

“Palm Psalm!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. Tonight we'll talk about our need for *Palm Tree Christians*!
- B. **Hymn:** Now thank we all our God. With hearts and hands and voice, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices; Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
- C. **Thankfulness** does not have to wait for prosperity and peace. It's always a good time to praise God for the “wondrous things” He has done.
 - 1. **What was the background on this hymn?** It was the worst of times. In the first half of the 17th century, Germany was in the midst of wars and famine and pestilence. In the city of Eilenburg lived a pastor by the name of **Martin Rinkart**. During one especially oppressive period, Rinkart conducted up to **50 funerals a day** as a **plague** swept through the town. Yet during those years of **darkness** and **despair**, when **death** and **destruction** greeted each new day, Pastor Rinkart wrote 66 sacred songs and hymns. Among them was the song “Now Thank We All Our God.”

II. **PALM PSALM!**

- A. **GIVE THANKS & SING PRAISES!** (1-4)
- B. **Morning** - Look **ahead** to your day by faith & praise Him for His **lovingkindness**.
- C. **Every night** - Look **back** & praise Him for His **faithfulness**.
 - 1. Maybe referred to the morning & evening **burnt offering**? (Ex.29:38-42)
- D. (4,5) The Psalmist is moved to express himself in thanksgiving for some specific “**work**” on his behalf.
 - 1. God's **great works** are the products of **profound thoughts**.
- E. (6,7) But **the fool** cannot understand they are doomed because they are the enemies of God.
- F. (10a) But God has delivered the psalmist making him strong like a wild ox.

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- G. **PALMS!** (10b-15)
- H. *Judean Date Palm*: In 1963 up on **Masada** in Israel, they discovered a jar full of **Date Palm seeds**, dating back 2000 years. They stored them for 30 years then in 2005 planted one in **Kibbutz Ketura**/near Elat. It sprouted 6 weeks later. June 2008 it stood 4' tall.
1. **Oldest seed to ever germinate!**
- I. The **Palm Tree** historically has been called *the representative tree* of Israel.
1. It has found itself on their **coins**; engraved in **Solomon's Temple**; it will be in the **Millennium Temple**; it was used at the **Triumphal entry**; & the **Trib martyrs** will be found holding Palm branches in their hands in **Rev.7:9**(victory).
- J. He likens us unto a **Palm Tree!!!** [So how do they flourish?]
- K. **[1] FRESH!** (10,11) **Fresh Oil**
1. There are over 2600 species of Palm Trees, from 3-100' tall.
 2. **Oil:**
 3. The **African Oil Palm** gives a higher yield per acre than any other **oil plant**.
 - a) **It produces 2 types of oil:** that from palm kernels(for soap & margarine), & that from fleshy part of the fruit(used more widely for industrial processes).
 4. **Fresh oil** - There is perennial freshness with God!
 - a) (*Perennial* = lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time. **Remaining leafy throughout the year.**)
 - b) **Does your eye ever get tired of staring at the ocean? Watching waves break? Gazing at the mountains covered with snow? Watching sunsets?**
 - (1) From childhood to old age we look on the same landscape, yet there is always something **fresh** to captivate our roving eye.
 - (2) Perennial freshness with God!
 5. **Enemies & wicked:**
 6. **The Palm Tree breaks the bands!**
 - a) Other trees do not break bands out around them. As the tree grows, the bands dig into the wood. (ever seen that?)
 - b) The palm tree **breaks the bands** as it grows. The believer is able to do the same.

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- (1) Ps.107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
And **broke their chains** in pieces.

7. The Palm Tree will **bend** but not **break**!

- a) They can withstand a lot of abuse, storms, & wind.
- b) Where other trees will snap in hurricane winds the Palm tree will **bend**...but then comes up again!

8. The Palm Tree can **withstand abuse**!

- a) The **heart** of the **ordinary tree** is dead. The **vulnerable area** of an ordinary tree is the **outside**. (i.e. weed eater)
- b) The **heart** of the **palm** is alive. The **life** of the palm tree is in the **inside**.
 - (1) Thus, **outward abuse** does not affect the life or quality of the palm tree.
 - (2) Though our **outward** man perish, yet the **inward** man is renewed day by day.

L. **[2] FLOURISHING!** (12,13) Flourish like a Palm Tree

1. The Palm Tree points to water!

- a) In the desert, the Palm trees have **roots** that go **down deep** to draw up the water.
 - (1) They can survive when other trees are dying.
 - (2) To go deep = living in Christ; constant connection with Him (*kneeology*!)
 - (3) Shallow Christians **aren't flourishing** because they are seeking nourishment on the surface. Running their roots out laterally.
 - (a) Looking to the world for **refreshment** but come away **thirsty**!
- b) Set your **taproot deep** in the word of God & prayer!

2. The Palm Tree **cannot be grafted**!

- a) Horticulturists say that **to graft** a palm tree is **to kill it**.
 - (1) The palm tree is **distinctive & unusual**.
 - (2) The Christian is to be **distinctive, easily distinguished** from the world.

3. The Palm Tree **will not burn**!

- a) It refuses to burn as ordinary wood.
- b) The child of God is protected from the flames of judgment.

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4. We don't know if **trees** *literally* grew in the Temple area or not, **but** the **righteous** are said to flourish there in the presence of God!!!

a) *Our you planted in the house of God?*

M. **[3] FRUITFUL!** (14) *Still bear Fruit in old age*

1. **The older the Palm Tree the sweeter the fruit!** *They still bear fruit in old age*

a) As a palm tree grows older, its fruit grows sweeter.

b) They even say the older trees with scarred trunks produce the sweetest fruit.

(1) The scars of life produce the fruit of holiness.

(2) The trials of life conform us to the image of Christ.

c) *In old age then, those who live for Christ become **fresh, flourishing, & fruitful!***

(1) As you get older, **make your life count** more & more for Jesus!

2. **A group of Palm Trees form an Oasis!**

a) **One** standing alone will no provide much shade in the burning sun.

b) A group forming an Oasis reminds us to **stay** together & **stand** as Christians.

(1) ***Not forsaking the gathering together of the brethren.***

c) Often in the desert you will find **orange** or **lemon trees** growing beneath the shade of the palms grouped together.

(1) **Grouping together** helps those weaker than ourselves!

3. **The Palm Tree is an evergreen!**

a) The evergreen is a symbol of **immortality**.

b) *The child of God will **never die**(sp.); he has **everlasting life!***

N. **FAITHFUL!** (15) *The Lord is upright...& righteous*

1. i.e. A Master that wont ever **run back** from His promise.

2. *“Every aged Christian is a letter of commendation to the immutable fidelity of **Jehovah.**”* (Spurgeon)

3. God cannot be **moved** or **removed** from doing righteously, than a rock can be moved out of its place.

- O. **End** Bend your head tonight for the fresh anointing for the new ministries that await you.