

The Mystery of the Fig Tree

INTRODUCTION

The Fig Tree is rich with deep meaning in the Bible. It appears in the creation story when Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves when they found themselves naked (Gen. 3:7). The Promised Land is described as a land of fig trees (Deut. 8:8). A life of peace and plenty is described as “**every man under his own fig tree**” (1 Kings 4:5). But when Israel is judged the fig tree withers: “**he has barked my fig tree**” (Joel 1:7). Jesus cursed a fig tree when he came to it and there was no fruit (Mark 11:13-21). Jesus also taught the end is near “**as soon as the twigs of the fig tree get tender**” (Mark 13:28). All these Scriptural references ought to encourage us to understand the mystery of the Fig Tree.

We will observe the Fig Tree in nature and deduce spiritual lessons. We will look at the genetics of the Fig Tree. We will look at the Scriptural references to the Fig Tree. We will put all this information together to reveal the mystery of the Fig Tree.

THE AMAZING FIG TREE

The Fig Tree is a most unusual tree. It bears a sweet edible fleshy fig but it is not classified as a fruit because the Fig Tree never flowers. It is a tree with fragrant green leaves and sweet red or purple figs. But there is never a hint of brightness or attractive aroma that flowers would bring. The Fig Tree has no flowers yet it produces figs that are sweet and good for food. The mystery deepens.



The leaf of the Fig Tree has one prominent central lobe, two medium sized lobes, and two smaller lobes at the base near the stem. There are five lobes in total. The number five has the spiritual meaning ‘**life**’ or ‘**weakness**’. Adam and Eve clothed themselves in Fig leaves to hide their nakedness. Is it possible the Fig Tree represents the ‘**Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**’? Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden before they could eat from the ‘**Tree of Life**’. The Fig Tree leaf has **five** lobes: **life** (5). In some mysterious way, could the Fig Tree represent both trees? Read on and see.

HOW A FIG TREE MULTIPLIES

There are two ways: (1) a gardener cuts a green branch and plants it in good soil, or; (2) a specialized pollinator wasp carries pollen from a male Fig on a male Fig Tree to a female Fig on a female Fig Tree.

This is going to get complicated, but we will try to help make it as simple as we can.

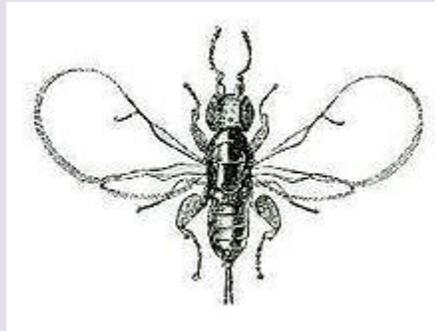
There are three kinds of Fig Trees depending on what kind of Fig they bear: Male, Female, and Bi-Sexual. Only the female Fig Tree produces female Figs. Both the other trees produce male Figs.

The male Fig is called 'caprifig'. It is inedible to humans, but edible to goats. In ancient times goats, Latin name 'caprae', were fed these figs, hence the name 'caprifig'. Half the trees in a natural stand of Fig Trees are male. That is a great waste of food. Unless you are a goat and then it is happy days.

Caprifig trees have three crops of figs: (1) Profichi, ripen in early Summer; (2) Mammoni, ripen in Fall; and (3) Mamme, overwinter on the tree and ripen in the Spring. The Profichi caprifig is the only male fig that produces pollen.

The female Fig Tree has two crops of Figs: (1) Breba, ripens in early Summer; and (2) Main Crop, ripens in the Fall. If the fruit in the female Fig Tree is not pollinated, they fall off. More waste of food!

The male Fig Tree is the host for the specialized Fig parasitic pollinator wasp:



Blastophaga Psenes [female shown]

The wasp is in the same biological order as bees and ants, with some important differences: bees and ants are social creatures, the wasp may be solitary or social. Bees and ants build a special container to place their eggs. Solitary wasps, such as the Fig wasp, are parasitic: they lay their eggs directly in the body of another living creature: plant or animal. In the wasp the stinger is only on the female. Wasps have smooth skins, they have no body hairs like bees. Males are typically smaller than females.

In *Blastophaga Psenes*, only the female has wings. The male has no wings, and never sees daylight. In the world of *Blastophaga Psenes*, the female has the glory of flying in daylight. She carries pollen from the male Figs to the female Figs and she lays eggs in the male Figs. The male wasp is born in the darkness and does its work in the darkness – which is to inseminate the sleeping female. Then it dies.

