

**Cursing of the Fig Tree**  
***Fruitful or Fruitless***

**Matthew 21: 18-22**

**April 16, 2023**

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to **glorify God**  
and to **enjoy him forever.**

WESTMINSTER CATECHISM



The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.

— *C. S. Lewis* —

**AZ QUOTES**

## Verse 18

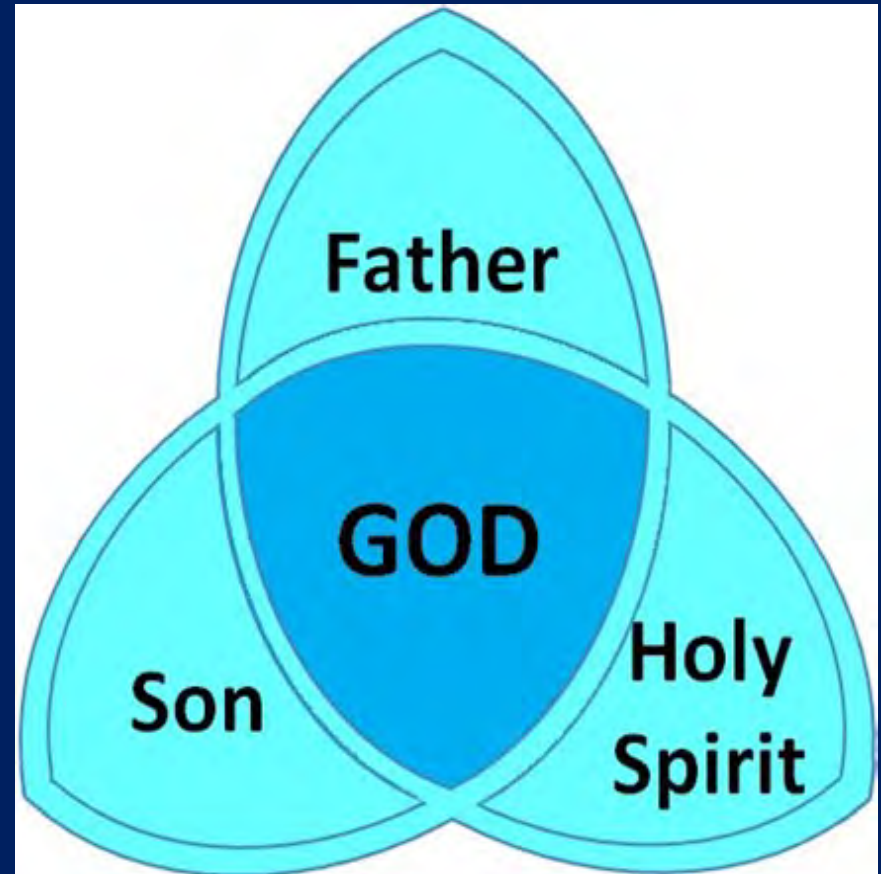
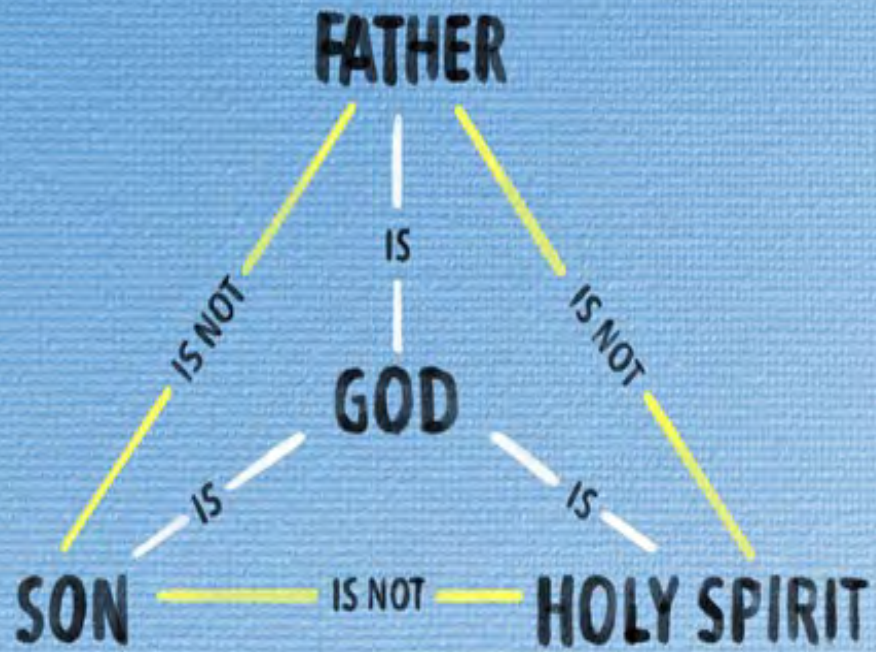
The Setting: It is morning and  
Jesus is hungry

