

Christmas Trees

Decorated Trees

Here is some scripture about decorated trees:

Jeremiah 10:2-4

2 Thus saith the LORD, **Learn not the way of the heathen**, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.
3 For the customs of the people are vain: **for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.**
4 **They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**

The above quotation is from the King James Version of the Bible. If your translation says something substantially different, you should consider the possibility that your modern and "improved" translation has been slanted to conceal the true meaning of these verses.

Asherah

There may also be much more about this in the Bible, but it is concealed by a poor translation of a single Hebrew word **ASRE** (asherah). In the KJV this word is translated as "**grove**", but the exact meaning of the Hebrew word has been lost over the centuries. I suggest that an "asherah" is actually a "**decorated tree**".

The correct meaning of "asherah" can be inferred by a careful examination of the places in which it is used. Note that the word "grove" in Genesis 21:33 is not relevant to this discussion, because this instance is translated from a different Hebrew word **ASL** (eshel).

Hated by God

The Hebrew word **ASRE** (asherah) is translated in the KJV version as "**grove**" 40 times. Many of these clearly indicate that the "asherah" is hated by God. For example:

Exodus 34:13

13 But ye shall destroy **their altars**, break their **images**, and cut down their **groves**

Deuteronomy 7:5

5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy **their altars**, and break down their **images**, and cut down their **groves**, and burn their **graven images** with fire.

Deuteronomy 12:3

3 And ye shall overthrow **their altars**, and break their **pillars**, and burn their **groves** with fire; and ye shall hew down the **graven images** of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

Judges 3:7

7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served **Baalim** and the **groves**.

1 Kings 14:15

15 For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their **groves**, provoking the LORD to anger.

1 Kings 16:33

33 And Ahab made a **grove**; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

A Tree

The "asherah" evidently was a "**tree**":

Deuteronomy 16:21

21 Thou shalt not plant thee a **grove of any trees** near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee.

The Hebrew word **OTs** (ets) which is translated here as "trees" is in the singular case. It can be translated as either "tree" or as "trees". But there is nothing in the original text to prove that an "asherah" consists of more than one tree or that it is a "grove".

In any case, the "asherah" was certainly made of "**wood**":

Judges 6:25-26

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the **grove** that is by it:

26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the **wood of the grove** which thou shalt cut down.

Erected in Prominent Places

The "asherah" was often erected on the top of a hill:

1 Kings 14:22-23

22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

23 For they also built them **high places**, and **images**, and **groves**, on every **high hill**, and **under every green tree**.

2 Kings 17:10

10 And they set them up images and **groves** in every **high hill**, and **under every green tree**:

The Hebrew word **THT** (tachath), which is translated here as "under", actually has a variety of meanings. It also can mean "in the place of", "in the room of", "instead of", etc. See Genesis 4:25, 22:13, Exodus 29:30, Leviticus 14:42, 2 Samuel 19:13, 1 Chronicles 4:41.

I think that every "green tree" was changed into an "asherah" by decorating it. This may have been great fun for the people, a joyous occasion, but God hated it.

People today also erect the Christmas Tree in prominent places, for example on the White House lawn.
Brought Indoors

The "asherah" was often small enough to be brought indoors, into the Temple:

2 Kings 21:7

7 And he set a **graven image** of the **grove** that he had made in the **house**, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this **house**, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

2 Kings 23:4,6-7

4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth **out of the temple** of the LORD all the vessels that were made for **Baal**, and for the **grove**, and for all the **host of heaven**: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-el.

6 And he brought out the **grove** from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

7 And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove **hangings** for the **grove**.

This last verse is especially important, because it shows that the "asherah" was decorated with **ornaments**.

Of course these **ornaments** or "**hangings**" were idolatrous:

2 Kings 23:14

14 And he brake in pieces the **images**, and cut down the **groves**, and filled their places with the bones of men.

People today use little Santa Clauses, and so forth, to decorate their Christmas Trees. This is the same kind of idolatry as was practiced by the Israelites.

Destroyed by the Righteous

At times, those who were righteous destroyed the "asherah":

Judges 6:27-30

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the **altar of Baal** was cast down, and the **grove** was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the **altar of Baal**, and because he hath cut down the **grove** that was by it.

2 Chronicles 14:2-4

2 And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:

3 For he took away the **altars of the strange gods**, and the **high places**, and brake down the **images**, and cut down the **groves**:

4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.

2 Chronicles 17:6

6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the **high places** and **groves** out of Judah.

2 Chronicles 19:3

3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the **groves** out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

2 Chronicles 31:1

1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the **images** in pieces, and cut down the **groves**, and threw down the **high places** and the **altars** out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

The Wrath of God

Finally, there is prophecy about the coming wrath of God with respect to the "asherah" and the little "images" which are used to decorate them:

Micah 5:13-15

13 Thy **graven images** also will I cut off, and thy **standing images** out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

14 And I will pluck up thy **groves** out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities.

15 And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

There is a hint here that many cities will be destroyed during one of the Christmas seasons.

Merry Christmas

It is recognized that "Christmas" is a day of joy, merriment, gladness, and good tidings.

I am not opposed in principle to observing the day of Jesus' birth, but I feel certain that by observing it on some arbitrary day, and by using the Roman calendar instead of the calendar which was commanded by God, there is a virtual certainty that on at least some occasions the celebration will be on the anniversary of a tragedy.

An example of such a tragedy will be death of two of God's prophets:

Revelation 11:10

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall **rejoice** over them, and make **merry**, and shall **send gifts** one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

In other words, those who celebrate Jesus' birth according to heathen traditions will sometimes be found to be expressing their joy on a day which commemorates, according to the true calendar, one of Satan's works. If Jesus Christ is not central in that joy, but rather the heathen traditions such as decorating trees and gift-giving, then they symbolically will have become enemies of God.

Ask yourself if you would want to be found (1) rejoicing, (2) making merry, and (3) giving gifts on the anniversary date of a future event in which these things are done to honor the "beast" who kills God's prophets.

It is difficult to completely prove that the Hebrew word **ASRE** (asherah) refers to a "**decorated tree**" because an exact description of the "asherah" is not given. But there is enough information given in the several examples to know that it was hated by God, and that it was made of a tree, erect, and hung with ornaments. The servants of God cut them down and burned them.

But there is also another clue. Based on the known meaning of a related Hebrew word **ASRI** (ashere), it can be inferred that the literal meaning of "asherah" is derived from "**joy**" or "**merriment**".

The Hebrew word **ASRI** (ashere) is translated in the KJV as follows:

blessed - 27 times

happy - 18 times

Here are some examples:

Genesis 30:13

13 And Leah said, **Happy** am I, for the daughters will call me **blessed**: and she called his name **Asher**.

Proverbs 3:13

13 **Happy** is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Summary

As today, those in ancient Israel who had adopted heathen practices found joy in decorating their trees.