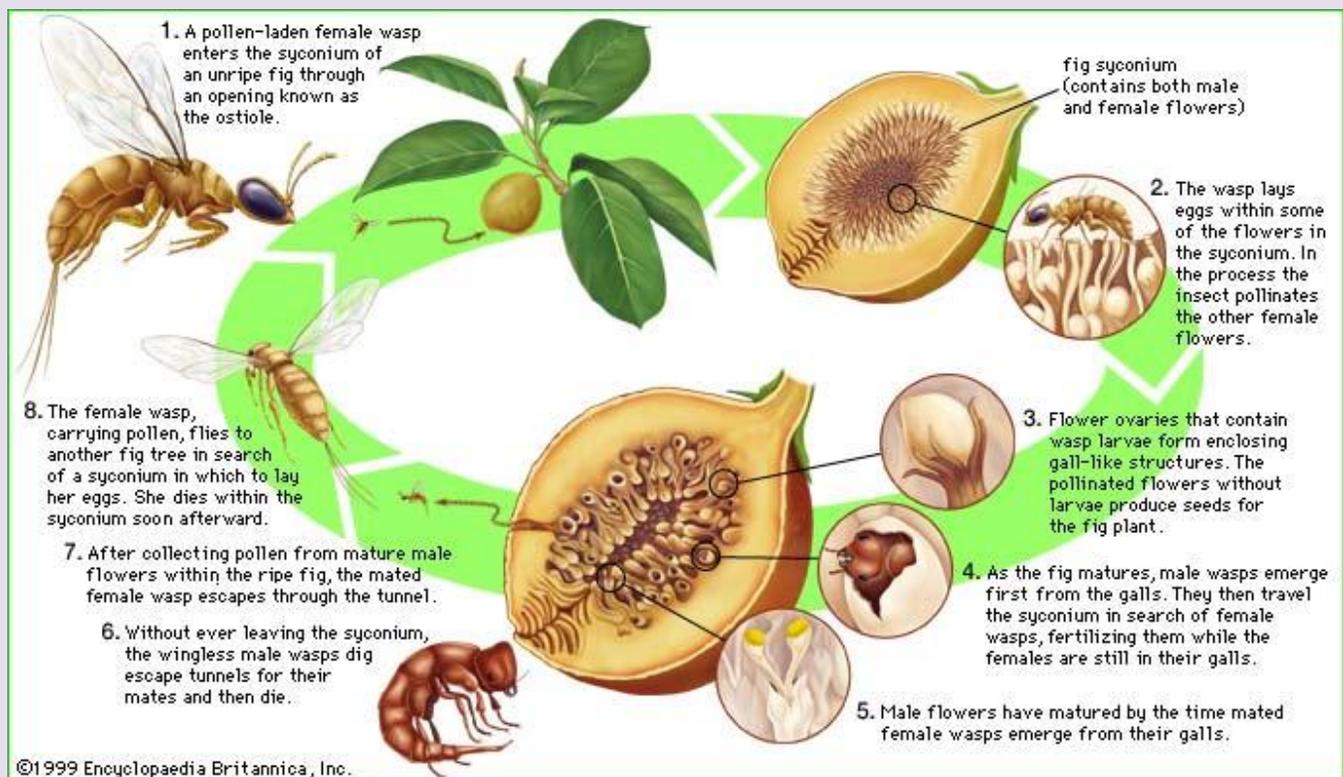
DEEPER INSIDE THE FIG MYSTERY

The flesh of the Fig is shaped like an urn or a gourd. It is called the 'syconium', from the Greek word 'sykon', which means 'Fig'. The syconium is a bridal chamber for the Fig wasp. It is filled with dozens of tiny Fig flower buds that never flower, that is, that never bloom with petals.

In the Fall, the female Fig wasp enters through a tiny hole called an 'ostiole' at the bottom of the Fig and lays her eggs into the fleshy tips (ovaries) of some of the flowers. Other flowers without eggs are pollinated in the process of the female wasp moving about. She lays both male eggs and female eggs.

In the Spring the males of these tiny Fig wasps come forth all at the same time by chewing their way out from inside their ovarian plant host. The male Fig wasps then frantically searches for flower tip ovaries which contain female Fig wasp larvae. Something called a 'hymenopteran orgy' occurs as the all the male wasps attempt to breed all the female wasps all at the same time.

A male Fig wasp chews a hole in an ovary containing a sleeping female Fig wasp. The male Fig wasp then inserts his long abdomen into the hole and inseminates the female Fig wasp. This amazing sex act takes place before the female is fully formed as an adult. The female is never conscious of the male fertilization. The male wasp never sees or interacts with the female wasp. It is completely dark inside the Fig while all this happens. All males die within the syconium [wasp bridal chamber].



Before it dies the male wasp digs escape tunnels so the larger female wasp can exit the syconium when it emerges. The male Fig wasp emerges 10 weeks after the male egg is laid, or 70 days. The female Fig wasp emerges 13 weeks after the female egg is laid, or 91 days. Thus, the female wasp emerges 3 weeks, or 21 days, after the male wasp dies. We will explain the significance of these numbers later.

