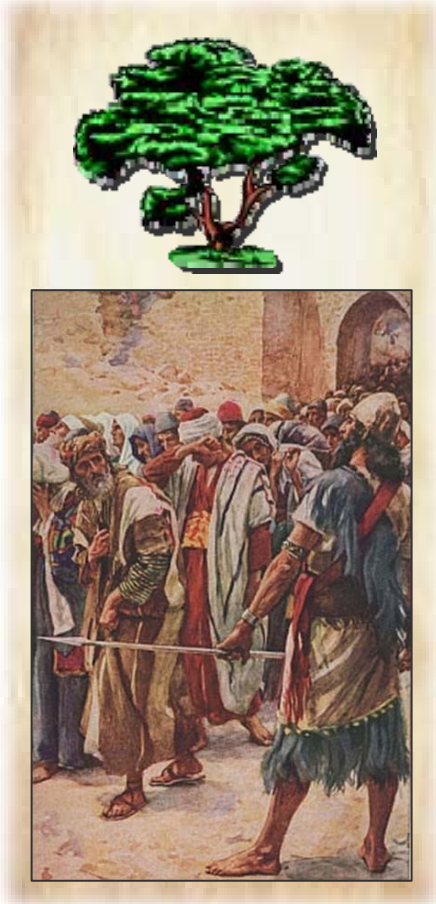


#1262 Israel as the Fig Tree – Habakkuk 3:17: The Fig Tree shall not Blossom

The Book of Habakkuk was addressed in the recent Unsealings about John Philip Sousa (Unsealings [#1237](#)–[#1246](#)). The major themes of Habakkuk are the judgment upon Judah through the invasion by Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon (Habakkuk chapter 1), and, in turn, the judgment upon Babylon (by Media-Persia – though not stated so directly – Habakkuk chapter 2). In Habakkuk chapter 3, Habakkuk is resigned to the coming losses that will be suffered by Judah upon the invasion by Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon, including that of “*the fig tree shall not blossom.*”



Habakkuk 3:17-18 (KJV) ALTHOUGH THE FIG TREE SHALL NOT BLOSSOM, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: {fail: Heb. lie}
18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV) THOUGH THE FIG TREE DOES NOT BUD and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Key Understanding: *The fig tree not budding/blossoming is a major picture of the invasion of Judah by Babylon.*

With the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon and the subsequent captivity of the people of Judah comes the symbolization of the fig tree not blossoming. There are other symbolizations as well, including that of the failed grapevine, the failed olive crop, and the failed fields. Nonetheless, *the fig tree not budding/blossoming* is a major picture of the invasion of Judah by Babylon and the deportations and captivity of the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah.

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