

## Message Eight

### The Unsearchable Riches of Christ as the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:8; 1 Cor. 1:9, 30; 2:2; 4:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:7; Deut. 8:7-10; Col. 1:12; 2:6-7a

Eph. 3:8	To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.
1 Cor. 1:9	God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Cor. 1:30	But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
1 Cor. 2:2	For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.
1 Cor. 4:1	A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
1 Cor. 4:2	Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
2 Cor. 4:7	But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
Deut. 8:7	For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
Deut. 8:8	A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
Deut. 8:9	A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
Deut. 8:10	And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
Col. 1:12	Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
Col. 2:6	As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
Col. 2:7	Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

#### **I. The apostle Paul enjoyed and announced the person of Christ with His unsearchable riches as the gospel to produce the church as the fullness of Christ, the expression and overflow of Christ, for the exhibition of Christ as the multifarious wisdom of God according to the eternal plan of God—Eph. 3:8-11, 16-19; 1:22-23; Acts 17:3, 18; 26:22a, 23; 13:47; Gal. 1:15a, 16a; Phil. 1:18; Col. 1:27b-28; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30.**

Eph. 3:8	To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
Eph. 3:9	And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
Eph. 3:10	In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
Eph. 3:11	According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Eph. 3:16	That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Eph. 3:17	That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
Eph. 3:18	May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
Eph. 3:19	And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
Eph. 1:22	And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph. 1:23	Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
Acts 17:3	Opening and setting before them that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, This is the Christ, the Jesus whom I announce to you.
Acts 17:18	And some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also confronted him. And some said, What would this babbling wish to say? And others, He seems to be an announcer of foreign deities -- because he was announcing Jesus and the resurrection as the gospel.
Acts 26:22	Having therefore obtained the help which is from God, I have stood unto this day, testifying both to small and great, saying nothing apart from the things which both the prophets and Moses have said would take place,
Acts 26:23	That the Christ would suffer and that He, being the first to rise from the dead, would announce light both to the people and to the Gentiles.
Acts 13:47	For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have set you as a light of the Gentiles, that you would be for salvation unto the uttermost part of the earth."
Gal. 1:15	But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
Gal. 1:16	To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood.

- Phil. 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice.
- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ.
- 1 Cor. 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

**II. In our living and serving, we should concentrate on enjoying and ministering Christ to dispense Him into others as the unique treasure of untold wealth in the universe, not on any persons, matters, or things other than Christ—vv. 9, 30; 2:2; 4:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:3, 6; 4:7:**

- 1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
- 1 Cor. 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.
- 1 Cor. 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 1 Cor. 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
- 1 Cor. 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.
- 1 Cor. 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- 1 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

**A. The proper preaching of Jesus as the glad tidings, the gospel, causes people to realize that they are nothing and that Christ is everything—Isa. 40:15, 17; cf. Phil. 3:7-8.**

- Isa. 40:15 Indeed the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are accounted as specks of dust on the scales. Indeed He takes up the islands as very fine powder.
- Isa. 40:17 All the nations are as nothing before Him; They are counted by Him as less than nothing and vanity.
- Phil. 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.
- Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ.

**B. Our Savior, Jesus, is the Holy One, the eternal God, Jehovah, and the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who sits above the circle of the earth; as the Holy One, Jesus is unlimited, unsearchable, incomparable, and high—Isa. 40:12-15, 17-18, 22, 25-26, 28; Rom. 1:20; 11:34; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1:2-3; 11:1-3:**

- Isa. 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, Who has calculated the extent of the heavens with a handspan, And measured out the dust of the earth by a measure, And weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in balances?
- Isa. 40:13 Who will direct the Spirit of Jehovah, Or who will make matters known to Him as His counselor?
- Isa. 40:14 With whom did He consult and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice, And taught Him knowledge, And caused Him to know the way of understanding?
- Isa. 40:15 Indeed the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are accounted as specks of dust on the scales. Indeed He takes up the islands as very fine powder.
- Isa. 40:17 All the nations are as nothing before Him; They are counted by Him as less than nothing and vanity.
- Isa. 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?
- Isa. 40:22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in;
- Isa. 40:25 To whom will you liken Me, That I should be compared? Says the Holy One.
- Isa. 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls all of them by name. Through the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing.
- Isa. 40:28 Do you not know, Or have you not heard, That the eternal God, Jehovah, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Does not faint and does not become weary? There is no searching out of His understanding.
- Rom. 1:20 For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse.
- Rom. 11:34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?
- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- Col. 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.