When the female Fig wasp emerges and seeks the exit she stirs up the pollen from the male flowers in the syconium of the male Fig. Note that due to the shorter shape of the ovary flower tips in the male Fig, it is only possible for the female Fig wasp to lay eggs in the male Fig. This ensures on her travels no eggs are wasted while the female Fig wasp is visiting female Figs.

The picture below illustrates how small the female Fig wasp is compared to the Fig:



When the female Fig wasp leaves the syconium she is exposed to the pollen from the male flowers in the male Fig. The pollen sticks to her wings and is by this method is carried with her.

The timing of these events is very precise. The ostioles at the bottom of the male Figs and the female Figs must open sufficiently to permit the female wasp to exit and enter shortly after she emerges. The male flowers must release their pollen before the female wasp emerges. The female wasp lives only a short time, not longer than a week. Once the female wasp has done her job, the ostioles must close up to allow the Fig to ripen without contamination from outside.

The pollination process is critical. Any female Figs that are not pollinated will drop to the ground at an immature stage. They will be fit neither for goats nor for humans to consume.

There are over 1,000 different species of Figs (Ficus). Each one with their own specialized pollinator wasp! Surely the intricate inter-dependence between the Fig Tree and the Fig Wasp, tailored specifically to that particular Fig Tree, suggests these exist because of an all-wise all-powerful Creator. Which came first? The Fig or the Fig wasp? Obviously: they both had to be created simultaneously or neither could survive. Such a tight symbiotic relationship precludes any time for 'evolution' of species to merge purposes. The relationship of the Fig to the Fig Wasp ought to draw the mind of man to the awe of God. There is no other possible scientific explanation for its existence than Creation.

ANCIENT PAGAN RELIGIONS TIED TO THE FIG

The Fig is the oldest plant to be cultivated by man. Archeological evidence points to the cultivation of Figs approximately 10,000 years before Christ (using carbon dating). This is approximately 1,000 years before the cultivation of other plants such as grains. The Book of Genesis is proved correct again!

In ancient culture, the Fig as a source of food became a symbol of fruitfulness and fertility. The bizarre mechanism involving the Fig wasp and the Fig by which the Fig Tree propagates became a metaphor which ancient pagan people understood defined their relationship to the unseen spirit world.

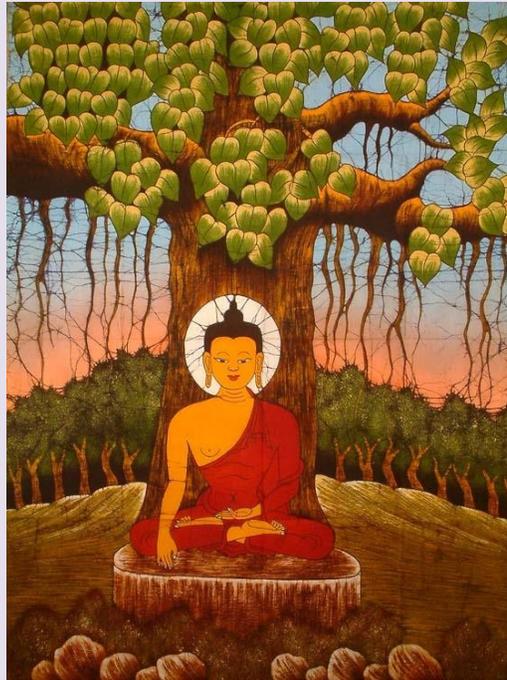
Customs and beliefs in ancient pagan religion have close parallels in the Fig Tree and Fig Wasp:

1. The **vereneration of the female goddess** (*she flies ~ like an angel; she give life ~ like a God*);
2. The **connection between fruitfulness of the earth** (*Fig Trees*) and **supernatural forces** (*flying unseen pollinators*);
3. The **beneficiary of the Fig Tree** (*pagan temple religion*) **were humans who ate the fruit** (*believed in the ancient mystery religion*) and **worshipped under the Fig Tree** (*nature religion*).
4. The **spiritual benefactor of the Fig Tree was the local Baal, or Spirit** (*whose name was 'Lord of the Flies (wasps)' and who was personified (Samhain) as having two horns and feet like a goat*);
5. **Supernatural forces were seen as capricious** (*sometimes figs pollenated ~ fruitful; sometimes not pollenated ~ drop to the ground immature*);
6. The **existence of different female goddesses for different locales** (*1,000 different Fig species*);
7. The **role of male servants** (*male Fig wasps*) **as slaves to the female goddess** (*female Fig wasps*);
8. The **pagan temple sanctuary** (*syconium*), **performed mysterious rites conducted in darkness:**
Also, **the practice of hiding secret doctrines from non-initiates**;
9. The **pagan temple sanctuary having only one entrance and exit, which may only be used for the purpose of worship** (*pollination*) **on specific days separated by weeks** (*in accordance to the life cycle of the wasp*);
10. The **temple sanctuary is the place where sacrificial death occurs** (*male Fig wasps*) **in the process of bringing forth life** (*pleasing the female Fig wasp*);
11. The **precise timing of wasp emergence, leading to superstition related to calendar dates and the marking of seasons**;
12. The **'sacredness' of excessive feasts, orgies and debaucheries, as a form of goddess worship**;
13. The **'sacredness' of sex acts between partners who don't know each other, as a form of goddess worship**;
14. The **'sacredness' of sexual abuse of youths, especially very young virgin women**;
15. In **extreme versions of ancient pagan temple religion, the offering of children as sacrifices.**

