

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors
Green – Evidence of Natural Life

In the scriptures there is a correlation between the color green and the evidence of natural life. Several things in the scripture are referred to as being green: green tree, green grass, green fruit, green herb, green ears of corn, green pastures, green bay tree, green olive tree, and green figs. The scriptures also show that natural life is very fragile. For instance man is compared to green grass: Is. 40: 6-8 "The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Like grass under the heat of the sun withers, so man is like the grass. In contrast, while man lives only a short time on the earth, yet the word of the Lord stands for ever. In the word of the Lord we find that God has made provision for his children that they have eternal life, even though their natural life is but for a short time.

Moreover, in studying the use of the color green we see that man in his natural state worships natural life. This is illustrated by the use of the green tree as the place of worship of natural life in the scriptures:

1. Deu. 12:2 "Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:
2. 1 Ki. 14:23 "For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree."
3. 2 Ki. 16:4 "And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
4. 2 Ki. 17:10 "And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:"
5. 2 Chr. 28:4 "He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree."
6. Isa. 57:5 "Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?"
7. Jer. 2:20 "For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot."
8. Jer. 3:6 "The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot."

9. Jer. 3:13 "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD."

10. Ezek 6:13 "Then shall ye know that I am the LORD, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols."

This principle is set forth by the Lord in Mat. 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Further, the scripture gives us a picture of the redemptive work of Christ in the prophecy of Isaiah: Isa.51:12 "I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;" As the grass is withered by the heat, so Christ came to die under the judgment of God on account of our sins so as to redeem us from the condemnation of our sins,