Col. 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;  
 Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;  
 Heb. 1:2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe;  
 Heb. 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;  
 Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
 Heb. 11:2 For in this the elders have obtained a good testimony.  
 Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not come into being out of things which appear.

1. The way to enjoy the unsearchably rich Christ is to take Him as our real Sabbath rest, stopping ourselves with our living, doing, and activity, and receive Him as our life, person, and replacement; then we will experience Christ as the power of resurrection to be transformed and to soar in the heavens far above every earthly frustration—Matt. 11:28-30; Isa. 40:28-31.

Matt. 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matt. 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matt. 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Isa. 40:28 Do you not know, Or have you not heard, That the eternal God, Jehovah, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Does not faint and does not become weary? There is no searching out of His understanding.

Isa. 40:29 He gives power to the faint, And to those who have no vigor He multiplies strength.

Isa. 40:30 Although youths will faint and become weary, And young men will collapse exhausted;

Isa. 40:31 Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew their strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not faint; They will walk and will not become weary.

2. God wants us to stop our doing, be replaced by Christ, and keep away from the taste of anything other than Christ—Gal. 2:20; John 6:57; Isa. 55:1-2; 58:3.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

Isa. 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, And you who have no money; Come, buy and eat; Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Isa. 55:2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And the result of your labor for what does not satisfy? Hear Me attentively, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Isa. 58:3 Why have we fasted, and yet You do not see? Why have we afflicted our soul, and yet You do not acknowledge? Indeed, on the day of your fast you find delight, And oppress all your laborers.

C. Christ Himself is our unsearchably rich portion and inheritance; our reward for our priestly service is to eat Christ and enjoy Him as everything to us—Num. 18:20, 31; John 6:57; Gen. 15:1; Psa. 43:4a; Phil. 3:8-9, 14:

Num. 18:20 And Jehovah said to Aaron, You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.

Num. 18:31 And you may eat it in every place, you and your households, for it is your reward in return for your service in the Tent of Meeting.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

Gen. 15:1 After these things the word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield and your exceedingly great reward.

Psa. 43:4 And I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And I will praise You with the harp, O God, my God.

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith.

Phil. 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

1. We can enjoy the riches of Christ by calling on His name—the Lord is “rich to all who call upon Him; for ‘whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved’”—Rom. 10:12b-13.  
Rom. 10:12b For the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;  
Rom. 10:13 For “whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
  
2. We can enjoy the riches of Christ in His word—we live on “every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God”—Matt. 4:4.  
Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.”
  
3. We can enjoy the bountiful supply of the Body of Christ and His universal dimensions when we abide in Christ as our prison to live Him for His magnification and to receive God’s visions and heavenly expressions on behalf of the saints—Phil. 1:19-21a; Eph. 3:1, 16-18; 4:1.  
Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.  
Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.  
Eph. 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles.  
Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.  
Eph. 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.  
Eph. 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,
  
4. We can enjoy the treasure of His indwelling presence by loving Him in the midst of consuming pressures and tribulations, which are the sweet visitation and incarnation of grace for the God of resurrection to add Himself to us—2 Cor. 4:7; 1:8-9, 12; 12:7-10; Rom. 5:3; 8:28.  
2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.  
2 Cor. 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.  
2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;  
2 Cor. 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.  
2 Cor. 12:7 And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up.  
2 Cor. 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.  
2 Cor. 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.  
2 Cor. 12:10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.  
Rom. 5:3 And not only so, but we also boast in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance.  
Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**III. The unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel are revealed in all twenty seven books of the New Testament; this wonderful, heavenly Christ is the very embodiment of the processed Triune God, reaching us as the consummated life-giving Spirit, so that we can continually receive Him as grace upon grace to be renewed day by day for serving our God in newness of spirit in the gospel of His Son—John 1:14, 16; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 4:16; Rom. 1:9; 7:6:**

