

God Created Flowers

'God said, "Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind with its seed in it all over the earth," and it was so. The earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind and trees bearing fruit with its seed in it after their kind and God saw it was good' (Genesis 1:11 & 12).

Included in this time of plant creation, the Lord created flowers of the field, flowering grasses, flowering trees, fruit trees that produce flowers, trees that produce nuts, water plants that have flowers, flowers that are fragrant and flowering cactus plants. The Lord enjoys flowers so much, He had golden buds and flowers adorning the décor in the Tabernacle of Moses and the two temples, which were places of worship. "Make a lampstand of pure gold, of hammered work will the lampstand be made, its base, its shaft, its cups, its buds and its flowers will all be made of one piece ... Three cups made like almond blossoms in one branch, a bud and a flower and three cups made like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bud and a flower making the six branches going out of the lampstand ... He made the lampstand of pure beaten gold, its base, its shaft, its cups, its buds and its flowers were made of one piece" (Exodus 25:31 & 33; 37:7). 'The walls were cedar wood carved with buds and open flowers ... He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers and he overlaid them with gold fitted on the engraved work' (1 Kings 6:18 & 35). 'The capitals on the top of the pillars in the porch were of lily work ... On the top of the pillars was lily work ... It was a handbreadth thick and its brim was worked like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily' (1 Kings 7:19, 22 & 26).

The second temple was made exactly like the first temple. Flowers adorned both temples but the tabernacle was made almost entirely of cedar, which is a very fragrant wood and linen, one of the Lord's preferred fabrics. Linen comes from flax (Proverbs 31:13; Isaiah 19:9). There are several varieties of flax and each variety produce flowers of different colours and shapes (Exodus 9:31). All the linen in the tabernacle was dyed blue, purple and scarlet. 'You will make the tabernacle with ten curtains made of fine twined linen ... You will make a veil of fine twined linen with cherubim ... You will make a screen for the door of the Tent of Meeting of fine twined linen, the work of the embroiderer' (Exodus 26:1, 31 & 36). 'You will make the court of the tabernacle ... of fine twined linen ... The gate of the court will be a screen of twenty cubits of fine twined linen ... The length of the court will be one hundred cubits, the breadth fifty cubits everywhere and the height five cubits of fine twined linen' (Exodus 27:9, 16 & 18). A cubit was an ancient measurement of approximately the length of a man's arm from his elbow to the tip of his middle finger.

The priests wore linen. 'You will make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty ... These are the garments they will make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban and a sash ... They will take the gold, the blue, the purple, the scarlet and the fine linen. They will make the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen, the work of the skilful workman' (Exodus 28:2, 4, 5, 6). Linen was to be pure and it was forbidden by God to blend linen and wool together (Deuteronomy 22:11). Angels wear pure white, fine linen as we can read in Daniel 10:5; 12:6 & 7; Revelation 15:6; 19:14. The Bride of the Messiah will be arrayed in pure linen (Revelation 19:8).

'I went down into the nut tree grove to see the green plants of the valley, to see whether the vine budded and the pomegranates were in flower ... Let us go early up to the vineyards to see whether the vine has budded, its blossom is open and the pomegranates are in flower' (Song of Solomon 6:11; 7:12).

Lilies are flowers the Lord seems to like. Jesus is likened to lilies and roses. 'I am the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon' (Song of Solomon 2:1). Mankind is likened to grass flowers. 'As for mankind, their days are like grass, a flower of the field so they flourish then the wind passes over and is gone and forgotten' (Psalm 103:15 & 16). 'Man, who is born of a woman is of few days that are full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and is cut down' (Job 14:1 & 2). 'He shakes off his unripe grapes as the vine and casts off his flowers like the olive tree' (Job 15:33). 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades because God's breath blows on it. Surely the people are like grass. The grass withers, the flower fades but the Word of our God stands forever' (Isaiah 40:6 to 8). 'All flesh is like grass and all of man's glory is like the flower in the grass. The grass withers and its flower falls but the Lord's Word endures forever' (1 Peter 1:24 & 25). 'Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high (spiritual) position and the wealthy will be made humble because like the flower

in the grass, he will pass away. The sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass. The flower in it falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in his pursuits' (James 1:10 to 11). The Lord describes young adults as being in the flower of their age (1 Samuel 2:33; 1 Corinthians 7:36).

Jesus taught us not to concern ourselves with clothing by using the example of lilies. 'Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil nor do they spin yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these (not as beautiful), but if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists and tomorrow is tossed out, will God so much more clothe you, you of little faith?' (Matthew 6:28 to 10).

The Lord reveals there would be joy in the Land of Israel after the Jewish people return to their land and this has been happening for the last fifty years or so. The land that was once dry like a desert is now flourishing due to the hard work of the Jewish people. 'In days to come, Jacob will take root. Israel will blossom and bud. They will fill the surface of the world with fruit' ... 'The wilderness and the dry land will be glad. The desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose. It will blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing' (Isaiah 27:6; 35:1 & 2). 'I (the Lord) will be like the dew to Israel. Israel will blossom like the lily and send down roots' (Hosea 14:5).

Spring reveals winter is over and that is when flowers blossom. 'Behold, winter is past. The rain is over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth. The time of the singing has come and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Fig trees ripen their green figs. Vines are in blossom. Flowers give forth their fragrance' (Song of Solomon 2:11 to 13).

The Lord likens those who drink alcohol to sad fading flowers, destroyed in their prime and unable to produce 'fruit' which is another word for serving God. 'Woe to the crown of pride of the drunkards and to the fading flower of his former glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fertile valley of those who are overcome with wine! Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong hand. Like a storm of hail, a destroying storm and like a storm of mighty waters overflowing, He will cast them down to the earth with His hand. The crown of pride of the drunkards will be trodden underfoot. The fading flower of his former glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fertile valley, will be like the first ripe fig before the summer which someone picks and eats as soon as he sees it' (Isaiah 28:1 to 4).

When life is hard, finances are restricted, death occurs in our family, poor health takes over or there is not enough food to go around, we can still rejoice in the Lord and in our salvation. He makes our walk with Him as deft as deer on mountainous terrain and through prayer, He lifts our mood so we can enjoy His presence. Our relationship with God should never be determined by our circumstances. Our reaction to difficulties is our choice and our will. We can choose to be defeated or we can choose to rejoice in God. We must understand, this life on earth is short and filled with trials but we need to focus on our eternity as the pure Bride of the Lamb, arrayed in pure linen. 'Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the fruit of the olive tree fails, the fields yield no food, the flocks are cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Lord is my strength. He makes my feet (deft) like deer's feet (we will not slip and fall) and He enables me to go in high (spiritual) places. He is the music director on my stringed instruments' (Habakkuk 3:17 & 19). 'I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, like the voice of many waters and like the voice of mighty thunders saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad and let us give the glory to Him for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready" ... It was permitted for her to array herself in bright, pure, fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of God's holy people' (Revelation 19:6 to 8).

Amen and God bless you.

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