDE NUTRITION BUT LACK SWEETNESS, GOODNESS, OF SALVATION
 - CHRIST DISCUSSED HOW THE FIELD GRASSES WERE ABOVE SOLOMON IN HIS REGAL GARB; BUT, HE LED ISRAEL INTO IDOLATRY AND NEARLY COST HIM HIS ETERNITY (EC 1:9-11; 12:13-14; 1KI 11:1-13; NE 13:26; MT 6:28-30)
 - FLESH IS LIKE GRASS; NEVER MADE FOR ETERNITY; CLING TO THE LIVING WORD (JA 1:11; 1PE 1:23-25)
 - TREES THAT *PRETEND* TO PRODUCE FRUIT WILL FIND THEMSELVES CURSED; LOST (MT 7:19, 21-23; 21:18-19)
 - JOHN BAPTIST WARNED THAT EVERY TREE, LIFE, THAT DOES NOT BEAR RIGHTEOUS FRUIT WILL FACE FIRES OF JUDGMENT (MT 3:8-10)
- EACH PERSON IS RECOGNIZED BY THEIR FRUIT: WORKS OF FLESH OR CHARISMA. YOU? (MT 7:15-20)

ONE FINAL CLARIFICATION: AVOID HYPERLITERALISM

- THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FLAWED HERMENEUTICAL INTERPRETATION BASED ON HYPERLITERALISM: “...IN ALL THAT HE DOES, HE PROSPERS.”
 - THIS IS A COMMON PROBLEM IN THE WRITINGS; ESP. PSALMS AND PROVERBS
 - PHRASE TAKEN AT *FACE VALUE* WITHOUT CONTEXT AND WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE ENTIRETY OF SCRIPTURE
 - FAVORITE TACTIC OF INEXPERIENCE EXPOSITORS AND *FALSE TEACHERS* WHO BEGUILE THE IGNORANT AND IMMATURE WITH PROMISES OF MATERIAL *BLESSINGS* REWARDING ONE’S FAITH
- HYPERLITERALISM: DISTORTS THE AUTHOR’S INTENT AND DISTORT SCRIPTURE, OFTEN VIA ALLEGORY, TO ACHIEVE A MEANING THE READER DEMANDS {EISEGESIS} – BIBLE DOES NOT USE ALLEGORY; IT DOES USE METAPHORS AND SIMILES TO GREAT EFFECT

IN ALL THAT HE DOES, HE PROSPERS: WHAT DOES HE DO?

- WHEN READING THIS PHRASE, ONE MUST ASK, “WHAT DOES HE DO?”
 - IMMATURE AND ERRONEOUS READERS WOULD FORCE THE MEANING OF ALL, INCLUDES EVERYTHING; EXCLUDES NOTHING, TO MEAN: ANY ENDEAVOR RIGHTEOUS MAN MAY UNDERTAKE
 - PREVIOUS VERSES ALREADY DEFINE RIGHTEOUS ENDEAVORS AS BEING DIFFERENT FROM SINFUL ENDEAVORS; HENCE, ALL APPLIES TO THE RIGHTEOUS SUBSET; NOT TOTALITY OF ACTIONS (2TI 2:19)
- ONE MAJOR SECTION OF SCRIPTURE DEFINING THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON’S ENDEAVORS
 - *BEATITUDES* WERE TO BE THE RESULT, FRUIT, OF CORRECTLY UNDERSTANDING THE LAW; THE *FALSE JEWS*, AND CHRISTENDOM, SAW THESE AS *WORKS* TO PROVE THEY COULD BE RIGHTEOUS TO PLEASE GOD – RATHER THAN DEFINE GOAL OF SPIRITUAL, THEY BECAME HARBINGERS OF DEATH (MT 5:2-12)

IN ALL THAT HE DOES, HE PROSPERS: ARE YOU PROSPERING RIGHTEOUSLY?

- ANOTHER MAJOR SECTION OF SCRIPTURE DEFINING THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON'S ENDEAVORS
 - RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS NOT INHERENTLY RIGHTEOUS; BUT IS COVERED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
(GA 3:26-29)
- JUST AS THIS PSALMS COMPARES SINNER TO SAVED; THE SOURCE OF BOTH ARE KNOWN BY THE *FRUIT* EACH EXHIBITS IN: THOUGHT – WORD – DEED (RO 1:29-32; GA 5:17-25)
 - WORKS OF FLESH – PRODUCED BY ALL PERSONS, SAVED AND LOST, VIA SELF: PORNEIA; IDOLATRY {TRANSHUMANISM}; PHARMAKEIA; ANGER; DIVISIONS; ETC. {INDEPENDENCE & SELF-APPROVAL}
 - FRUIT OF SPIRIT – PRODUCED BY HARMONIOUS SUBMISSION TO INDWELLING SPIRIT {CHARISMA}: LOVE; JOY; PEACE; LONG SUFFERING; SELF-CONTROL; GENTLENESS; FAITHFULNESS; ETC.
- NOT BY LAW BUT FROM INNER DESIRE IN CONCERT WITH GOD'S *TEN WORDS*: VIA SCRIPTURE
(EX 20:1-17; PS 1:2; MT 4:4, 7, 10; 2CO 5:17)