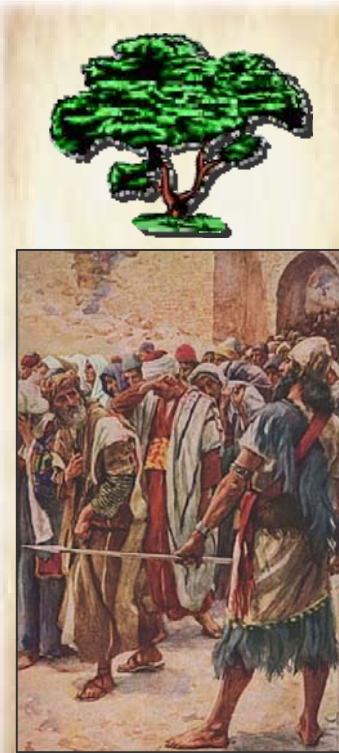
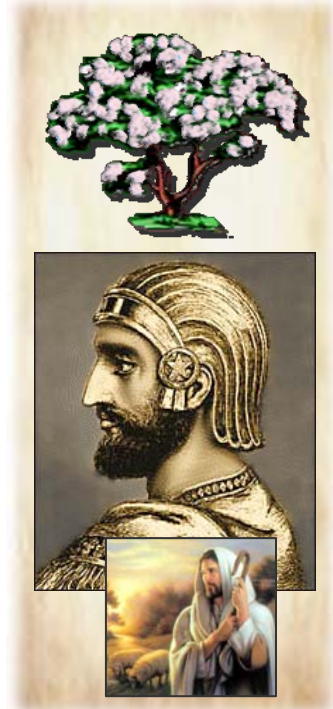


**#1264 Israel as the Fig Tree – If Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonians and their captivity of the Jews caused the fig tree to not blossom (literally and figuratively), then the Media-Persians and their allowing of the Jews to return to Judah were cause for the fig tree to blossom (literally and figuratively)**

*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.*



**Key Understanding: If (a) Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonians and their captivity of the Jews caused the fig tree to not blossom (literally and figuratively), then (b) Cyrus the Great and the Media-Persians and their allowing of the Jews to return to Judah were obviously cause for *the fig tree to blossom* (literally and figuratively). This is also confirmed by the story of the good figs in Jeremiah 24:1-7. *The fig trees blossoming can certainly be equated to good figs.***



*Isaiah 44:28 (KJV) [Thus saith the Lord] **THAT SAITH OF CYRUS, HE IS MY SHEPHERD, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.***

*Jeremiah 24:1-7 (KJV) The LORD shewed me, and, behold, **TWO BASKETS OF FIGS** were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. [NIV . . . After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the LORD.] **2 ONE BASKET HAD VERY GOOD FIGS, even like the figs that are first ripe: and THE OTHER BASKET HAD VERY NAUGHTY FIGS, which could not be eaten, they were so bad. {they...: Heb. for badness}**  
**3 Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, FIGS; THE GOOD FIGS, very good; and THE EVIL [FIGS], very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.**  
**4 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,***

5 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these **GOOD FIGS**, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. {them...: Heb. the captivity}

6 For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. [Only partially fulfilled through the restoration from Babylon, to be completely fulfilled upon the return of the Lord.]

7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

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