**Jesus encounters a fig tree that is not productive, not fulfilling its purpose**

**Jesus is hungry**

**Jesus is a man, as well as God**

**At the incarnation, the eternal Second Person of the God Head (*Trinity*), took on humanity**



The hypostatic union teaches that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, that there is no mixture or dilution of either nature, and that He is one united Person, forever.



## Jesus is now forever the God/Man

Jesus did this voluntarily, and He did it for you,  
*His Bride, the Church!*

There is an expectation of the Bride of Christ,  
what is it?

- *To be fruitful*
- *To be watchful and waiting*
- *To be loyal and faithful to **your**  
**Bride Groom!***



**Verse 19 - 20**

**Cursing of the fruitless**

The fig tree  
represents  
Israel in Scripture.  
It is expected to be  
fruitful and  
***PRODUCTIVE!***



**The fig tree was not fulfilling its purpose**

- It looked good, but had no fruit and was useless

**What did Jesus do to the fruitless fig tree?**

*He cursed it!*

**Does this mean God is done with Israel?**

***NO!!***



## Muslim Nations vs. Jewish Nation



*How does any sane person justify NOT supporting Israel?*

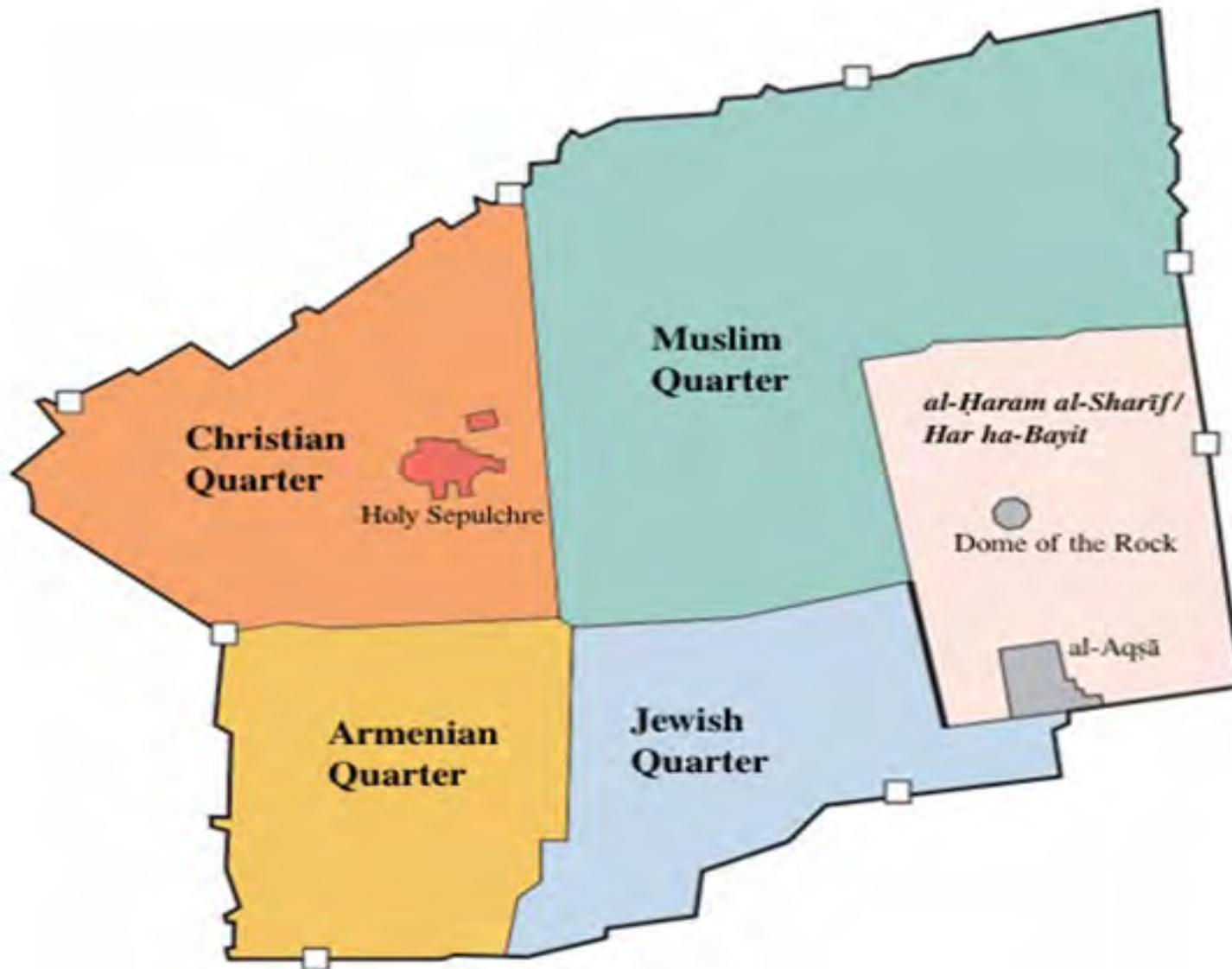
**\*National Israel has been set aside for a time\***

