

~BRANCH, SPROUT (233)

.. Figurative Usage

- A branch is a smaller division of a main part, such as of a **tree, a stream, or a family**. In the Bible several **Hebrew** and **Greek** words are variously translated branch, sprout, sprig, shoot, offshoot, bough, frond, twig, and treetop. Branches of trees played a part in the worship of Israel.
- During the **Festival of Booths**, in the seventh month, Ethanim or Tishri, branches of trees, including **palm, olive, myrtle, and poplar, were used in constructing booths** in which the people resided for the duration of the festival.
- And you must take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, **the fronds of palm trees and the boughs of branchy trees and poplars of the torrent valley**, and you must rejoice before Yehowah your God seven days. (**Leviticus 23:40**)
- And that they should make proclamation and cause a call to pass throughout all their cities and throughout Jerusalem, saying, Go out to the mountainous region and **bring in olive leaves and the leaves of oil trees and myrtle leaves and palm leaves and the leaves of branchy trees to make booths**, according to what is written. (**Nehemiah 8:15**)
- At Jesus entry into Jerusalem on **Nisan 9,33 C.E.**, the crowd that had come to Jerusalem for the Passover and the Festival of Unfermented Cakes greeted him by waving palm **branches**, hailing him as the king of Israel.
- The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival, on hearing that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. (**John 12:12**)
- Took the **branches** of palm trees and went out to meet him. And they began to shout; Save, we pray you! Blessed is he that comes in Yehowah's name, even the king of Israel! (**John 12:13**)
- Likewise, the great crowd of John's vision at (**Revelation Chapter 7**) are shown waving palm **branches** as they attribute salvation to God, who is on the throne, and to the Lamb.

- After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm **branches** in their hands. (**Revelation 7:9**)
- And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying; Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb. (**Revelation 7:10**)

•• Figurative Usage

- Jesus was brought up in the small town of Nazareth, probably meaning, **Sprout-Town**. The apostle Matthew calls attention to Jesus being called a Nazarene apparently from the Hebrew *ne'tser*, **sprout** as a fulfillment of prophecy, alluding to the prophecy at;
 - And there must go forth a **twig** out of the stump of Jesse, and out of his roots a **sprout** will be fruitful. (**Isaiah 11:1**)
 - And came and dwelt in a city named Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets, He will be called a **Nazarene**. (**Matthew 2:23**)
- The apostle Paul likens the congregation of the Jewish candidates **naturally** in line for the heavenly Kingdom to an olive tree with a definite number of **branches** attached to the tree trunk.
 - Wild olive **branches**, people of the nations, Gentiles, were grafted in to replace broken off natural **branches** or Jews, because only a few accepted Christ, the majority failing. Thus the full God-ordained number is completed, in its final state being composed of Jews and Gentiles.
 - However, if some of the **branches** were broken off but you, although being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became a sharer of the olives root of fatness. (**Romans 11:17**)
 - Do not be exulting over the **branches**. If, though, you are exulting over them, it is not you that bear the root, but the root bears you. (**Romans 11:18**)
 - You will say then; **Branches** were broken off that I might be grafted in. (**Romans 11:19**)

- All right! For their lack of faith they were broken off, but you are standing by faith. Quit having lofty ideas, but be in fear. (**Romans 11:20**)
- For if God did not spare the natural **branches**, neither will he spare you. (**Romans 11:21**)
- See, therefore, God's kindness and severity. Toward those who fell there is severity, but toward you there is God's kindness, provided you remain in his kindness, otherwise, you also will be lopped off. (**Romans 11:22**)
- They also, if they do not remain in their lack of faith, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. (**Romans 11:23**)
- For if you were cut out of the olive tree that is wild by nature and were grafted contrary to nature into the garden olive tree, how much rather will these who are natural be grafted into their own olive tree! (**Romans 11:24**)
- **Offshoot** or **bough** and the related terms mentioned above are used in the Scriptures to denote a son or offspring, a descendant. In Jacob's blessings to his sons he calls Joseph an offshoot **Hebrew, ben, son.**
- **Offshoot** of a fruit bearing tree, Joseph is the **offshoot** of a fruit bearing tree by the fountain, that propels its **branches** up over a wall. (**Genesis 49:22**) Footnote
- Destruction leaving neither **root** nor **bough** symbolizes the wiping out of the family or of all of a certain kind, or complete destruction beyond possibility of revival.
- For, look! The day is coming that is burning like the furnace, and all the presumptuous one's and all those doing wickedness must become as stubble. And the day that is coming will certainly devour them, Yehowah of armies has said; So that **it will not leave to them either root or bough.** (**Malachi 4:1**)
- Therefore just as a tongue of fire eats up the stubble and into the flames mere dried grass sinks down, their **very rootstock** will become just like a musty smell, and their blossom itself will go up just like powder, because they have rejected the Law of

