IF A TREE FALLS TOWARD THE SOUTH

Ecc. 11:3

INTRODUCTION:

Here we have a summary view of a wonderful text which talks about a tree falling in a certain direction and that tree staying there. If it goes to the South or toward the North. Let us explore this text. Now the Japanese for centuries have cultivated an art which has amazed sight-seers - it is called Bonsai. It is the practice of taking tall trees - regular yard or forest variety and dwarfing them. It is largely the art of aristocrats because ordinary laborers do not have the time required for this very tedious process, which consists of carefully watering, nipping the buds, thinning the roots, fertilizing the roots within a given space. It is an old art that goes back for 13 centuries. These potted trees look very much in every respect like the full sized ones, of the same species. Well, in this country there are advertisements of miniature tree kits, that are run in the best magazines. But there is the tying of the roots and the clipping of those hair roots on the surface and just leaving enough for the tree to feed upon. Now this serves as a good illustration as to what happens to a tree when some of its supply resources are cut off. It will spiritually dwarf and individual to do this in like fashion. Now the farmer knows the value of a tap root. They tell us that sometimes a tap root of a plant will go down the same distance in the ground as the plant is above the ground. And if you cut off the tap root, the farmer knows that the tree will fall - it will die. (Paris - French Standards as a Food Developed Dough)

Cherry trees are grown for fashionable dinner-tables. These trees will bear actual fruit, modestly-sized, guests will pluck for themselves when dessert time arrives. If not more than 100 cherries will be on each tree and it's delicious once picked they will not renew for another year. Dashing my apple men -

Now these miniature trees are quite different from those giant trees which I saw in California. The Sequoias, they are not the tallest in the world, the
Eucalyptus of Australia have that honor. But they are the most massive tree and they weigh nearly 1000 tons. Now one of the redwoods growing in California grows to a height of 364 feet.

We had the privilege of seeing the most noted of all the redwoods known as General Sherman tree. In the Sequoia National Park — it is a tree that is 101 feet and a half in circumference. It is 32 feet in diameter. At the base, and it is 27 feet in diameter at 8 feet above the ground. 18 1/2 feet in diameter at 100 feet above the base. And it is 282 feet tall. Now it is reputed to be the largest tree in the world. And the oldest living thing — probably being between 2000-3000 years old.

Now what it must take to hold erect such a giant tree in a storm. There are some trees, not redwood I have been told, goes down in the ground as far as the top extends above. Be that as it may, it takes a deep and a strong root to make tall trees stand up and keep growing.

Now if a tree falls toward the South — is our text. Now while we were in these redwoods they had one that had fallen and it occurred on a roadway through the forest. The Government had that tree, that was across the road, carved out and you drive right through the tree. They did not move that tree — that tree weighs tons. But they merely cut a passageway and you can drive an automobile through there. Another of those giants, they have a road cut through the tree standing. And it is standing erect and you drive your car right beneath that huge tree.

In the Bible we have the description of one of the most magnificent and
greatest of all trees in the Holy Land. I saw many of these and they are noted as an evergreen. And often they grow 120 feet tall and their branches reach out and cover a tremendous area. A tree bears a little cone and it takes three years for it to mature before it scatters its brown seed. I am speaking of the cedar of Lebanon. In the book of Ez. 31:3-5 it reads like this—behold a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowed shroud and of a high stature. And his top was among the thick boughs. Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth. That is a wonderful description of a tree that gives forth a gum or a balsam, which makes the wood so fragrant that when you walk into a grove of these cedars it is a delight. Some of these cedars of Lebanon are judged to be 2000 years old. Many of the younger trees are now taking their places. And the wood is particularly adapted for building. And since it does not quickly decay nor does the insects eat it. It is of a beautiful warm red tone and it is solid and free from knots. Therefore it was used in building the temple at Jerusalem. As well as Solomon's palace known as the house of the forest of Lebanon. Because of the quantity of this wood used in its construction.

The Psalmist aluded in 92:12, "the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

What a magnificent sight to see a beautiful oak tree, or pine tree, some stately tree growing in the yard or in the forest.

I think of what Joyce Kilmer wrote back in 1914.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast.

A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray
A tree in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair.

Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain
Poems are made by fools like me
But only God can make a tree.

And it's marvelous that God takes a stately magnificent tree, and through the writer here in the book of Ecc. brings to us a lesson. If a tree falls toward the South or toward the North, in the place where the tree falls - there shall it be.

