

“FULFILLED”

THE VISION AND AARON'S ROD

I was shown a vision of biblical proportion while praying about what to paint for the new Museum of the Bible soon to open in Washington, D.C. At the time of the vision, I was reading Dutch Sheet's article, "Mercy is Our Currency," when—before my eyes—I saw the Ark of the Covenant opening. Its covering—the mercy seat where God's presence was known to manifest in Old Testament times—was moving away to the rear of the ark.

Considering the significance of what I'd been shown, I carefully studied the contents of the ark. Aaron's rod specifically drew my attention. You may be familiar with its story. Aaron's wooden rod supernaturally and simultaneously budded, bloomed, and bore fruit overnight. The purpose of this miracle was to let the people know the one whom God had chosen and anointed to carry His authority. The proof was undeniable. Not even living trees bud, bloom, and bear fruit at the same time, much less overnight.

CHRIST: THE TREE OF LIFE

Since Aaron's rod foretold of Christ's anointing and authority, I began to look at the bigger picture—the tree of Christ's fruit-filled, death defying, resurrection life. Before the garden of Genesis, and after the Revelation is complete—Christ was, is and forever will be our eternal source of life—our tree of life.

He came as the seed of God sown in man. He budded, bloomed, and bore eternal fruit in the garden of our world. He was appointed and anointed to express God's mercy to man with human arms, hands, legs, and feet. His knowing eyes, his listening ears, his voice of peace, and compassionate heart showed us God's truth and love. He walked in His authority to establish God's kingdom on earth once again. His legacy is ours and He has commissioned us to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:9 NASB).

FOCUS AND FRUIT

But, there are two trees in our garden. One produces deadly fruit—the other produces life. When we fix our gaze securely on the One that gives life, we produce life-giving fruit.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness" the Son of Man was lifted-up "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John3:14-15 NKJV).

The choice is ours, moment by moment, day by day. We choose which tree we focused on. We choose whether we eat the good and evil fruit, or the fruit that gives life, or a mixture of fruit from the two trees.

If we faithfully fix our gaze on Christ and only eat of His fruit, we acknowledge that He is our source. Rooted and grounded in Him, our lives will supernaturally bud, bloom, and bear His eternal fruit. With His seed sown in us, we are the appointed and anointed carriers of His mercy, His authority, and His presence to the world around us. We are new covenant arks—carriers of His glory—holy vessels set apart for His use. We are called to be a light on a hill—not hidden within the four walls of our churches. It is time to set the world on fire with a passion for Him. Father wants us to bud, bloom, and bear His fruit for all the world to see and experience. It's time to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with His glory.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

As I was creating "Fulfilled," I had to stay extremely focused and diligent to remain in faith. Fear could be no part of it—neither could my good works. When I thought I knew how I could accomplish the work in time for the dedication, God redirected my hands to paint one leaf at a time—one piece of fruit at a time—detail after detail—layer after layer—hour upon hour. Some days I painted 10 to 12 hours standing. Without the supernatural anointing and power of God, I could not have done this. So, I asked the Lord why all the tedious attention to detail and was reminded of how He more than fulfilled every jot and tittle of the Old Covenant law. I was also reminded of how He more than tends to every detail of our lives. He is the mercy of God expressed to us and the fulfillment of all that we need. As we go forth in His likeness—carrying out His commission—may His mercy be our very real currency and His life be our source. May we carefully tend to the garden of this world and every detail of what is on His heart.

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