

THE PROPHECY IN METAPHOR ABOUT GOD'S VINEYARD

METAPHOR: A metaphor is a figure of speech that, for effect, directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. It may provide clarity or identify hidden similarities between two different ideas (ie)

This story of the vine yard points historically to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Kingdom of Judah in 586bc

Introduction: In previous lessons Isaiah has reprimanded wicked officials, leaders, elders, and loose women. He warned them of impending judgment for their persistent disobedience. In today's lesson he breaks it down to them why. Just as Jesus uses parables (Matt 21:33-46) Isaiah uses a metaphor to make it understandable how one would feel let down when your beloved betrays you!

VERSE 1-2

THE VINEYARD

The story is about a vineyard that had many advantages. It belonged to a loving person. It was planted on a very fruitful hill. The ground was carefully prepared (dug it up and cleared out its stones)

.It was planted with good stock (planted it with the choicest vine). It was protected (a tower in its midst). Provision was made for the fruit to be processed (made a wine press in it)

He expected it to bring forth good grapes: Considering all the advantages the vineyard had. What else would be expected? But instead it brought forth wild grapes. The fruit is *dead works*, and they are bitter, foul-smelling and poisonous in nature. This is a precise description of the self-willed and false religion of the unfaithful covenant people."

Instead of the grapes of humility, meekness, love, patience, and contempt of the world, for which God looks, there are the wild grapes of pride, passion, discontent, and malice, and contempt of God; instead of the grapes of praying and praising, the wild grapes of cursing and swearing.

VERSE 3-4

COME LET US REASON TOGETHER

The question is simple. Who is to blame for the harvest of only *wild grapes*? Is it the fault of the owner of the vineyard, or is it the fault of the vineyard itself?

Farming is a matter of cause and effect. Literally, one could never "blame" a vineyard for lack of production. But in the LORD's vineyard, The will of man is a factor.

In the story, there was nothing left undone by the owner of the vineyard. He did all he could do. In the same way, God cannot be blamed at all for the wild grapes Israel brought forth. God did all He could do, apart from making men robots, acting apart from or against their wills. But He instead gives us free will to make our own choice.

We, as God's vineyard, are called to work with the grace of God, so that grace is not received in vain. Grace isn't given because of any works, past, present or promised; yet it is given to *encourage* work, not to say work is unnecessary. God doesn't want us to receive His grace and become passive. Paul knew that God gives His grace, we work hard, and the work of God is done. (2Cor 6:1)

VERSE 5-7

CONSEQUENCES:

The owner of the vineyard must *stop providing special protection* to the vineyard, and it shall be burned...it shall be trampled down. In a limited sense, God has given the responsibility of "taking away hedges" to the church. When a Christian is stubbornly unrepentant, it may be the job of the church to "turn them over" to Satan, so they will feel the pain of their sin and repent (1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5). The church does this by putting such ones outside the spiritual protection found among God's people.

The vineyard will receive *nothing* from the LORD. The vineyard resisted and protested the "pruning" and "digging" and "watering" the owner did. So now, the owner says, "Fine. No more pruning or digging or watering. You will see for yourself if that is better.

Conclusion: "Has it been so with us? Have we rewarded the Well-beloved thus ungratefully for all his pains? Have we given him hardness of heart, instead of repentance; unbelief, instead of faith; indifference, instead of love; idleness, instead of holy industry; impurity, instead of holiness?"

Let us bring forth fruit with patience, that in the end we may obtain everlasting life.