Let us see what we can get out of this text.

I. DETERMINING THE DIRECTION

Now a tree falls to the South or to the North. Now many times the fall of that tree can be determined if the proper measures are taken.

For one thing, it may be determined by a storm, a hurricane, or a heavy wind. That may determine whether it falls to the North or to the South.
The way the tree is planted may determine whether it falls to the South or North. If it is planted in a leaning position in one direction. Then to be sure, when that tree dies, it will go down in this direction.

Therefore in V.1 he says if you are going to determine a few things you must be generous. (Cast your bread upon the waters for thou shalt find it after many days. He is encouraging us to share.) And this seems folly to cast bread upon the waters. And hope that you are going to find it later. But you have to travel in Egypt and be near the Nile where it overflows its banks. When an Egyptian farmer took his skiff and sailed across the field and scattered the rice seed as he went. When the Nile subsided, it left a rich and fertilizing mud. The rice seed germinated and the hot sun caused it to grow until there was a harvest. Now this is a picture presented here of a man determining some direction in his life. A man can keep love alive in his heart only when he is willing to spend it on others. He really doesn't count the cost when he is doing something for other people.

Another who gives her love and life to her children, some people call it sacrificing. But nobody ever does that where love is absent. She casts her bread upon the waters for her little children. They grow up, they face the battle in the world, and the mother reaps the harvest.

I think the enrichment of the Gospel will never be known until we become factors in giving in this way. Nothing can help us to realize the value of the good news of God like helping to spread it among other people.

A citizen of Syracuse, N. Y., a good many years ago befriended a boy. He was having difficulty in getting an education and he gave him employment. He
had him to mow his lawn. And helped him along. Some years later, Bishop E. L. Waldorf went to Syracuse to preach. One of his first sermons as a Bishop of the church, in the course of the sermon the Bishop stated, that in the audience to whom he wished to acknowledge publicly his indebtedness, for the aid given him during his youthful struggles for an education. And he wanted to say that that kindness that had been shown to him had never been forgotten. That is what this text is all about. If you are going to determine the direction that the tree will fall, you are going to have to cast your bread out on the waters.

Ray Baker once found his father planting trees. He questioned him about this strange occupation. His father answered, son, there are many kinds of immortality, and this is one of mine. That forest of towering spruces and pines which Jospeh Baker had planted is a memorial to him. Likewise when we plant the seed of faith this is an eternal and unchanging God. As a memorial in the human forest. We determine the direction that lives will fall.

Adeline Patti was asked one day by a little girl on the street for a coin. She said to the child, do you ever sing? Yes, said the girl, sometimes.

Come to my house said Patti and let me hear you. She gave her her address and the girl came. The great singer listened to the child sing and her great ear detected evidences of her ability.

Will you come every day and let me give you lessons? She said she would. Patiently Patti worked with that street girl and the story goes that she turned out a beautiful voice.

The easier way would have been to toss a coin and let it go at that. And
the child would have been satisfied. And too, perhaps would the donor.

But Adeline Patti chose a more difficult way -- more difficult to her but vastly better for the child. The money gift may bring temporary relief but the personal service gift of your life in the long run, is infinitely better.

II. THERE ARE SOME FACTORS WHICH DETERMINE WHICH WAY THE TREE FALLS

V. 2 - He gives us some more encouragement about this. With a person and also to B. Do not put any restriction, he says, upon your gift here. Divide your gifts among many for the days ahead, you yourself may need much help.

I think there are many factors that can determine the way the tree falls.

For example, the wind may determine the way.

The area around the roots may determine which way the tree falls.

Insects may determine the way it falls.

The way that it is cut by a woodsman who cuts a tree -- the way he makes a cut on the tree and the way he saws that tree, will determine the way that tree will fall. Now men who are skilled at the falling of trees, are able to determine pretty much the direction they want it to fall. To the South or to the North.

Now some years ago, we had to depend upon wood for firewood. I remember
going in the woods with my Daddy, to cut pine trees and oak for the heater. And we used pine for the cook stove. We saved down trees. We'd pick out so many for each winter and each year. So when the cool weather came, that was the time you cut wood. And you did it with a cross-cut saw and an axe. And he could pretty much pick out the way that tree would fall. He would say, I want it to fall this way. Where there were few limbs and where it could easily be saved up into cord wood after you worked on it with a mall and a wedge to bring it up to the house. Now the way the (fuel crisis) is going, it appears to me that some of these days we may have to take the Deacons out into the woods and cut some fire wood for the church. Years ago the Deacons and the leaders in the church had to be responsible for the wood that was burned, in the stove that was set up in the middle of the church. But what I am saying is - there are some factors that determine the way a tree is going to fall.

