

# Trees of The Bible

A study course for Lent 2021

## Week Six : The Tree of Life (The Vine Tree)

*“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.  
And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*

Revelation 22:2

### Introduction

The tree of Life appears principally in the books of Genesis and Revelation: the first and last books of the Bible; at the beginning and at the end.

Grapevines are believed to have originated around Mesopotamia, and were cultivated 6,000 years before the Romans introduced the plant to the British Isles.



The grape-vine, *Vitis vinifera*, is mentioned frequently throughout the Bible in a symbolic sense. It was the emblem of prosperity and peace for the ancient Jews. In particular, it represented God's chosen people. In Christian art, the fruitful vine often symbolises the union of Christ with His followers.

*“What counts is being permeated with Christ's love, allowing oneself to be led by the Holy Spirit, and grafting one's own existence onto the tree of life, which is the Cross of the Lord. . . .”*

Pope Francis

**READ** Revelation 22:1-5; John 15:1-8 and 1 Peter 1:3-9

**LOOK UP** Genesis 2:8&9; Proverbs 3: 13-20 and Revelation 1:8;& 2:8

### **REFLECT**

Is the vine a good contender for the tree of life?

In your opinion is Jesus a fulfilment of Psalm 1:3 and would it be right to see Jesus as the tree of life?

We have looked at six trees through the course of this study series. Which tree do you most identify with and why?

### **RECITE - Psalm 1**

- 1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
- 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.
- 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.
- 4 Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

*Silence*

### **PRAY**

Let us praise God our Father for the resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ from the dead.....

Let us praise God for the imperishable hope of eternal life kept for us in heaven.....

And let us pray:

For the nations of the world that they may seek for the things that make for peace.....

For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit that they may find healing in Jesus.....

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection that on the last day we shall be united with them in Christ.....

God of life, who for our salvation gave your Son Jesus to death on the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from death.

Grant us to live with Jesus daily that we may come at last to heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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