**THE TIME OF THE GENTILES** will continue until Messiah returns at His Second Coming

What is the time of the Gentiles?

*“And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” - Luke 21: 24b*

**The Time of the Gentiles** = Babylonian captivity until the Second Coming of Christ



**The setting aside is temporary,  
*God is not through with Israel!***

## The fulness of the Gentiles

I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

*“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*<sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them,  
When I take away their sins.”*

**Romans 11.25-27**

## THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES:

*“Simon has declared how God at first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.”*

Acts 15: 14

A set number of people saved during the Church age, prior to the Second Coming of Christ



# Daniel's Seventy Weeks

(Daniel 9:24-27)

The Decree  
to Restore

Messiah  
the Prince

The Coming  
Prince

Messiah  
Returns

69 Weeks

Messiah Apr. 3,  
"cut off" A.D. 33



1 Week

Church  
Age

1/2  
Week

1/2  
Week

March 5,  
444 B.C.

Artaxerxes' Decree  
Neh. 2:1-8

March 30,  
A.D. 33

Triumphal Entry  
Luke 19:28-40



City &  
Temple  
destroyed

Aug. 6,  
A.D. 70

Verse 21 - 22

**Be fruitful, have faith, and do not doubt**

What is faith?

*“Being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you cannot see.” – Hebrews 11: 1*

It is important to believe and trust God in prayer!

**Does this guarantee we get what we want?**

***NO!***

We are too depraved to have *“what we want power”*

Real faith involves surrendering to God’s will

Matthew 26: 39

1 John 5: 15

Matthew 6: 10

1 John 3: 21

God loves it when we ask in faith

God does not like it when we ask and doubt  
James 1: 2-8

## CLOSING:

The cursing of the fig tree has everything to do with fruitfulness – *fulfilling your purpose!*

**What is this cursing all about?**

*The generation that rejected Jesus is cursed, they will not enter the millennial kingdom*

The kingdom is postponed; ***God has not replaced Israel with the Church!***

The Church will take up the mantle of telling the world about Jesus

**God will revisit Israel, as His people, in the Tribulation period**

## What is fruit?

*Fruit is not something that you produce*

*Fruit is a natural result of abiding in Christ, making your home in Christ - John 15: 5*

*Fruit looks a whole lot like Christian character - Galatians 5: 22-23*

**Are your roots dried up? Are you feeling lifeless?**

*Allow God to lift you out of the miry clay of disappointment and set you once again on the **Rock!***

