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Jewish Signs: 1 The scattering of Jewish Nation.

Introduction:

There are three **dendritic symbols* that the Bible uses to portray Israel: (*from Gk. dendron = tree)

1. The Vine Tree – symbolic of ‘fruitfulness’ and prosperity in times of obedience. But a sign of leanness in times of disobedience: Hos. 10. 1; *“Israel empties his vine; he brings forth fruit for himself. According to the multitude of his fruit he has increased the alters; according to the bounty of his land they have embellished his sacred pillars. 2. Their heart is divided; now they are guilty. He will break down their alters; He will ruin their sacred pillars.”* Ps. 80. , Isa. 5.1-6; Jer. 2. 21; Ezk. 15. 6; It is also Messianic: Jn. 15.5; *‘I am the true Vine..’*

2. The Fig Tree - symbolic of ‘fruitfulness’. (was used by Jesus as a *sign. see below.) Is deeply embedded in Jewish culture from ancient times. Jer. 8. 13; Hos. 9. 10; Also also used with eschatological meaning. *Mtt.24. 32 – 35; *‘Now learn a parable of the Fig Tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the doors.....’*

See also Mtt. 21. 18; *The cursing of.* (Adam and Eve used fig leaves to cover their nakedness Gen.3.7;)

3. The olive tree – Symbolic of fruitfulness and *anointing*. *The anointing oil is produced from the olive fruit*. It has many other uses. Is also Messianic - symbolic of Christ’s anointing. Is *Eschatological* so far as the grafting in of Israel to the root of the Olive Tree – Christ the anointed redeemer - in the last days. See Rm. Ch 11.

In a nutshell : The Vine tree is symbolic of Israel’s Spiritual Privileges.

The Fig Tree is a symbolic of Israel’s National Privileges.

The Olive Tree is a symbol of Israel’s Religious Privileges.

The Israelite Nation has always been a sign for both God’s blessing and cursing – an example to other nations.

The Lord used the the *Fig Tree* as a major sign re. His second advent *Mtt. 24. 32 –34;

1. The Scattering of the Jewish Nation: Deut. 28. 63 - 65; *And it shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and to multiply you; so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and you shall be plucked out of the land where you go to possess it. 64. The Lord shall scatter you among all people from one end of the earth to the other; and there shall you serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known, even wood and stone. 65. And among these nations shall you find no ease, neither shall the sole of your foot find rest, but the Lord shall give you there a trembling heart, and failing eyes, and sorrow of mind.* Written approx. 1451 B.C.

August *A.D. 70 saw the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, leader of the Roman Armies.

Twice the Jews have been destroyed as a nation. Twice they have returned and survived.

The first time was the Babylonian captivity by Nebuchadnezzar (605 - 586 B.C.) 605. B.C. was the first deportation of the Jews to Babylon. (now Iraq).

This all took place since the dividing of the Israelite nation into two Kingdoms in 975. B.C. (1Kng. 12.) *when under the reign of Rehoboam Son of Solomon.*

After their separation they became independently known as the Northern Kingdom – Israel *under Jeroboam the son of Nebat of the tribe of Ephraim*, and the southern Kingdom - Judah (*hence the name Jews*). *Continued under Rehoboam (It was Judah from whence the Messiah would come in His first advent).*

Both Nations ended up committing the same sins which led to their demise:

Around 730. B.C. King of Assyria Shalmaneser destroyed the N. Kingdom - Israel. They never recovered as a nation.

Just over a century later Judah, the S. Kingdom, was destroyed, fulfilling Moses’ prophecy 8 ½ centuries earlier. Judah did survive, but not as an independent nation. It was more political than religious.

*The second time, Judah was destroyed was by Rome in A.D.70. *see above.*

It was recorded that 1,100,000 Jews were reported dead, after the Roman legions descended upon Jerusalem at its destruction.

Sixty five years later (A.D. 137.) followed the collapse of the National Jewish state. After which came the expulsion of all Jews from Judah. Note Deut. 28. 64; See Lk. 19. 43 – 44; *“For the days shall come upon you that your enemies will dig a trench about you, and shall surround you and keep you in on every side and shall cast you to the ground, and your children with you; and they shall not leave you one stone upon another; because you knew not the time of your visitation.”*

This Scripture was fulfilled in A.D. 70.

The consequences of their rejection of Christ as Messiah has resulted in *their* rejection, and oppression under gentile world power.

Through the centuries, people of power and dictatorship have persecuted, and attempted to exterminate of the Jew:

Examples since A.D.70:

Germany - May to July 1096 A.D. 10,000 Jews killed in the Rhineland

England – Nov.1st 1290. Expulsion of all Jews from England under the threat of hanging. Their return was not legally sanctioned until 370 yrs later by Oliver Cromwell

Franconia, Bavaria and Austria.– 1298. 100,000 Jews killed. *(Franconia and Bavaria now German states)*

France – September. 1306. 100,000 expelled under the threat of death.

Spain – Aug. 2nd 1492. 300,000 expelled under the threat of death by the Inquisition.

Russia, Poland and Sweden at war. 1648 – 1658. Death took place of 400,000 Jews.

2nd W.W. 1935 – 1945 6,000,000 Jews executed by Hitler and co.

After all this, there are still multitudes of Jews going back to, and living in Israel.

70 A.D saw the slaughter of over one million Jews under Titus.

Those who did survive were shipped off to ‘Slave Markets’ in Egypt.

Soon the supply exceeded the demand and they became worthless even as slaves.

For two thousand years The Sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have wandered the earth with no country to call their own, under constant threat of persecution and death.

They must have asked the question many times, *“why”* (Ps. 22. 1;) *“My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me and from the words of my groaning?”*

Was not this the cry of Jesus as He hung upon the cross? Jesus - *the Man of sorrows.* (Is. 53.) hanging as representative of all Israel - nay all the world, as He gave that heart rending cry, when God the Father allowed His Son to take our place, and become sin for us all. We who are all capable of committing the same fowl sins as the guilty Jews. The Righteous One became the unrighteous, that we the unrighteous, might become the righteousness of God through His precious blood – the Supreme Sacrifice.

But the true Christian looks on in amazement, as the Jew becomes the phenomenon of the whole world. God fulfilled His word through Moses His servant. Deut. 28. 46; *“They shall be upon you for a sign and a warning for other nations; and upon your descendents forever.”*

