

## Trees Full Of Sap Psalms 104 Verse 16

**Ps 104:16 "The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;"**

We are told in this text that "*the trees of the Lord, which he hath planted, are full of sap,*" which are represented by the "*cedars of Lebanon.*" When we think of the cedars of Lebanon; we are reminded that these are the trees used to build the temple of God in Jerusalem, which gives us a prophetic picture.

We see the New Testament church and the grafting in of the Gentile people, which are being used to build this earthly temple of the Lord, the New Testament church, which will occupy eternal heaven. How do we see this? We notice first that "*the trees of the Lord are full of sap.*" A tree that is without sap is a dead tree. Trees full of sap are growing and fruitful trees.

Consider, men take live trees, make them dead, and remove the sap, to use the trees to build with. This is the exact opposite of the work of God. God takes dead men and makes them alive. God uses the newborn children of God, a picture of the "*cedars of Lebanon,*" to build his temple. The prophetic portion is that the age of salvation by grace had to be ushered in by Jesus Christ, and his finished work, before God could graft in the Gentile people.

How do we know that this is a prophesy of the Gentile people? Consider the "*cedars of Lebanon.*" These trees were not native to Jerusalem. They were in Tyre, which was north of Jerusalem and not a part of the land of Israel. The cedars of Lebanon were harvested in another place and then transported to Jerusalem, via the sea. Israel, God's chosen nation of people, are depicted by the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Israel, and the "*cedars of Lebanon*" are a picture of the Gentile people, who were separate from the Israelites. Israel first received the gospel of Jesus Christ, and then the Gentiles were grafted in. The trees had to be harvested, transported to Jerusalem, shaped, and molded to fit in their proper place in the temple of God. Thus, we see the Gentile people grafted into the family of God on earth in time.

What about this grafting? Grafting consists of taking a branch from one tree and attaching it to another tree. However, you do not take a dead branch and graft it into a live tree. You don't take a live branch and graft it into a dead tree. You take a live branch and graft it into a live tree. The best demonstration is to take a wild tree that does not produce good fruit, and you cut off the wild tree and graft on the wild stump a branch from a tree that bears good fruit.

This magnifies the finished work of our Saviour in two ways. Jesus established the New Testament church and when Israel refused to believe in Jesus, the apostles turned to the Gentiles when God revealed his will to them. The New Testament church was to be built with both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus told us in: ***Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*** Now do you see the picture of the grafting in of the Gentiles?

Again, I point out, man's ways are the opposite of God's ways. Understand: God had to take dead trees, the unborn sinner, and give them newness of life in Christ. When the sinner is born-again, they are grafted into the vine as a branch. The branch that is grafted into the vine is completely dependent upon the vine for the sap of life. Every child of God, Jew or Gentile, must be born-again and they must be grafted into the true and living vine to have life. Well preacher, you started out talking about trees and now you are talking about vines. Okay, let's talk about trees again, understanding the principle of being grafted in and given life from the vine, is the same for both.

The dead alienated sinner is not a part of the New Testament church, because they have no sap. When Jesus gives the gift of the new birth to a dead sinner, that dead sinner becomes a living child of God. If you are a living child of God, you are a part of the New Testament church. You have been harvested from outside the church body, shaped and molded by the power of Christ, transported through the sea of life, to where you are to fit into the New Testament church.

Remember Aaron's rod that budded, seen in: ***Nu 17:8 ¶ And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.*** God did what no man could do. He took a rod that was long dead and caused it to bring forth fruit. This is the picture of the new birth. In the new birth: Jesus has harvested a dead tree, filled it with the sap of the Holy Spirit, and grafted you into the New Testament church. You are now a part of the body, of which Christ is the head as seen in:

- **Eph 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."** All the occupants of the New Testament church come to be a part of the body of Christ in the same way, via the new birth process. If you are not born again, you have not been manifested to be a part of the body of Christ.
- **Col 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."** As indicated in this text; Jesus is the head, and the church is his body. Remember, the body is made up of all its different parts, which reminds us that God has people, "**cedars of Lebanon**" in every nation, kindred, and tongue.
- **Col 2:19 "And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."** Here we see that the nourishment of the body is from the head. We also notice that the increase, the fruit, is of God. Man is incapable of bringing increase to the house of God, in his own power. **Eph 2:9 "Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

Again, we see that God's ways are the opposite of man's ways. In grafting by men, the root is always in the earth and the graft branch is added to it, and the graft's sustenance comes from the root. The head of the New Testament church is in heaven. The sap of life does not come from the root, the church in the earth, upward; but rather, it comes from the head, Christ in heaven, downward, to supply the needs of the church. The sap, of the newness of life in Christ, comes down from heaven, in the form of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit supplies all the life-giving sustenance of the born-again child of God.

Remember now our original text: **Ps 104:16 "The trees of the LORD are full of sap;"** In nature, unless it is an evergreen tree, trees have a time of vitality and then they become dormant, shed their leaves, and bear no fruit. Even the evergreen trees, from time to time, will shed some of their leaves and begin to grow new ones. These shedding's are indicative of the life of the believer in time. We all have times of unfruitfulness, but we are not to lose all our leaves and become dormant. Why? Because "**the trees of the Lord are full of sap.**" If you are filled with the Holy Spirit power, you will be fruitful.

Jesus, our head, is still on the throne of God. Jesus is still supplying every need of the "**cedars of Lebanon.**" Not is he only supplying their vitality, Jesus is supplying the cedars of Lebanon. "**The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;**" They are the chosen of God given to Christ by God the Father. They are born-again and saved by God the Son, and manifested, on earth in time, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the new birth. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the declaration of the word of thy mouth: "**the trees of the Lord are full of sap.**" Hallelujah! Amen!