These parallels ought not to surprise the reader. The LORD himself associates original sin, where the woman took the forbidden fruit and gave some to her husband, with the Fig Tree (Gen. 3:7).

The ancient pagan religion is also found in Asia. It too is connected to the veneration of trees.

Bhudda was said to meditate under the Bhodi tree, which was a very old and sacred Fig Tree! It was located in the city of Bhod Gaya India; It was under this tree that Bhudda is said to have achieved 'enlightenment' (Snake said in the Garden of Eden: 'Your eyes will be opened'); To this day there is a sacred Fig Tree in the same city which is said to have descended from the original Fig Tree by cutting and transplanting; The teaching of Bhudda is in line with the most pernicious lie of Satan (Snake said in the Garden of Eden: 'You shall become like God');



Note the feminine features of his face.

The Hindhu tradition intertwines worship to their gods with sacred trees. The leaves of **five** trees are used in offering prayers (one of these is a Fig Tree: Ficus Lacor). The wood of sacred trees is never burned for fear of incurring the wrath of the gods. Instead the wood of sacred trees is used in devotional life: e.g. sandalwood is ground into a paste and applied to the forehead. Devotees will march around their sacred trees pulling threads in hopes of good favor from the gods (very similar to the Maypole ceremony). Hindhu girls make an offering under a Fig Tree to obtain a long marriage.

There are Eastern myths of pagan gods living under trees: Rama stayed under a grove of **five** banyan trees (note the association with **five**, as in the lobes of the fig leaf). In the Sikh tradition Guru Gobind lived under a jujube tree. The site of that holy tree has now been converted to a shrine. How similar to the account of the Garden of Eden where the snake Satan lived in a tree! Note the connection of the holy tree to the temple of pagan worship!

At least four of the revered Hindhu holy trees are Fig Trees: Peepal, Gular, Banyan, and Pilkhan.

PAGAN TEMPLE PROSTITUTION

Across all pagan religions the practice of temple worship violates Judeo-Christian moral laws: the preservation of sexual purity for marriage, the honor of the marriage vow of sexual fidelity for life, and the place of the husband as the head of the home.

When we read the accounts of pagan temple prostitution, we are struck by the similarity of the behavior to the unrestrained impersonal mating behavior of the male and female Fig wasps:

- Pagan gods and goddesses were sexual beings: who sired and birthed children¹. Hence, pagan ceremonies included illicit sex as expressions of worship ~ following of their ways of their gods;
- Sex with multiple partners: The temple prostitute was a 'stand in' for the goddess of her temple. She would have sex with worshipers of her goddess as a way for them to experience spiritual union with the goddess;
- Sex with strangers: Herodotus reports a custom by which every pagan woman (female wasp) once in her life had intercourse near the temple of Aphrodite (syconium) with the first stranger (male wasp) who threw a silver coin into her lap;
- Prostitution: The temple prostitutes engaged in acts of sex with worshipers in expectation of financial offerings to the temple;

The Bible contains numerous references to pagan sexual practices that grossly offend the LORD:

- Intercourse with Animals: 'Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.' (Lev. 18:22)
- Male Shrine Prostitutes: 'There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land: the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites' (1 Kings 14:24)
- Men Sharing a Woman: 'Father and son use the same girl and so profane my Holy Name. They lie down beside every [pagan] altar...' (Amos 2:7-8)

The bottom line is in pagan polytheistic belief (much like the wasp life cycle) there are no sexual boundaries. Quite the opposite, favor is gained from pagan gods by destroying the boundaries of decency set forth by the LORD. (Note: a list of forbidden sexual practices is provided in Leviticus 18.) The selling of sex to obtain financial donations to the temple is encouraged.