And you remember that parable in the New Testament when Jesus talked about the fig tree. There was a fig tree that they expected normally to find some figs on. But the point of the parable is that they had waited for three years for fruit. And at the end of that year it was still unproductive. So the tree was cumbering the ground, it sounds like the preaching of John the Baptist when he said, even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree, therefore, that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
Matt. 3:10, Luke 3:9. Now it was John's belief with the coming of Jesus, the hour of destiny had come. Jesus himself said the same thing.

Now this fig tree teaches us that it is useless and it invites disaster. Because the fig tree was useless, it was threatened with destruction. The ultimate test of any man -- of what use is he in the world to God. Let us get this clearly in our minds. To be useful does not necessarily mean doing big things. It is quite possible to be of the greatest use by doing what looks
like little things.

Let me see if I can illustrate this because you have a factor in the way that the tree is going to fall. Alexander Whyte of St. George's Church of Edinburgh had a favorite story. A commercial traveler called Rigby used to travel regularly to Edinburgh. Now Rigby was no preacher. In fact, he found it hard to talk of religion at all. But he always attended St. George's on Sunday. Before he left the hotel, he always invited someone to come to church with him. One Sunday morning he invited a man — and at first, the man angrily refused. Rigby persisted and finally the man went. He was so impressed with Whyte's preaching, that in the evening, he asked Rigby to go with him. At the evening service, something happened to the man, who had at first refused to go. He determined to become a Christian.

The next morning business took Rigby past Whyte's house. He had never met Whyte, but on the impulse of the moment, he knocked and asked to see him. He told Whyte what had happened the day before. Whyte said, God bless you for telling me. I thought Sunday night's sermon fell flat. I was very depressed about it. And then Whyte went on, I didn't quite catch your name — what is it? Rigby, said the man. Man, said Whyte. I've been looking for you for years. He went into his study and came back with a bundle of letters. He started to read one. So he began. I was spending a weekend in Edinburgh and a fellow invited me to come with him to St. George's. His name was Rigby. And the service that day changed my life.

Every letter in the bundle was the same. Whyte went on to say, that out of that bundle, 12 came from young men. And of those 12, I have already entered the ministry.
It does not seem a great deal to invite a man to come to church. And yet, of what infinite use to God were the invitations of that man called Pigby.

It can be even simpler than that when God wants something done, and someone helps—he has to find a hand to supply that help. Often, it may be the simplest of the simple things.

Mrs. Browning has a poem in which she describes two girls. One was off her work from illness. The other at once sent out to go to her—even if it meant losing her pay and perhaps her job. God has a mission, and this minute, she said. "Lucy wants a drink perhaps. Let others miss me. Never miss me. By doing the simple things we are of use. By being of service in the ordinary everyday things we are serving God. And we are determining the way a tree will fall.

Now this fig tree covered the ground. It was about to be destroyed. And that fig tree was saved from falling because a vine dresser came along to give it another chance. You know Jesus is the champion of men. The most significant thing about him is his tremendous belief in men. That is proved beyond all doubt by the height of the commands he gave. No leader ever expected more from his followers.

III. THE UNCHANGEABLE SITUATION

If the tree falls toward the South, then that is unchangeable. There it shall be. And there is no changing it. There is no way—no stopping. The second it begins to go, then it has been determined.
It is that way in everything. Bill Nye, the humorist had a cow to sell. The story goes, and he advertised her as follows. Owing to my ill health, I will sell at my residence in township 19, range 18, according to the government survey one plush raspberry cow, age 8 years. She is undoubtedly courage and gives milk frequently. To one who does not fear death in any form, she would be a great boon. She is very much attached to her present home with a stay chain. But she will be sold to anyone who will agree to treat her right. She is 1/4 short horn and 3/4 hiena. I will also throw in a double barrelled shot gun which goes with her. Her name is Rose. I would rather sell her to a non-resident.

And that sounds as though the direction of that cow had long been determined.

