

**God's Vineyard will be Fruitful after Jacob's Sins are Atoned for!**

Isaiah 27:1-13

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**I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

**God's Vision for Humanity** was declared "**in the Beginning**" in *crystal clear and glorious fashion* as recorded in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2. Broadly speaking, **God's Vision for Humanity** was for them to (a) remain in Holy Communion with Him, (b) "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it," "get married and have family," and (c) "work" and "care" for Nature. These **Divine Themes** were *reconstituted* in **God's Plan of Salvation** *initiated* by the LORD after **The Fall** beginning with Noah which was **renewed** in Abraham and Sarah, **continued** in Isaac and Rebecca who gave birth to Esau and **Jacob**. As you would recall, God *changed Jacob's* name to **Israel** and **multiplied him eventually** into **The Twelve Tribes of Israel**. Whereas God remained true and faithful to His Vision for Humanity, the **Israelites** (God's Chosen people) didn't always remain faithful to Him. *As a matter of fact, people in general and the Israelites in particular continued to turn their backs on the God who created them!* **Whereas God remained true and faithful to the Promises** that He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua and David, **the Israelites again and again broke their faith and became rebellious by rejecting the Covenant**. Whereas God in His Love, Grace, Mercy and Faithfulness continued to *send His Servants* with Messages of **Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration and Healing**, *the Israelites again and again continued to rebel against Him*. Even though God continued to offer the **Way** for **Atonement, Redemption, Restoration and Healing** through **the Law** so that His people would *conform* to **His Vision**, *the history of the Israelites (and later Christians) is filled with unfaithfulness, backsliding and rebellion!* This *recurring wickedness and sinfulness* had to be dealt with for **God's Plan of Salvation** to continue through the generations. *There was inescapable need to find a way to atone for humanity's wickedness, sinfulness and disobedience (SIN) which can satisfy God's Holiness, Righteousness and Justice!*

**A. Historical Background**

The Book of Isaiah is essentially a Divinely Ordained Book of Prophecy. As such, Isaiah chapter 27 is part of the overall Prophecy as to how God is going to make a **Way** for the **Atonement, Redemption and Restoration** of His people in the future. Reference to **Jacob** (hence, Israel) is a significant reminder as to *how* God *initiated His Plan of Redemption* beginning with Abraham and Sarah. Understand that people have *the propensity* to forget, ignore or even deny historical legacies. But God has a **way** of reminding people

of all generations *how* the universe came into being, *who* formed the Earth and *why* we were put on God's Earth!

## **B. Biblical Context**

The Way God made **the provision** to deal with **SIN** *without destroying the sinful person or persons* is by providing "a method of payment" by way of **Atonement** which *allows* the **Righteous Judgement** of God to take place and be satisfied. In other words, instead of killing the sinful person, God found **a way to atone for all the sins the person committed** by "killing **something else** (OT) and **someone else** (NT) so that the **unavoidable Righteous Judgement of God** to take place. In order to **atone for** all the sins a person committed, *something else* (OT) and *someone else* (NT) **had to be sacrificed** so that God's Justice and Righteous Judgement can be **upheld and satisfied**. God's Justice demands punishment for the wrongful, harmful and destructive acts done to someone by somebody. *Wrongs had to be righted. Lies had to be addressed by the Truth! Injustices had to be rectified by Justice!* **The Holiness and Righteousness of God must be satisfied in Full!** *Sinfulness and Wickedness had to be dealt with for God's Plan of Salvation to manifest in people's lives in its fullness!* **Atonement paves the way for Repentance, Forgiveness, Redemption, Restoration and Healing** to take place! **Our Gracious God made a Way out of No Way!**

## **II. THE LESSON: God's Vineyard will become Fruitful after Jacob's Sins are Atoned For!**

### **1. v. 1. God Will Slay the Leviathan – The Serpent — in That Day!**

The Leviathan refers to a creature, "the Dragon," fire spitting **serpent** of whom people are generally scared of. In Scripture, the **serpent** represents Satan (Genesis 2). In some cultures, the Leviathan is worshipped. In Revelation, God will destroy Satan by sending him and his demons to eternal hell (Revelation 20:1-15). That is the Prophecy concerning the serpent! **The Good News is that his days are limited since God has appointed a Day of Judgement!**

### **2. vv. 2-3. The LORD Watches Over The Fruitful Vineyard**

God created all kinds of plants to be naturally healthy, bountifully fruitful and vigorously *regenerating*. Hence, the vine or vineyard has these **characteristics** to *sustain* itself in collaboration with the soil, rain/water, and sunlight in various seasons adopting to seasonal changes. Vineyards have been *cultivated* in the productions of wine, juice, raisins, vinegar and jam, for example, in the context of commercial enterprises for millennia. The health, economic and social contributions of the various types of the Vine or Vineyards to society is *enduring and significant*. **Furthermore, Grapes are not only**

**beautiful to the sight, but also sweet and juicy to the taste!** That is why Vineyard is mentioned many times in the Bible as a metaphor. Under the care of the Good Gardener as described in John chapter 15, the Vine produces abundant good fruit in due season. Notice that for the Vineyard to become abundantly fruitful, the Good Gardener must “**watch over it,**” “**water it continually**” and “**guard it!**” In addition, the Good Gardener must “**prune**” and “**cut off dead branches**” year after year to *guarantee* the **fruitfulness of the Vineyard**. The LORD promised to “Watch Over the Fruitful Vineyard!” That is a Good Reason for the Remnants to Sing about the LORD Watching Over the Fruitful Vineyard!

