



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 055: Biblical Symbols 7: Fruit

Study Author: Michael Button

Read Luke 6:43-45

Introduction. 'Fruit' is used extensively in both the Old and New Testaments to illustrate a variety of things, mostly (but not exclusively) to represent character or behaviour, or the outcomes of such. Jesus said "A tree is known by its fruits." Think about how this is true in the natural, and how that equates to revealing a person's true character.

1. 'Fruit' as a metaphor. Here are some examples. Read the scriptures and identify what they illustrate:

Gen 2:16 ('fruit' implied).

Psalm 127:3 & Matt 13:2.

Psalm 104:13 & Phil 1:22.

Prov 1:31, Matt 7:17 & Matt 13:23.

Prov 18:21 & Heb 13:15.

Hos 10:13.

Rom 1:13.

Rev 22:2 (you might need to consult commentaries for this one).

2. 'Fruit' as the product of behaviour. In these examples we are looking for what produces fruit:

Prov 11:30 & Heb 12:11.

Matt 3:8.

Gal 5:22 (this passage is examined in Advanced Study AS001).

3. Results of 'fruit'. Good or bad fruit has its consequences. What are they in the following passages?:

John 4:36.

John 15:8 (we'll see more about this in a future study).

Rom 6:28.

Rom 7:5.

To think about: Am I producing enough 'good fruit' in my life?

To dig deeper: With the aid of a concordance, look up some other passages that mention fruit in the metaphorical sense and identify what they illustrate.