

# Trees of The Bible

A study course for Lent 2021

## Week Three: The Cedar of Lebanon

*"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon, planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God."*

*Psalms 92:12&13*

### Introduction

***Cedrus libani***, the **cedar of Lebanon** or **Lebanon cedar**, is a member of the pine family, native to the mountains of the Eastern Mediterranean. It is a large conifer that has religious and historical significance in the Middle East, and is mentioned many times in their ancient literature. It is the national emblem of Lebanon and is widely used as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens.

The Cedar is a majestic, evergreen which can grow up to 35m in height. The bark is blackish-brown, and twigs are brown and slightly hairy. It has a distinct shape, with several trunks and clear horizontal layers in its structure.

Check out the Woodland Trust Website for more information on the Cedar of Lebanon or any other tree: (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>).



**READ** Psalm 92; 1 Kings 6:14-18 and 1 Peter 2:4-9

**LOOK UP** 2 Chronicles 2:1-9; Hosea 14:1-8 and Ezekiel 31:1-17

**REFLECT**

What was the cedar of Lebanon used for in the Old Testament?

What did it symbolise for the OT Jews?

When you look at a cedar of Lebanon, what does it inspire in you?

What would it mean for us to be like a cedar of Lebanon?

**RECITE - Psalm 92**

- 1 It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,
- 2 proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,
- 3 to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.
- 4 For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
- 5 How great are your works, LORD, how profound your thoughts!
- 6 Senseless people do not know, fools do not understand,
- 7 that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever.
- 8 But you, LORD, are forever exalted.
- 9 For surely your enemies, LORD, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered.
- 10 You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured on me.
- 11 My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.
- 12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
- 13 planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,
- 15 proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

*Silence*

**PRAY**

For the leaders of the nations that they may be preserved from pride.....

For the leaders of the Church that they may grow in the worship of God .....

For those Christians who are tempted to give up that they may be strengthened....

For ourselves that we may flourish and be fruitful in the Church of God....

Most gracious Father, who founded the Church on the witness of the holy prophets and apostles, strengthen us in the faith, that we may grow in grace and bear the fruit of the Spirit. through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**