Now there are people who have a hope that somehow there will be an opportunity to change things after the tree falls. There are people who hope there will be an opportunity in the next world, is what I am talking about - before the judgement to be able to correct their mistakes. They feel that they can make a ship-wreck of this earthly life. And then be able to walk into the palace above as a defendant may go to the Circuit Court and then feel well, I can go on to the Supreme Court and get a reversal and have the lower court set aside.

Now the whole object of this sermon is good common sense. Because it declares to us that what a man decides in this world, in this life, the way he falls is the direction he is going to go and the way he'll remain.

But some of you will say any intelligent man needs to get into the next
world — he may see his disaster and as a result of that — may turn and reform.

But you can find 10,000 instances in this world of men who have done wrong and distress has overtaken them suddenly. Now did the distress heal them — no, they went right on.

“Here is a man who is following drink. Now the Doctor says to him, why you'd better quit, this fast life you are leading or it will destroy you. Now he becomes a patient — he suffers. And skillful medicine treats him and he begins to sit up. Soon he begins to walk. And soon he is back at his business. And lo, he is back at the same shops drinking again, morning, noon, and evening. It is not long before he is flat down again. The same Doctor with the same physical anguish and the same medical warning.

Now the illness is more protracted this time. Because it is destroying his stomach, his digestive organs, they are rebellious. After a while, he goes out again and goes back to the same old shops. The same old rounds.

He sees that his downward course is ruining his household. His life is in turmoil. He is breaking up his marriage. The woman he married who was young and beautiful — all of her schoolmates now do not even recognize her. And his sons are being taunted by their father of drunkardness. His daughters will go on through life — he is drinking of their happiness and the prospects of their life. Now his nervous system is all on edge — he is aching from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet. Where is he? You know, he is in Hell right here on earth. Does that reform him?

After awhile, he will have freemans — with a whole jungle of hissing
reptiles. And he screams. And he is horrified. And he frightens his neighbors and they dash in. And he is crying, take these things off of me. As he sits pale, the Doctor says now I want to have a plain talk with you my dear fellow. The next attack of this kind, you will be beyond medical skill. And you will die. He gets better and he goes forth. But soon he is in the same round again. Now this time medicine has no effect. And so the Doctors agreement is that death is going to end the scene.

Now that process of warning and dissolution is going on within a stone's throw of this church. It goes on in all the neighborhoods, of this country. But pain does not correct it. The suffering does not reform them. What is true in one sense is true in all senses and will forever be so. Yet there are some men that expect in the next world there is going to be a pergatory. And they will be able to take this thing up again in the next world.

Tonight if you take the printed reports of the prisons of the United States, you can take any state in this nation and you will find that the vast majority of the incarcerated have been there before. Some of them five, six, seven times. Now with a million illustrations all working the other way in this world, you mean to tell me there are some people who think that after the tree falls, it is going to be given another chance.

Further more, the prospect of a reformation in the next world is more improbable than a reformation here. In this world, the life starts with innocence. It starts as an infant - in the case we are supplied with that which begins out with an opportunity. But when we reach the next world, there will be the accumulation of bad habits of many years.

Surely it is easier to build a strong ship out of new timber than out of an
old body that has been grounded and the breakers have been coming in upon it.

If with innocence to start with in this life - a man does not become Godly what prospect is there in the next world, starting with sin, that he is going to become an angel.

I take the illustration of the sculptor. There is more prospect of him making a fine statue out of a block of pure white marble, than it is an old black rock that is cracked with the storms of a half a century.

Surely a man taking a clean white sheet of paper - it is easier for him to write out a deed or to write out his own will, than to take a piece of paper that is scribbled and blotched from top to bottom. Yet there are men who seem to think that though the life that began here and turned out there, that the life will change when they get into the next world.

Now there are some people who say, I think we ought to have another chance in the next life because this life is so short. It allows us such a small opportunity. We hardly have time to turn around from the cradle to the grave.

But do you know that, the flood in the ancient days was a necessity. Do you know why it was a necessity. It was because of longevity. They were worse in the 2nd century of their lifetime than in the first 100 years. And they were still worse in the 3rd century, and still worse on their 700, 800, and 900 years old. And the earth had to be washed. It had to be scrubbed, soaked, and anchored clear out of sight, for more than a month. Before it was
fit for decent people to live upon it.

Now longevity, long life, never cured iniquity. All the pictures of time are presented with Father Time with a sick in his hand to cut. I never saw a picture of time with a case of medicine to heal with.

