

GARDENS, TREES AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Gardens and trees are used in several places in Scripture as literal and symbolic descriptions of improved life conditions in God's kingdom. Some of these involve the wonderful peace between Israel and all the nations. Six of these joyful prophecies are found in the prophet Isaiah.

Luke 13:18-19

"Then He said, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and **put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree**, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.'" See also Mark 4:31-32

Isa.35:1-2

"The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and **blossom as the rose**; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God."

Isa.51:3

"For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort her waste places; He will make her wilderness **like Eden**, and her desert like **the garden of the LORD**; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."

Isa.55:12-13

For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and **all the trees of the field** shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the **cypress tree**, and instead of the brier shall come up the **myrtle tree**; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Isa.58:11

"The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; **you shall be like a watered garden**, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."

Isa.61:3

"To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called **trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD**, that He might be glorified."

Isa.61:11

"For as **the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes** the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations."

Jer.31:12

"Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the LORD – for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be **like a well watered garden**, and they shall sorrow no more at all."

Ezek.34:27

"**Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit**, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke ..."

Ezek.34:29

"**I will raise up for them a garden of renown**, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bare the shame of the Gentiles anymore."

Ezek.36:35

"So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has **become like the garden of Eden**; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'"

Mic.4:4

"But everyone shall sit **under his vine and under his fig tree**, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken." See also Zech.3:10

Zech.8:12

"**For the seed shall be prosperous**, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew. I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things."