

# WAY TO SHILOH

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## The Story of the Tree

**And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. Mark 8:24**

Some time ago a Great Landowner created a wooden sign, carved a name into it and put it to one side [1 Peter 1.20](#). Then he planted a tree [Gen 2.7](#). It was a good tree [Gen 1.31](#). After this he planted with it another tree made out of a cutting from the first [Gen 2.21-23](#). But the trees bore bad fruit [Gen 3.6](#), and so the landowner could no longer tend to them [Gen 3.23](#). Soon the trees multiplied and became a forest [Gen 6.1](#) [Gen 9.1](#), tightly packed so no light was able to reach the ground [Matt 6.23](#) [John 3.19](#). It became the home of beasts and creeping things [Rev 12.4](#) [Rev 12.9](#), dark and cold, full of thorns, thickets and briars [Gen 3.18](#) [Jer 17.9](#) [Rom 1.24](#) [Matt 15.19](#). So the owner marked the trees to be felled, and the forest became known as 'The Deadwood' [John 3.18](#) [Rom 1.18](#) [Job 21.30](#).

From the time the forest was planted there was someone who found himself in the wood with the trees [Gen 3.1](#). He was a spiteful woodsman [Luke 22.31](#). Although he lived in the forest he hated the trees [Rev 12.13](#). The owner had once had him in his service but he was removed from his position because of proud rebellion [Luke 10.18](#) [Rev 12.9](#) [1 Cron 21.1](#) [Isaiah 14.12-15](#), although he was still permitted to walk to and fro throughout the forest [Job 1.7](#) [Rev 12.13](#). The trees were still loved by the owner [John 3.16](#), and therefore hated by the woodsman.

Because of the bad fruit, and the wretched woodsman with his crooked work [Isaiah 14.17](#), the trees suffered, became withered and diseased [Psalm 107.18](#), the soil was polluted and the trees stunted [Titus 1.15](#). The owner could not see their beauty [Isaiah 64.6](#) [Zec 3.3](#), accept their fruit [Isaiah 5.2](#), or use their wood [Jer 13.10](#). The trees were only fit for burning [Matt 3.10](#), for they slowly rotted where they stood [Eph 2.1](#). The owner would come and cut them down with a great and fearful axe [Rom 5.12](#) [Luke 3.9](#).

Then, at a certain time [John 1.14](#), a **Tree** started to grow in the centre of the forest where it was most dark [Matt 4.15-17](#). However, without light and out of dry ground, the tender shoot sprouted [Isaiah 53.2](#). It was good [Heb 4.15](#) [Mark 1.11](#). The woodsman heard of this occurrence and looked for it in order to destroy it [Rev 12.5](#) [Matt 2.16](#), but he could not find the tree although he searched in fury [Rev 12.17](#). The tree grew in strength and stature and the birds came and nested in its branches [Luke 1.80](#) [Mark 4.32](#). It grew beyond the other trees, pushing through the canopy and letting the light stream in [Matt 4.16](#) [John 8.12](#). This tree seemed to give life to the forest from where it was [John 6.63](#) [John 14.6](#), its fruit was good to eat and nourished the soil [John 6.53](#), and it stood there for a season [John 7.9](#).

But it came to pass that on a dark day the woodsman found the tree [Mark 15.33](#). First he stripped it of its bark [Matt 27.27-31](#) and then cut into it with his knife [Matt 27.26](#). He would have liked to break its branches but he could not reach them [John 19.33](#). So in his malice he thought to himself, "I'll make this tree ugly and cursed, I will carve a vile snake wrapped around it!" [Num 21.9](#) [Gen 3.1](#) [John 3.14](#) The woodsman did the evil he intended, and within a few hours the tree died from its wounds and so the owner cut it down with the axe [Mark 15.37](#).

However, the wood of the tree was good [Heb 4.15](#), and so in three days the owner made a great and exceedingly strong fence out of it [Matt 12.40](#), which no one could breach, to surround the forest [Rev 21.27](#). He then put the sign, he had made earlier, on the entrance [John 10.1](#), and with the last splinter of wood from that great tree he made a match, lit it, and cast it onto the dead leaves of the forest floor [Matt 3.11](#) [Matt 3.12](#). As this was done a great whirlwind came from afar and struck the forest, stripping it bare, twisting the trunks and breaking them in pieces [Psalm 29.5-9](#). The mighty wind fanned the flame and the forest burnt to the ground, not a single tree was left [Rom 3.10](#) [1 Cor 3.13](#) [Heb 12.29](#) although their seed fell to the floor with them.

Now a curious thing about a forest fire is that it regenerates the land, and soon new life was seen from the ground [2Cor 5.17](#). One [John 11.50](#), then two [Matt 4.18](#), then twelve [Matt 10.12](#), then twenty four [Rev 4.4](#), then a great multitude of trees grew [Rom 11.7](#) [Rev 19.1](#), all made good from the soil and the legacy of that great tree [Rom 5.19](#). Living creatures came to dwell in the forest [Mark 1.13](#) and the woodsman was cast out [John 12.31](#), never to return, having been badly burnt in the blaze.

The forest was now a wonder to behold [Psalm 96.12](#), full of light and beauty [Rom 10.15](#). In the fence there was a gate as an entrance [John 14.6](#), and the sign the landowner had fixed to it read the new name 'The Eternal Wood' [John 3.15](#), for it seems he had conceived the plan some time ago [Eph 1.4](#).

[Ezekiel 15](#)

[Psalm 29. 5-9](#)