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.  
John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.  
1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul”; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor. 4:16      Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.  
 Rom. 1:9          For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you  
 always in my prayers.  
 Rom. 7:6          But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in  
 newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

- A. In the Gospels is the Christ who lived on the earth and died on the cross for the accomplishment of redemption.
- B. In the Acts is the resurrected and ascended Christ propagated and ministered to men.
- C. In Romans is the Christ who is our righteousness for justification and our life for sanctification, transformation, conformation, glorification, and building up.
- D. In Galatians is the Christ who enables us to live a life that is versus the law, religion, tradition, and forms.
- E. In Philippians is the Christ who is lived out of His members.
- F. In Ephesians and Colossians is the Christ who is the life, the content, and the Head of the Body, the church.
- G. In 1 and 2 Corinthians is the Christ who is everything in the practical church life.
- H. In 1 and 2 Thessalonians is the Christ who is our holiness for His coming back.
- I. In 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus is the Christ who is God's economy, enabling us to know how to conduct ourselves in the house of God.
- J. In Hebrews is the present Christ, who is now in the heavens as our Minister and our High Priest, ministering to us the heavenly life, grace, authority, and power and sustaining us to live a heavenly life on earth.
- K. In the Epistles of Peter is the Christ who enables us to take God's governmental dealings administered through sufferings.
- L. In the Epistles of John is the Christ who is the life and fellowship of the children of God in God's family.
- M. In Revelation is the Christ who is walking among the churches in this age, ruling over the world in the kingdom in the coming age, and expressing God in full glory in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.
- N. Such a wonderful, all-inclusive, all-extensive, and universally rich Christ is the Christ now, the Christ today, and the Christ on the throne in the heavens, who is our daily salvation and moment-by-moment supply—Heb. 8:2; 4:14-16; 7:26; Rom. 5:10.  
 Heb. 8:2      A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.  
 Heb. 4:14     Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.  
 Heb. 4:15     For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.  
 Heb. 4:16     Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.  
 Heb. 7:26     For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens.  
 Rom. 5:10    For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.

**IV. God's goal in His economy is not merely to redeem His people and save them from the world, typified by Egypt, but to bring them into Christ, typified by the good land, so that they may possess Him and enjoy His unsearchable riches—Exo. 3:8; Deut. 8:7-10; Col. 1:12; 2:6-7a; Eph. 3:8:**

Exo. 3:8          And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.  
 Deut. 8:7          For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;  
 Deut. 8:8          A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;  
 Deut. 8:9          A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.  
 Deut. 8:10        And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.  
 Col. 1:12        Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;  
 Col. 2:6          As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

- Col. 2:7            Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- Eph. 3:8            To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

**A. The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply of the Spirit to His believers—Deut. 8:7-9:**

- Deut. 8:7    For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Deut. 8:8    A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Deut. 8:9    A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.

**1. The waterbrooks, springs, and fountains signify Christ as the flowing Spirit—John 4:14; 7:37-39; Rev. 22:1.**

- John 4:14        But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.
- John 7:37        Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- John 7:38        He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- John 7:39        But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Rev. 22:1        And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

**2. The valleys and the mountains signify the different kinds of environments in which we may experience Christ as the flowing Spirit—cf. 2 Cor. 6:8-10.**

- 2 Cor. 6:8        Through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report; as deceivers and yet true;
- 2 Cor. 6:9        As unknown and yet well known; as dying and yet behold we live; as being disciplined and yet not being put to death;
- 2 Cor. 6:10      As made sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

**3. Wheat typifies the incarnated Christ, who was crucified and buried to multiply Himself (John 12:24), and barley, being the first-ripe grain (2 Sam. 21:9), points to the resurrected Christ as the firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20).**

- John 12:24      Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- 2 Sam. 21:9      And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites. And they hanged them on the mountain before Jehovah, and the seven perished together. And they were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, at the beginning of the barley harvest.
- 1 Cor. 15:20     But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**4. Vines typify the Christ who sacrificed Himself to produce wine to cheer God and man—Judg. 9:13; Matt. 9:17.**

- Judg. 9:13      But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?
- Matt. 9:17      Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

**5. The fig tree speaks of the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as the life supply—Judg. 9:11.**

- Judg. 9:11      But the fig tree said to them, Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?