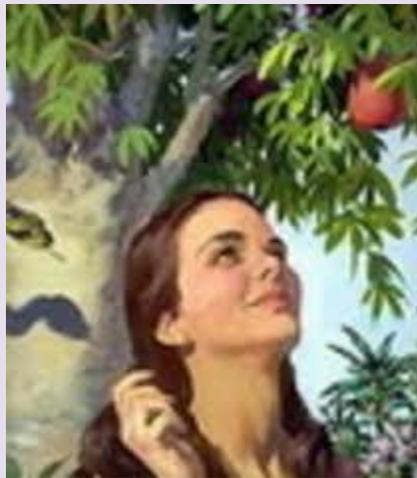
¹ Please see our paper 'The Origin of Evil' in which we show the fallen angels had intercourse with human women. Available on Page 13 Fear No Evil, on our website: www.biblenumbersforlife.com

THE TEMPTATION OF EVE

The skeptic asks: 'What is wrong with wanton sexual gratification?' 'Why can't I have sex with anyone I want?' 'Why can't I worship angels, or demons, or gods I make up out of my own imagination?' 'What harm is there in running a temple like a brothel of prostitutes so long as we mind our own business?'

Eve stood before the Fig Tree (*pagan temple*) in the Garden of Eden, of which God said '**If you eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, when you eat you will surely die**' (Genesis 2:17)

Eve looked at the fruit of the Fig Tree (*worshiping false gods*) with her human eyes and said '**the fruit of the tree is good for food and pleasing to the eye and also desirable for obtaining wisdom**' so '**she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it**' (Gen. 3:6)



Eve saw the fruit was good.

Eve was innocent. She did not have the experience to make spiritual choices. She could not be aware of the consequences of her actions. In contrast, Adam had walked with the LORD for some time.

God ordained that Adam be the ruler of the world and the head of his home, the husband of Eve². God made it so because God knew Eve would make spiritual mistakes if she took authority in the family. God's purpose for Eve was that she be Adam's helper (Genesis 2:20). If Adam performed his role and Eve performed hers, there would be peace and an undisturbed life of fruitfulness in the Garden.

Before Eve arrived Adam had already demonstrated he could resist the temptation of the forbidden fruit. Eve was a reward to Adam for his obedience to the command. God knew Eve would be safe because Adam had proven he would not lead Eve astray. Safe: so long as she dutifully served Adam.

The temptation of Eve shows the importance of believing God's word ahead of one's own thinking. The answer to the skeptic's question is: 'because you are not qualified to make those choices.' You do not realise the grave consequences to yourself and your society if you choose to sin against God.

² When Adam named Eve (Gen 2:23) he showed his authority over her, similar to his rule over the beasts (Gen 1:28, 2:19)

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT: THE THIRD CROP OF CAPRIFIGS !

Adam walked with the LORD in the cool of the evening in the Garden. He enjoyed direct face to face fellowship with the Creator of the Universe. Adam was spiritually a free man. He was the friend of God and spoke with him like a brother. Adam's only command was not to eat the forbidden fruit.

Eve made herself a Goddess over Adam. When Eve usurped Adam's place and took authority over the family from him she inserted herself between Adam and God. As a result, Adam was cut off from fellowship with the LORD. By coming under the authority of Eve, Adam was no longer a free man – he had a duty to obey his wife. Obedience to Eve became Adam's religion – which cut him off from God.

As leader of the family Eve needed spiritual direction. Eve herself had no right to enjoy direct face to face fellowship with the LORD. Therefore, when she took authority over Adam, both of them were in darkness. She came to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and she found a spirit in it.

Eve came under the Fig Tree in order to reach up and take the fruit. In other words, Eve placed herself under the spiritual authority of the Snake in the Fig Tree. Eve ate the fruit of the Fig Tree, and gave some to Adam, who followed his wife's spiritual leadership and ate the fruit as well.

The eating of the fruit meant Adam exited from a life giving spiritual relationship with the LORD and entered into a death bringing relationship with another spirit, the snake, Satan. In this new relationship Adam served Eve (***the Goddess***), Eve worshiped the Snake (***her god***), and both Eve and Adam sought shelter under the Fig Tree (***Religion***). When the LORD appeared the evening of their sin he called to Adam, who hid himself among the Fig Trees and sewed fig leaves to hide his nakedness.

Note carefully: **the third crop of the male Fig Tree which overwinters in an immature state is the forbidden fruit.** It is forbidden to pick this crop of fruit because if it is picked every wasp egg will be destroyed and the Fig Tree will never bear fruit again. Above all things it is forbidden to eat this crop of fruit. For reasons we will explain.

When Eve and Adam ate the forbidden fruit (***the third crop of Caprifigs***), they literally swallowed the eggs of the Fig wasp (***evil spirits***)! Before they had transgressed the command of God they were innocent and knew no evil. But after they transgressed the command of God, their hearts changed and Adam and Eve possessed a sinful nature. Even though they knew right and wrong, they could not stop themselves from doing evil. Their first son, Cain, had a heart of evil, and murdered his brother.

The syconium of the Fig is the inner sanctuary of the heart of man. When Eve and Adam ate the forbidden fruit, the Fig wasp (***evil spirit***) entered into them through their open mouths (***ostioles***). Evil eggs (***sinful nature***) were then planted in their hearts (***syconium***), so to speak. In the process of time Adam and Eve would conceive and do evil, just as in the fullness of time Fig wasps emerge and do works of darkness. O skeptic! Do you see now the danger of transgressing the commands of God?