Now Nero for his first five years of public life, set up for an example of kindness. But from that path he descended. All the way until he was 68 - he became a suicide. Now if 800 years did not make those in Noah's day any better, but only made them worse - it could not have an effect it would only prolong depravity.

In the future with the evil surroundings around men, those who had wasted all their earthly existence - were sure to never change.

You take one bad apple in a barrel and that apple will help to spoil all the other apples that are good. And those whom themselves are down in sin, can they help others up. Can a million wrongs make one right.

There was the king by the name of Phillip. And he set aside a city called Boneropolis. And he put all the bad people of his kingdom in that city. Now if any man had opened a primary school of education there, I do not think that the parents of other cities would have sent their children there. And I think that in the next world, if those who have fallen to the South or to the North - with all of their evil associations, they will not help.
Now you would not want to go into a hospital that was infected with yellow fever. And if the surroundings in this world - you're crowded with temptations and you have your religious ups and downs - how do you think it will be in the next world.

There was a count once who made his little son sleep at night at the top of a Castle. Where the winds howled and where spectators said it was a haunted place. The mother and the sister almost died with fright. But the son tells us that the process gave him nerve that could not tremble and a courage that never faltered. Now I don't think that the powers of darkness will ever fit one soul for the land of sunshine.

Individuals may go through the college of sin. They may start in the Freshman class of depravity. They may go through the Sophomore class of abandonment. They may go to be a Junior or Senior and on the day of graduation get a diploma signed by Satan. And the President and other professors are demons. They will attest to the fact that he is a candidate that has been drilled and would rather pass up Heaven than to enter it. Now I want to say that Satan has counted multitudes for ruin. But never fitted one soul for happiness.

Now if this text were not so, and the tree was not going to stay in the place where it lodged, it would not be safe in this world if man had another chance in the next world. If it had been announced that however wickedly a man might act in this world, he could fix it all up in the next - society would be terribly demoralized. The human race would be demolished in a few years. The fear that if we are bad and unforgiven here - it will not be well for us in the next existence is the chief influx and influence from keeping
civilization from rushing back to paganism.

Multitudes of men who are kept within bounds would say, go to now. Let me get all out of life that is in it. Come on drunkenness, uncleanness, come on revenge, come on and wait upon me. My life may be somewhat shortened in the world by this godless living but I will overtake the saint that laughs. And I will enter the Heavenly temple only a little later than those who behaved themselves here. I will be on my way to Heaven. I will just take a little wider excursion, and then I will be pious. I have a free license and wild abandonment in this life.

What do you think will happen if in the case of a law, you consulted a judge or an attorney, and he would say to you — well, this case is going to be tried twice. The first trial will be of little importance but the second trial will decide everything. For which trial would you make the most preparation. You would obtain the most able attorney. You would be anxious to get the best witnesses. Why, you would put all your stress on the second trial. All the anxiety and the expenditure saying — the first is nothing. The second is everything. Give the race an assurance that there is a second.

Now the text says the way the tree falls, it is going to be settled that way. There will be no second trial. Now let me illustrate it this way, why a chance should be given in the next world anyway. We have refused many chances in this world. Suppose you gave a banquet and you invited a number of your friends. Now one man declined to come. He treated your invitation with indifference. Now in the course of 20 years, you give 20 banquets and the same man is invited. He treats them all the same way. Now after awhile you move to a larger house and a better quarters. And you invite your friends
to come in and celebrate. Now you send no invitation to this man because he has declined and neglected the other invitations. Are you to blame. Has he a right to expect to be invited after all the indignities he has done to you. God, in this world, has invited us all to the banquet, of his grace. He invited us by the providence of his holy spirit. 365 days of every year. Since we know our right hand from our left hand, if we decline it every time or treat the invitation with indifference, and gave 20-25-40-50 years of indignity on our part toward the man who arranges the banquet and at last he spread a luxurious kingly place amid the gardens of Heaven - now haven't we a right to expect that he is going to invite us again. Or do we have the right to blame him because we do not get an invitation.

Now when I was in Jerusalem there was a little gate called Herod's gate. They didn't have a very small section of it open. You had to almost stoop down to enter it. But that gate was open. Now suppose that gate led into New Jerusalem and it stood open for 20 years or 50 years, for our admission. At the end of that time, they closed the gate. Now can we complain and say, well, this gate ought to open up again and give me another chance. Let me enter in. No, it is going to be like that day when Jesus said the door is going to be shut and that gate will be locked and you will never get into it.

