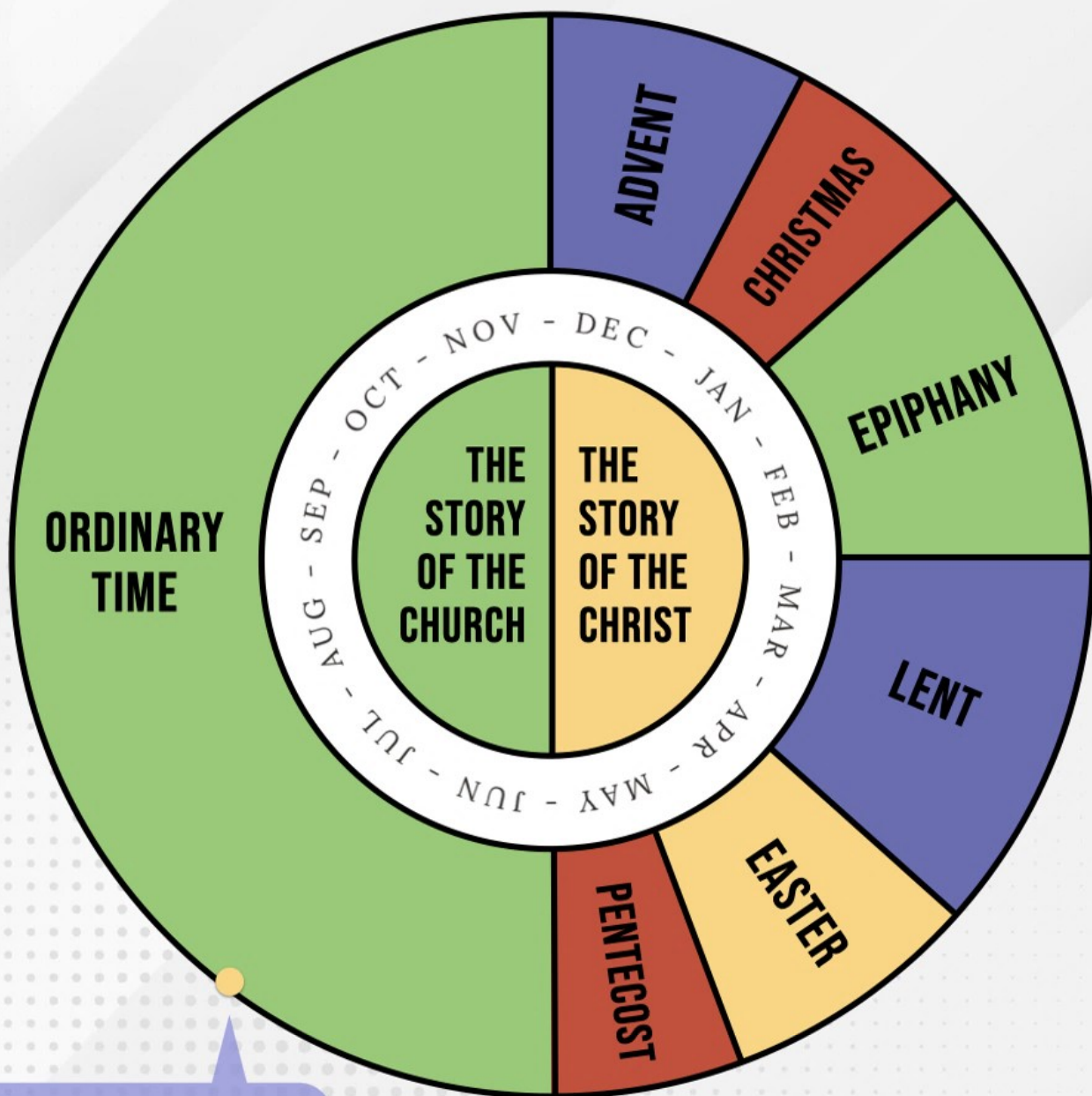


STRONG IN THE LORD

BIG TREE

	FEET	METERS
HEIGHT	286	87.2
DIAMETER	23.7	7.2
CIRCUMFERENCE	74.5	22.7
ESTIMATED AGE	1500	YEARS



THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

Advent: Anticipation

Christmas: Incarnation

Epiphany: Revelation

Lent: Crucifixion

Easter: Resurrection

Pentecost: Ascension

Ordinary Time: Mission

WE ARE HERE

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ISAIAH 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to
proclaim good news to the poor. He has
sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim freedom for the captives and
release from darkness for the prisoners...

ISAIAH 61:1-3

... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

ISAIAH 61:1-3

They will be called *oaks of righteousness*, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

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EPHESIANS 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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RESILIENT FAITH

1. **Practice** - the gift of getting stronger over time
2. **Community** - the gift of support in times of crisis
3. **Sabbath** - the gift of rest for a weary people
4. **Gratitude** - the gift of praise amidst uncertainty

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DANIEL 3:13-27

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?”

DANIEL 3:13-27

Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

DANIEL 3:13-27

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

DANIEL 3:13-27

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

DANIEL 3:13-27

So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

DANIEL 3:13-27

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

DANIEL 3:13-27

He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

DANIEL 3:13-27

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

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LUKE 1:46-55

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

LUKE 1:46-55

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble

LUKE 1:46-55

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

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EPHESIANS 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

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