JESUS CURSES THE FIG TREE

Scripture records that during the last week of his life on earth, the day after his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, while he was on his way to the temple in Jerusalem, Jesus cursed a Fig Tree:

'Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. **Seeing a Fig Tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves.** Then he said to it '**May you never bear fruit again!**' **Immediately the tree withered.** When his disciples saw this they were amazed. 'How did the Fig Tree wither so quickly?' they asked. Jesus replied 'I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the Fig Tree, but also you can **say to this mountain 'Go, throw yourself into the sea'** and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.' (Matthew 21:18-22)

In the same chapter of the Book of Matthew, Jesus tells us a parable:

'Listen to another parable: There was a landowner (*God*) who planted a vineyard (*nation of Israel*). He put a wall around it (*divine protection*), dug a winepress in it (*wine is the communion of the saints*) and built a watchtower (*sent prophets*). Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers (*Jewish people*) and went away on a long journey. When the harvest time approached (*coming of Jesus as Messiah*) he sent his servants (*prophets*) to the tenants (*Jews*) to collect his fruit (*believers*). The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all he sent his son (*Jesus*) to them. 'They will respect my son' he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other 'This is the heir (*Messiah*) come, let's kill him and take the inheritance (*Promised Land*)'. So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes (*second coming*), what will he do to those tenants?' 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end' they replied, 'and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time'. **Jesus said... 'Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people (Christians) who will produce its fruit (believers).'**' (Matt. 21:33-43)

The male Fig Tree is a metaphor of Religion. In the Garden of Eden, the male Fig Tree represented the ancient pagan religion. When Israel conquered the Promised Land their explicit instructions were to root out the pagan religion of the Canaanites and establish the **Religion of Moses (*male Fig Tree*)**. The Law of Moses was given so that the people would understand the commands of God and not sin.

The purpose of the Jewish Nation (*female Fig Tree*) was to produce fruit: believers in Jehovah. When Jesus came to Jerusalem he did not find believers in him, any fruit on the female Fig Tree. Therefore, **he cursed the female Fig Tree – he set aside the Jewish Nation –** and he announced the kingdom of God would be planted in new soil – in the hearts of Christian believers. **How would he transplant the New Fig Tree? Would the New Fig Tree depend on Fig Wasps (*order of Priests*)?** We shall see.

THE NEW FIG TREE – THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

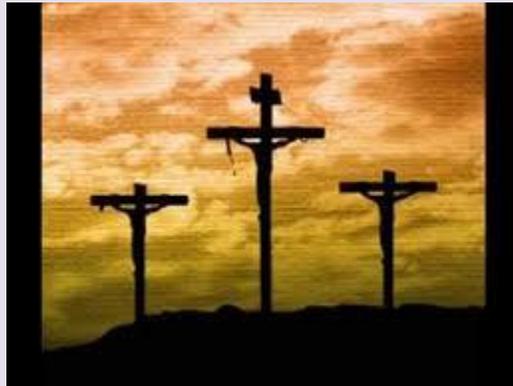
Now we come to the exciting part! But to get there we must go back to the Botany of the Fig Tree. There is a way for the female Fig Tree to bear fruit without Fig Wasps!

Because of a slight genetic difference, certain female Fig Trees can bear fruit and develop figs to maturity without pollination³. The figs of these trees have no seeds. These Fig Trees have no need of male Fig Trees nor Fig Wasps. The fruit of these trees is sweet, but a slightly different flavor.

The New Fig Tree is much more fruitful! The male Fig Tree does not produce food for human consumption. Therefore all the New Fig Trees in the orchard can bear fruit, not just half the trees in the old orchard. **In the New Orchard there are NO MORE GOATS (Jewishness). A GENTILE ORCHARD!**

The GARDENER of the NEW ORCHARD is the HOLY SPIRIT. The only way for these New Fig Trees to be propagated is for a cutting of a branch of the New Fig Tree to be taken by a gardener, a person who tends the orchard of New Fig Trees, and transplanted in good soil. This is the **TREE OF LIFE!**

JESUS IS THE BRANCH that is cut off the Old Fig Tree, that dies, is transplanted in good soil, then grows up to bear good fruit: believers in Jehovah! Behold the **BRANCH of JEHOVAH** has been transplanted!



'For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that THE TENDER BRANCH thereof will not cease.' (Job 14:7)

'In that day shall THE BRANCH of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.' (Isaiah 4:2)

'Behold The MAN whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.' (Zechariah 6:2)

³ 'Parthenocarp' literally means 'virgin fruit' or fruit without seeds. There are two kinds in nature: 'vegetative parthenocarps' who can produce seedless fruit by themselves, and 'stimulative parthenocarps' who require some human stimulation or intervention to produce seedless fruit.