Second Baptist Church is one of God’s many Vineyards in His Kingdom! God desires that we become **abundantly fruitful** in His Kingdom! Do we allow God’s “pruning and cutting” to take place in our lives so that we can be abundantly fruitful in due season?

### **3. vv. 4-5. “If only there were briers and thorns confronting Me!”**

God desires His Vineyard to be abundantly Fruitful *year after year!* It is greatly disappointing for a gardener or a farmer if the desired result was not achieved *after* so much investment in time, resources, hard labor and expectation. It would be easier for God to just destroy the Vineyard if it “were briers and thorns” instead! Can you *sense* **God’s regret** in *choosing* Jacob/Israelites (OT) and Christians (NT era) as His Vineyard only to find out they are behaving as “**briers and thorns**” instead? Remember what God has done to free the Israelites out of Egypt! Recall what God has done to lead them into the Promised Land (Canaan)! What did God get in return? Consider their constant grumbling, complaining and disobeying! They became just like “**briers and thorns**” to deal with! What about us? Consider what Jesus had to go through to become the **Sacrificial Lamb** to “pay the high price” *for our sins!* **We must thrive to be a Fruitful Vineyard instead of Briers and Thorns!**

### **4. v. 6. The Promise in the Prophecy about Jacob’s Root!**

Only because God keeps His Promises, all the Prophecies came to fruition in due time. Only because God kept His Promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, **Verse 6** *became a reality in due season!* Let us consider how God’s Promises became *realized* in the lives of generations of Israelites *despite* their *recurring* unfaithfulness and disobedience! **God’s Promise** to Abraham and Sarah *gave birth* to **Isaac** – “The **Seed of the Promise**” which **took root** in **Jacob** and **blossomed** in **Israel** – **The 12 Tribes of Israel** – whom God **multiplied into millions** by the time they entered **The Promised Land**. **God’s Promise** *continued* to “**bear fruit**” in the faithful **Remnants** which were scattered due to persecutions and exiles thereby “**filled the world with fruit.**”

**God works in amazing ways!** Hence, **Jacob's root** *extended through all generations* until it was **gloriously manifested** in the Birth of Jesus as recorded in **Matthew 1:1-17!**

### **5. vv. 7-11. God Didn't Treat Them as They Deserved!**

Since God cannot disown the Promises He gave to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, **He found a way** to advance **His Plan of Redemption** *even as He executed His Righteous Judgements* on many occasions. This Divine Truth will hold to the end because God found **a Way to Atone for the sins** of those who maintain their faith in Him!

#### **a) (vv. 7-8) Instead of Killing Them, the LORD Drove Them into Exile!**

The LORD could have **killed** the Israelites the same way He destroyed the Egyptians, Babylonians, and the Assyrians for their unfaithfulness and disobedience! Because of His Love and Compassion for them, God found another way to deal with them! Instead of killing them as the Egyptian, Babylonians and the Assyrians *would have, the LORD sent them into exile instead!* He *delivered them* to the same people whose idols they loved to worship and trust! **God didn't treat the Israelites as they deserved!** Even though God spared them from total destruction, He nevertheless let them suffer, for example, under the Babylonians for 70 years as exiles!

#### **b) (vv. 9-11) God Directed His Rage on the Things they Depended on!**

The other way God showed His Mercy for His people is by directing His Righteous Anger on **the things** they loved (idols) and depended on (material things, fortified cities, etc.). God directed and spent His Anger by totally destroying "the Asherah poles, altar stones, settlements" instead of His people! The LORD cursed the land of Judah and Israel and made them desolate!

### **6. vv. 12-13. A Glimmer of Hope from Within Devastation!**

In verse 12, the Bible clearly indicates that there will come "A Day" when the LORD "will thresh" *to separate* the chaff from the seed at harvest time. The prophecy is that God will gather the Israelites "one by one" from those who were perishing in exile in Assyria and Egypt. "And in that Day a great trumpet will sound." There will be a *sifting process* to gather those who "will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem." Of course, this Prophecy has been fulfilled. However, it also points to a future time when there will be an Appointed Time when God's Righteous Judgement will be manifested when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back!

## **III. CONCLUSION**

**Let us make sure to be God's Fruitful Vineyard to advance His Kingdom!**