

Preface to *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan* (Online Edition)

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When I started to do my teachings on the Tabernacle in the Wilderness many years ago (1980s), the main point of the teachings was to show the parallels of the Tabernacle to God's plan of salvation and what Yeshua did. As I covered each piece of the Tabernacle, and what each piece was made of and how it fit into the picture of the master plan of salvation, I showed how Yeshua fulfilled each aspect of the picture. During that study I would put the New Testament picture into the place where it fit with the Tabernacle picture.

During these many months of teachings, I began to see one very important point: that the Tabernacle pattern pictured Jerusalem and the Garden of Eden. In developing this picture it became clear to me that the Mount of Olives had to be the place called "outside the camp", and with that understanding I saw that the Crucifixion was on the Mount of Olives.

The more I dug into the Scriptures and historical facts, the more I was totally convinced that the Mount of Olives was in fact the correct site. The entire picture of everything pictured in the Tabernacle and the plan of salvation along with the Gospel narratives all fell into place. I continued to teach on this picture for some time, including:

1. The Tree of Life was on Mount Moriah, where God fellowshiped with Adam and Eve, the place God chose on Earth as His dwelling place, and the place God chose for His Temple.
2. Aaron's Rod was a branch from the Tree of Life that God gave to Adam at the time Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden.
3. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was on the Mount of Olives, where Adam and Eve committed the first sin, where God made the first sacrifice for their sin, and where Yeshua made the final sacrifice for all humankind's sins.
4. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was a fig tree, and the fig tree that Yeshua cursed was in the same area as the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

5. Aaron's Rod was passed down the generations to Moses, who attached the serpent to it. King David planted Aaron's Rod on the Mount of Olives in the area where Adam and Eve committed the first sin. Hezekiah destroyed the serpent that had remained on the tree that grew from the Rod. The Vision of the Almond Rod shown to the prophet Jeremiah revealed that the Word, Yeshua, would perform the sin atonement sacrifice on the Almond Tree.

6. Yeshua and the two criminals were crucified on the same tree, revealing the pattern of the Menorah, and following the pattern of the Day of Atonement sacrifices of the goat for God and the goat for Azazel.

7. The Greek text explicitly states that the Crucifixion took place on the weekly Sabbath day. Therefore, the Crucifixion had to be on Wednesday for the Sign of Jonah to be fulfilled.

In about 1990-1991, I met Ory Mazar (son of Israeli archeologist, Benjamin Mazar) from Israel and we developed a working relationship. I shared with him my thinking on the Mount of Olives and all that was pictured in the Tabernacle and what Yeshua did in fulfilling the Scriptures. He became very interested in my study. Somewhere along the line he met Ernest Martin. Apparently, when Ory learned of Ernest's work on the Crucifixion and the Mount of Olives, he wanted to get the two of us together.

In about 1992, Ernest and I met twice at the Black Angus restaurant in San Bernardino, California. Ernest talked extensively about his study on the location of the Temple and that was about the entire subject covered. The second time we met, he brought me a number of his books to look at, which I did not have time to read. I continued to work on my research with my Israel tour host, Robert Vander Maten, who was helping me put all my notes into some kind of order. When I married Christie in 1993, she took on the project to turn my material into a book. During this time, she read parts of Ernest Martin's book, *Secrets of Golgotha*, and added and credited Ernest for certain information relating to the Crucifixion.

The first edition of our book was published in 1994 with the title, *God's Master Plan: From Aleph to Tav*. In 1997 and 2001, the second and third editions were published with the title, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*. The revised Online Edition is being made available for free on our ministry website (www.messengers-of-messiah.org).