THE DANGER OF CHRISTIANS REVERTING TO RELIGION

The solitary Fig Wasp (Priest) is a PARASITE. The wasp eggs kill the Fig ovary hosts they are laid in.

The male Fig Tree (Religion of the Priest) is a PARASITE. It bears no edible fruit for humans. It robs the land of nutrients that might be feeding female Fig Trees that do bear edible fruit. Jesus said:

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing [dusting of Fig pollen on the wings] but inwardly they are ferocious wolves [stinging wasps]. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree [female Tree of Life inside the Christian heart] bears good fruit [love, peace, patience, kindness], but a bad tree [male Fig Tree: Religion] bears bad fruit [inedible to humans]... Every tree that does not bear good fruit [all male Fig Trees: all Religions] is cut down and thrown into the fire. By their fruit you will recognize them.” (Matt. 7:15-20)

All Religion is a Bondage which the gospel of Jesus Christ came to take away: Hindhu, Bhuddist, Moslem, Catholic, Protestant, and others. **All Religion bears no good fruit.** The gospel of Jesus Christ has set us free from all obligations to observe religious days, religious services, and religious duties. There must be no distinction among Christians between priests and laity. Each one of us is holy.

The Christian Life and the Religious Life are Incompatible. The Spirit of Christ and religious laws are opposed to each other. **“Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.”** (Gal. 3:25) **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of bondage [Religion]”** (Gal. 5:1)

Going back to a Religious Life will destroy the Christian Life. **“If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker... I have been crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”** (Gal. 2:18-20). **“You foolish Galatians!”** (Gal. 3:1). **“How is it you are turning back to these weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear I have wasted my efforts on you.”** (Gal. 4:9-11)



LESSONS THE SPIRITUAL NUMBERS TEACH US

[1] The Number of Chromosomes:

Fig Tree⁴	26 chromosomes	Spiritual Number 26 means ' <u>Gospel</u> '
Fig Wasp⁵	12 chromosomes	Spiritual Number 12 means ' <u>Government</u> '
Fig Tree + Fig Wasp	38 chromosomes	Spiritual Number 38 means ' <u>Prostitute</u> '

The spiritual numbers are saying the **Good News (26)** of Jesus Christ is all you need is the **Tree of Life (female Fig Tree)**. We gain every blessing and we release the power of the Holy Spirit when we believe Christ died for us on the Cross. He washes and cleanses those wicked wasp eggs out of our heart!

But! If we allow Priests [Fig Wasps] to **Govern (12)** our spiritual life, then we turn Christ's free offer of salvation by grace into a **Harlot Religion (38)** which demands that its patrons attend churches and give money to support priests and temples and religious systems.

[2] The Days and Weeks in the Wasp Life Cycle:

What we see are some very significant **PROPHETIC NUMBERS:** (see following page for explanation)

EVENT	TIME	SPIRITUAL MEANING
Life and Death of Male Wasps	10 weeks	Number 10 means ' <u>Testimony</u> '
	70 days	Number 70 means ' <u>Elders</u> '
Interlude	3 weeks	Number 3 means ' <u>Binding</u> ' / ' <u>Authority</u> '
	21 days	Number 21 means ' <u>Lawlessness</u> ' / ' <u>Appointed Time</u> '
Emergence of Female Wasps	13 weeks	Number 13 means ' <u>Rebellion</u> '
	91 days	Number 91 means ' <u>Wicked Judged</u> '
Interlude	1 week	Number 1 means ' <u>Unity</u> '
	7 days	Number 7 means ' <u>Time</u> ' / ' <u>The End</u> '
Death of Female Wasps	14 weeks	Number 14 means ' <u>Deliverance</u> ' / ' <u>Righteousness</u> '
	98 days	Number 98 means ' <u>Blind Religious Leader</u> '

⁴ *Ficus Caria* (common Turkish fig)

⁵ *Blastophaga Psenes* (parasitic wasp of Ficus Caria)

PROPHETIC PREDICTIONS IN LIFE CYCLE OF FIG WASP

Prophetic events according to the spiritual numbers:

[1] Death of the Male Fig Wasps: [RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS]

The numbers: **10 'Testimony'** and **70 'Elders'** put together with the event of the **DEATH** of the male Fig Wasp point to a termination of God's Witness on Earth. Judgment begins with the people of God.

Associated with this time is a breakdown in male leadership in the home and wider society. The tiny, bald, wingless male Fig Wasp does not point to strong male leadership in the first place. But, the wanton sexual drive of the male Fig Wasp points to debasement of ethical and moral standards.