Now you may say, or you may think there ought to be - but there will be no such thing as a second opportunity. Now this is the common sense of our text. If the tree falls toward the South, the place where the tree falleth - there it shall be. Now the idea here is that the climax, the destiny of your life is here - there will be no other chance.
Alexander with his army used to surround a city and then would lift up a great light in token to the people. That if they surrendered before that light went out - all would be well. But if once the light went out, then the battering rams would swing against the city. And demolish and disaster would follow.

Well, all we need to do for this present and ever lasting safety of ours is to make a surrender to Christ, who is the king and conqueror and surrender our hearts. He keeps a great light burning. The light of the Gospel invitation. The light made from the wood of the cross flaming up in this dark world. Surrender while the light continues to burn. After a while, it will go out and our opportunity will pass. This is our supreme chance.

In the time of Edward VI, the battle of Musslburgh, a private soldier, seeing that the earle of Huntley had lost his helmet - took off his own helmet and put it on the head of the earle. And the head of the private soldier, uncovered, he was soon slain. While his commander rode safely out of the battle. But in our case, instead of a private soldier, offering the helmet to an earle, is a king putting his crown upon an unworthy subject. The king dying that we might live. We need to tell this day and night - we need to tell it to all the earth.

Can't you see when you get to the judgment hall, the great judge is going to take his place. And if you are waiting for a second chance after 10, 40, 50 years you have heard the Gospel preached in America, you have heard the Bible read, prayers from infancy at a mother's knee until the last hour - you have had the Gospel advantage. But by some reason you did not make the Christian
choice and here you are waiting by the judge and you are thinking about a new trial, another chance - but strange the judge is going to say that I have but one Gospel to give. And why are you hear. You have neglected. And you will say, well, I thought I'd get another chance. I mastered the libraries, I learned a lot in college.

You have neglected. And you will say, well, I thought I'd get another chance. I mastered the libraries, I learned a lot in college.

God made everything, you do not understand what he does or how new life begins. But then, the ground is going to tremble. And the great doors are going to swing open and the judge is going to stand and he is going to judge the quick and the dead as they pass through. And he has come to judge and he is saying divide - the judge is going divide this assembly. And they are separated - there is a great aisle between them and it is a widening separation.

The judge is going to turn to one throng and say that he that is righteous - let him be righteous still. He that is holy, let him be holy still.

And then turning toward the throng on the opposite side, let him say, he that is unjust - let him be unjust still. He that is filthy, let him be filthy still. And then he will lift up his hand toward each group and he will declare, that if the tree falls toward the South, or toward the North - in the place where the tree falleth - there it shall be. And then you will hear something that will jar with a great sound and it will be the closing of the Book of Judgement. And the judge will ascend the stairs and the hall will be cleared out and shut. The high court of eternity will be adjourned forever.

The wind that blows can never kill the tree God plants. It bloweth East, it bloweth West. The tender leaves have little rest. But any wind that blows its best. The tree God plants.

Strikes deeper root, grows higher still,
Spread wider boughs of God's good will
Meets all it wants.
There is no storm, hath power to blast
The tree, God knows, It's blood flowed fast a way, Praying for sinners While in such woe - No one but Jesus I ever loved so.
No thunderbolt nor beating rain
Nor lightning flash nor hurricane
When they are spent, it doth remain.
The tree God knows.

Though every tempest stands fast
From its first day to its last
Still fair grows.

If in the soul's still garden place
A seed, God sows
A little seed, it soon will grow
And far and near, all men will know
For Heavenly lands, he bids it blow
A seed God sows.

And up it springs by day and night
Through light, death, it groweth right
Forever grows.

Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer
Seems now I see him
ON CALVARY'S TREE;
Wounded and bleeding, 
For sinners pleading - 
Blind and unheeding - 
Dying for me!

That tree falling in a certain division
Staying there - 
You can count on Calvary's Tree
V. 9. But know this 
Things Thou into judgment. 

Lillian Barr, in The Tree God Plants, certainly agrees with this text.
Generously cast your bread upon the waters. And know that when the tree falls
the die is set. And there is no need for waiting for better conditions. It
is a wonderful thing to be alive. A person who lives to be very old - let him
rejoice, in every day of life. But let him remember that eternity is far longer