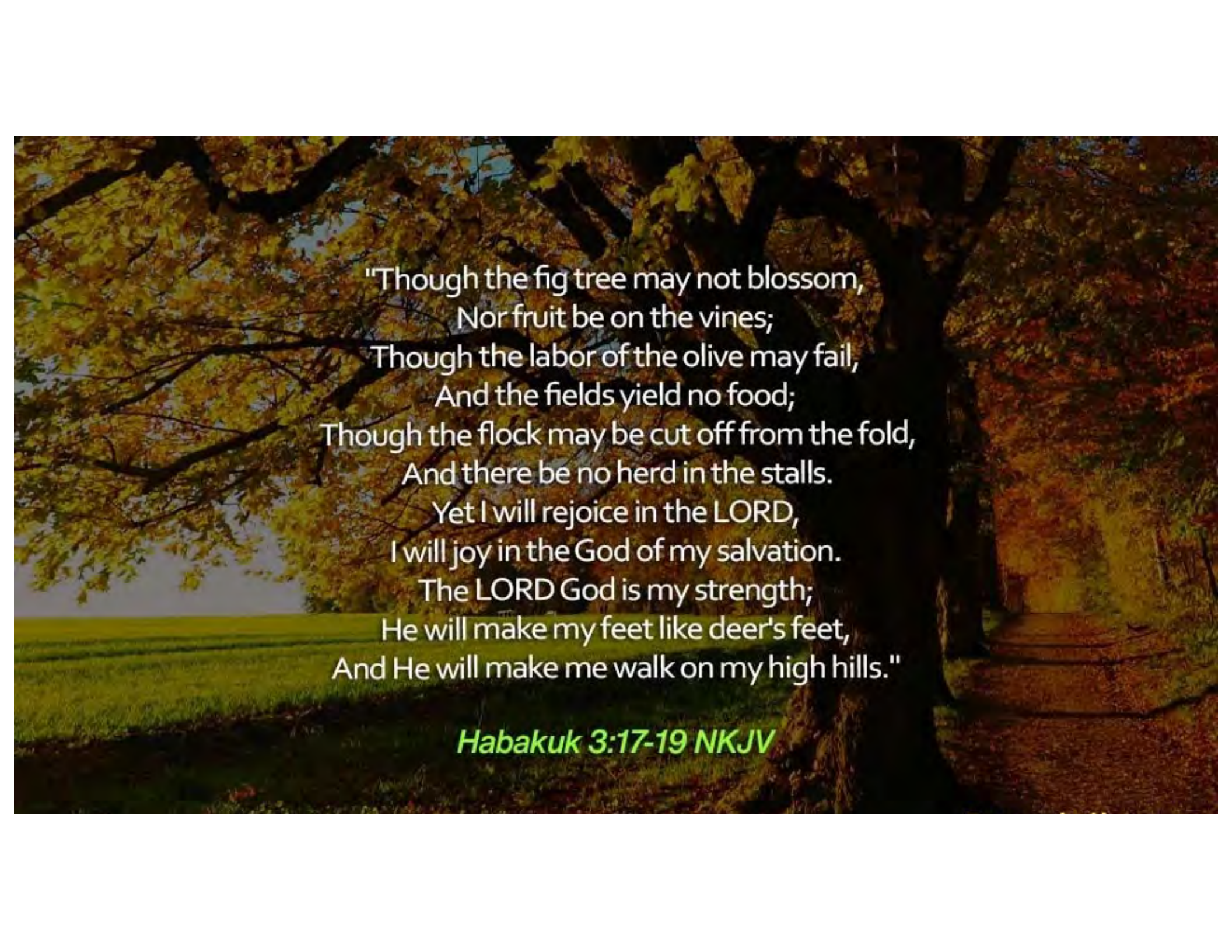
**Though a season of disappointment has flooded your life, be like the prophet Habakkuk!**

**It all looked so bleak, even hopeless for Habakkuk!**

**Babylon was coming, the nation had fully faded from God, *“fruitless”***

**In the midst of this, Habakkuk had the fruit of patience and faith – **Habakkuk 3: 17-19****





"Though the fig tree may not blossom,  
Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labor of the olive may fail,  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,  
And there be no herd in the stalls.  
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
The LORD God is my strength;  
He will make my feet like deer's feet,  
And He will make me walk on my high hills."

*Habakuk 3:17-19 NKJV*

May we end our lives . . . . *our time here . . . .*  
*fervent for God!*

*My Utmost for His Highest,*  
*My Greatest for His Glory*

- Oswald Chambers -

***I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD  
UNTIL I DIE!***