Speaking of his followers, Jesus said '**Ye are the salt of the earth**'. And '**If the salt is not salty it is fit only to throw out**'. So, we interpret the mass death of the male Fig Wasp to be prophetic of the rapture of the saints. The saints are not male Fig Wasps! But in the last days of the Age of Grace, the saints will behave like male Fig Wasps! Christianity will be choked out by religion. When the fellowship of believers is 'unsalty', meaning 'totally worldly', the Lord will call his believers home to heaven.

[2] Interlude Before Great Tribulation: [MAN OF LAWLESSNESS REVEALED]

The numbers: **3 'Binding'** / '**Authority**' and **21 'Lawlessness'** / '**Appointed Time**' are ominous. When Christians are taken to heaven at the Rapture the Holy Spirit leaves the Earth with them. The result is there is no restraint of sin in the hearts of men. Everywhere there will be violence, chaos, and wickedness. The world will be in such a condition of anarchy, that at the Appointed Time, the Man of Lawlessness will be revealed, who is the Antichrist. He will Bind the whole world under his Authority.

[3] Emergence of Female Fig Wasp: [BEGINNING OF GREAT TRIBULATION]

The numbers: **13 'Rebellion'** and **91 'Wicked Judged'** describe the **Woman who Rides the Beast** during the Great Tribulation. The male Fig Wasps (**Spiritual Elders**) are dead. The female Fig Wasps (**Occult Spirits of Evil**) will emerge from their houses of darkness and cover the female Fig Tree (**Nation of Israel**)! The female Fig Tree (**Nation of Israel**) will completely **Rebel (13)** from Jehovah and enter into covenant with the Beast, the Antichrist (**Man of Lawlessness**).

However, the female Fig Wasps will not succeed in laying their eggs because **God is going to destroy all the Figs** (Jews who refuse to take the Mark of the Beast will be martyred; Jews who do take the Mark of the Beast will perish – '**Wicked Judged**' (91)!)! The 144,000 Jews who survive the Great Tribulation will preach to the Gentiles. They will escape all the judgments of God that fall on the Holy Land.

The 144,000 represent re-born Jews are like Saul, are chosen by Jesus for a special mission. They are not Figs, they are cuttings of the female Fig Tree (Nation of Israel) and transplanted, just like Jesus.

[4] Interlude of Female Fig Wasp Activity: [GREAT TRIBULATION]

The numbers: **1 'Unity'** and **7 'Time' / 'The End'** are stamped all over the period of the Great Tribulation, which will be a period **7 Years** long.

The time will begin when the saints are raptured and **united (1)** with our Savior Jesus. The whole world will be **united (1)** under the authority of the Antichrist. Satan will be kicked out of the heavenly realms: all heaven will be **united (1)** under the authority of Jesus Christ.

There will be **7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls** during the **7 Years** of the Great Tribulation. It will be **The End (7)** of many evils: end of the female Fig Wasp (Great Harlot Dies); the great city Babylon falls (like a millstone cast into the sea).

[5] Female Fig Wasps Die: [MILLENNIUM OF PEACE ON EARTH]

The numbers: **14 'Righteousness' / 'Deliverance'** and **98 'Blind Religious Leader'**.

The author was at first thrown by the association of '**Blind Religious Leader' (98)** with the Millennium. The False Prophet and the Antichrist will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Great Tribulation. There will be no 'Blind Religious Leader' in the Millennium. Then the inspiration came! The normal interpretation of the spiritual number 98 is '**Unseeing (Blind) Religious Leader'**'. But in this context it means '**Unseen Religious Leader'**'. Jesus has been in Heaven for thousands of years sitting at the right hand of the Father on the Throne of David: unseen by the world. In the Millennium the Unseen Religious Leader will make his appearance. Hallelujah!

The Nation of Israel will be replanted with fruitful female Fig Trees (*believers in Jehovah*) requiring no Fig Wasps (*order of priests*)! All different kinds of fruitful female Fig Trees will be there:

- The **Savior Jesus Christ** himself (*the original transplant and cutting who die on the Cross: 'the Branch', the 'Righteous One' (14)*);
- **Christians** who returned with Christ to earth (*cuttings from Jesus, who was transplanted and dwelt in their heart by faith*);
- **Resurrected Tribulation re-born Jewish Martyrs** who refused to take the Mark of the Beast (*they already were part of the Fig Tree; their martyrdom was their cutting*); and
- **144,000 Jews Chosen Servants of Jehovah** who were sent to the Gentiles and survived all the judgments of God (*special cuttings of Jews taken from the female Fig Tree; Nation of Israel, chosen before the Great Tribulation began, revealed at the mid-point of it*).

Gentile Nations will come to the Holy Land to worship the Lord. They will eat the Fig (believe on the Lord Jesus Christ) and enjoy the sweetness and the savor of the richest food and fruit in the world!

THE MILLENIUM KINGDOM ~ GOD'S ORCHARD OF FIGS ON EARTH !