**6. The pomegranates signify the fullness, the abundance and beauty, and the expression of the riches of Christ as life—Exo. 28:33-34; 1 Kings 7:18-20; S. S. 4:3b, 13.**

- Exo. 28:33      And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet strands, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:
- Exo. 28:34      A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.
- 1 Kings 7:18    So he made the pillars; and there were two rows around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.

- 1 Kings 7:19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits high.  
 1 Kings 7:20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.  
 S. S. 4:3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is lovely; Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate Behind your veil.  
 S. S. 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates With choicest fruit; Henna with spikenard.
7. The olive tree typifies Christ (Rom. 11:17, 24) as the One who was filled with the Spirit and anointed with the Spirit (Luke 4:1, 18; Heb. 1:9); olive oil typifies the Holy Spirit, by whom we walk to honor God and whom we minister to honor man (Gal. 5:16, 25; 2 Cor. 3:6, 8; Judg. 9:9).  
 Rom. 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,  
 Rom. 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!  
 Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, while being tempted for forty days by the devil.  
 Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed.  
 Heb. 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners".  
 Gal. 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
 Gal. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.  
 2 Cor. 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.  
 2 Cor. 3:8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory?  
 Judg. 9:9 But the olive tree said to them, Shall I leave my fatness, because of which God and men are honored by me, and go to wave over the trees?
8. Milk and honey speak forth the goodness and sweetness of Christ—Deut. 6:3; Exo. 3:8.  
 Deut. 6:3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be certain to do it, that it may go well with you and that you may be greatly increased, in a land flowing with milk and honey, even as Jehovah, the God of your fathers, promised you.  
 Exo. 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
9. Stones signify Christ as material for building God's dwelling place—Isa. 28:16; Zech. 4:7; 1 Pet. 2:4.  
 Isa. 28:16 Therefore thus says The Lord Jehovah: Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, A tested stone, A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established; He who believes will not hasten away.  
 Zech. 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.  
 1 Pet. 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious.
10. The iron and copper are for making weapons (Gen. 4:22; 1 Sam. 17:5-7) and typify our spiritual warfare by which we fight the enemy (2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:10-20); iron also signifies Christ's ruling authority (Matt. 28:18; Rev. 19:15), and copper, Christ's judging power (1:15); the mountains from which copper is mined signify Christ's resurrection and ascension (Eph. 4:8).  
 Gen. 4:22 And Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.  
 1 Sam. 17:5 And there was a bronze helmet upon his head; and he was clothed with scaled armor, and the weight of the armor was five thousand bronze shekels.  
 1 Sam. 17:6 And he had bronze greaves upon his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders.  
 1 Sam. 17:7 And the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred iron shekels; and his shield bearer went before him.  
 2 Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds.  
 Eph. 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.  
 Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

Eph. 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph. 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

Eph. 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Eph. 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph. 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Eph. 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Eph. 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Rev. 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Rev. 1:15 And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Eph. 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

- B. By enjoying the riches of the land, the children of Israel were able to build up the temple to be God's habitation on earth and the city of Jerusalem to establish God's kingdom on earth.
- C. Likewise, by enjoying the unsearchable riches of Christ, the believers in Christ are built up to be Christ's Body, the church, which is Christ's fullness, His expression (1:22-23), and which is also the habitation of God (2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15) and the kingdom of God (Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17).
- Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 1 Tim. 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Matt. 16:19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.
- Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- D. Ultimately, God's habitation and God's kingdom will consummate in the New Jerusalem in eternity for the fulfillment of God's eternal economy; this miraculous structure of treasure is the goal of our enjoying and ministering the unsearchable riches of Christ as the treasure of the gospel—Rev. 21:1-3, 22; 22:1, 3.
- Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.
- Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev. 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him.