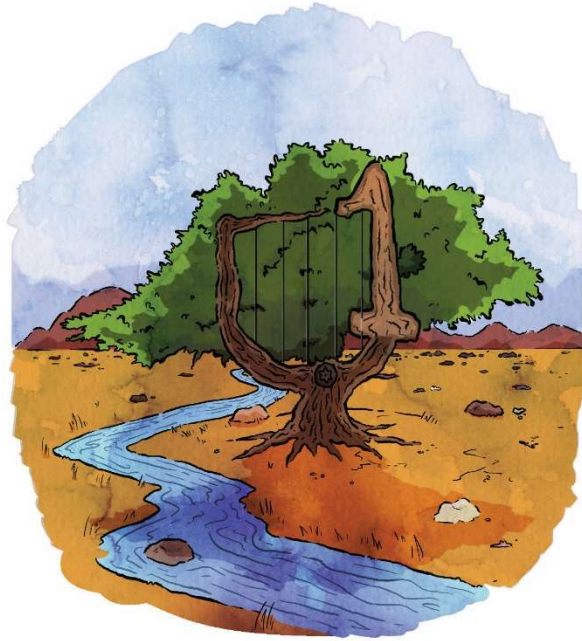


PSALM 1: PROSPERITY



Tree **prospering** near a stream has branches forming a harp (**Psalms**). A branch forms a **“1”**.

+ Regarding the description of the godly person meditating on God’s Word day and night, conservative Jews still verbalize the Word of God when calling it to mind. I remember spending dozens of hours memorizing vocabulary in Hebrew and Greek, always verbalizing the words for reinforcement. As with all rote knowledge it slips away quickly if not reinforced.

Rote memorization, however, is not enough to capture the idea conveyed in this Psalm. It is not just a familiarity with the Word that blesses us, but a profound respect that wishes to integrate its truth. The person who meditates on God’s Word seeks to apply it holistically to all of life’s situations.

+ Bible passages which discuss meditating on the law of the Lord are grossly misunderstood by the Western Christian world. It is not an injunction to “study” the Bible, as though one had to attend a class or memorize passages, but rather experiencing God’s Word on a daily basis. Similarly, the term “law” does not denote commands only, but the entirety of God’s message. The Christian is invited to learn from all of what God has said and properly does not see faithfulness as drudging memorization.

+ Singing Christian songs is a great way to deepen familiarity with Scripture, as well as express our love for God! The joyous Christian music also brightens the soul and can be an effective deterrent to the mind filling with negativity.

+ There are serious implications of the wicked being called “chaff”. The wicked are dispensable; no one rushes after husks to collect them, but rather they are scattered to be trampled upon by man and beast. The grain is precious and carefully stored for use. The wicked will find themselves *unused and unwanted* by God following the Judgment. They will be thrown away, left to Satan’s devices.