- Yehowah of armies, and the saying of the Holy One of Israel they have disrespected. (**Isaiah 5:24**)
- Ephraim must be struck down. Their **very root must dry up**. There will be no fruit that they produce. Also, in case they bring to birth, I will even put to death the desirable things of their belly. (**Hosea 9:16**)
 - Jesus Christ is prophetically spoken of in the Hebrew Scriptures as Yehowah's servant **Sprout NW, Le** or **the Branch KJ, AT, the Bud Ro**.
 - Hear, please, O Joshua the High Priest, you and your companions who are sitting before you, for they are men serving as portents, for here I am bringing in my servant **Sprout!** (**Zechariah 3:8**)
 - And you must say to him; This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Here is the man whose name is **Sprout**. And from his own place he will **sprout**, and he will certainly build the temple of Yehowah. (**Zechariah 6:12**)
 - And he himself will build the temple of Yehowah, and he, for his part, will carry the dignity. He must sit down and rule on his throne, and he must become a priest upon his throne, and the very counsel of peace will prove to be between both of them. (**Zechariah 6:13**)
 - The man whose name is **Sprout** is described as building the temple of Yehowah and sitting as a priest upon his throne. This can apply to none other than Jesus Christ, since he alone could fill the office of King and Priest under God's arrangement. Jesus Christ is promised as a righteous **sprout** raised up to David. This One will execute righteousness and justice.
 - Look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I will raise up to David a righteous **sprout**. And a king will certainly reign and act with discretion and execute justice and righteousness in the land. (**Jeremiah 23:5**)
 - In those days and at that time I shall make **sprout** for David a righteous **sprout**, and he will certainly execute justice and righteousness in the land. (**Jeremiah 33:15**)
 - And he will come up like a twig before one, and like a **root** out of waterless land. No stately form does he have, nor any splendor,

and when we shall see him, there is not the appearance so that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2)

- I, Jesus, sent my angel to bear witness to you people of these things for the congregations. I am the **root** and the **offspring** of David, and the **bright morning star**. (Revelation 22:16)
- He is also called a **twig** and a **sprout** out of Jesse, David's father.
- And there must go forth a **twig** out of the stump of Jesse, and out of his roots a **sprout** will be fruitful. (Isaiah 11:1)
- The end of the dynasty of the kings of Babylon was pictured by likening it to a **detested sprout**, thrown away and not deserving of a burial.
- But as for you, you have been thrown away without a burial place for you, like a **detested sprout**, clothed with killed men stabbed with the sword that are going down to the stones of a pit, like a carcass trodden down. (Isaiah 14:19)
- Just as Yehowah the Creator causes the sprouting growth in garden plants and trees, so **sprout**, **bough**, and similar terms are associated with prosperity, increase, and blessings from Yehowah.
- In that day what Yehowah makes **sprout** will come to be for decoration and for glory, and the **fruitage of the land will be something to be proud of and something beautiful** for those of Israel who have escaped. (Isaiah 4:2)
- And as for your people, all of them will be righteous, to time indefinite they will hold possession of the land, the **sprout** of my planting, the work of my hands, **for me to be beautified**. (Isaiah 60:21)
- The **little one himself will become a thousand**, and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Yehowah, shall speed it up in its own time. (Isaiah 60:22)
- My **root** is opened for the waters, and **dew itself will stay overnight upon my bough**. (Job 29:19)
- He has promised that just like foliage, a **branch**, **KJ**, a **green leaf**, **RS** the righteous one's will flourish.

- **The one trusting in his riches, he himself will fall, but just like foliage the righteous one's will flourish. (Proverbs 11:28)**