

Israel - the Vine of God Hosea 10

Introduction:

1. Grapes are a luscious fruit cultivated on vines. Israel's soil and climate is well-suited for vineyards, where grapes are grown. **Numbers 13:23-24**
2. Israel was said to be the vineyard of the Lord of hosts. **Isaiah 5:7**
3. Yet Hosea cries out in chapter 10, "*Israel is an empty vine...*"
4. In this lesson we will embark on a fascinating study as we consider Israel as the vine of God.
5. As we follow the illustration of the vine, it will provide for us a complete understanding of Israel's history and future.

Israel, a vine planted by God.

1. Hosea says that Israel is an empty vine.
2. There was fruit, but no fruit that you would expect from a vine. God knew what kind of fruit to expect because He is the One that planted Israel as a vine.
Jeremiah 2:21
3. **Psalm 80:8 & 15** teach that God brought a vine (Israel) out of Egypt and planted it.
 - Why do you plant a vine? You are looking for fruit.
 - God planted Israel in Canaanland as a vineyard to bring forth fruit unto Himself.
4. He expected the fruit of a righteous nation that would bring glory to Him.
Isaiah 5:7

Israel, a vine blessed by God.

1. There was no reason for Israel to not bring forth fruit, because God Himself was the vinedresser that planted the vine of Israel. **Psalm 80:8-9**
2. God had caused it to take deep root and fill the land. God had blessed the nation of Israel abundantly. **Psalm 80:10-11; cf. 1 Kings 4:20-21, 25, 29-31, 34**
3. But in the midst of all this blessing came a warning. **1 Kings 9:4-9**

Israel, a vine bringing forth defiled fruit to God.

1. Under the law God told Israel to never sow their vineyard with two different kinds of seeds, lest the fruit of their vineyard be defiled. **Deuteronomy 22:9**
2. This is exactly what Israel had done, spiritually speaking. God had planted the seed of true worship, but Israel had planted the seed of idolatry with it. Israel's heart was divided (**Hosea 10:2**) and the result was defiled fruit.
3. They had taken the blessings of God and used them to increase their pagan altars and images. **Hosea 10:1, 13, cf. 2:8**
4. In **Isaiah 5:1-4** God is seen lamenting the defiled fruit that Israel had brought forth.
 - "*What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?*"
 - "*wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, it brought forth wild grapes.*"
5. God had planted Israel a noble vine and a right seed, but it had turned into a degenerate plant of a strange vine unto God. **Jeremiah 2:21**
6. Christian, did you know that God saved you with the expectation of some fruit?

- God placed His very Spirit in you and longs to see the fruit of the Spirit evidenced in your life. **Galatians 5:22-23**
- God saved you so that you would bring forth fruit that would be to the glory and praise of His name. **Philippians 1:11**
- Once you know the grace of God, it should bring forth precious fruit. **Colossians 1:5-6; Romans 6:20-22**

Israel, a vine judged by God.

1. Vineyards were hedged or fenced to protect them from wild animals.
2. Because Israel had become a degenerate plant and brought forth defiled fruit, God would take down the hedges He had built around His people. **Isaiah 5:5-6; Psalm 80:12, 13, 16**
3. This is primarily the subject of Hosea 10. God would take away their king (vs. 3, 7, 15), their idols (vs. 2, 5-6, 8), their fortresses (vs. 14), and Israel would be destroyed and taken away captive by the Assyrians (vs. 6).
4. Their own stubbornness and self-will would lead to chastisement (vs. 10) and judgment (vs. 13).

Israel, a vine restored by God.

1. Will Israel ever be the fruitful vine that God intended for them to be in the earth?
2. The Bible clearly teaches that they will be. **Hosea 14:4-7; Zechariah 8:1-13; Romans 11:25-27**
3. What will it take to restore Israel to the place of blessing and fruitfulness? Psalm 80 holds the key.
 - God must return from heaven. The believing remnant cries out, "*Return ...and visit this vine.*" vs. 14
 - The Son of man, Jesus Christ, will in fact return in the last days, quicken the believing remnant of Israel, and save them. vs. 17-19
4. Israel failed to be the fruitful vine that God intended for them to be. So Jesus Christ came and declared, "*I am the true vine.*" John 15:1
 - In other words, fruitfulness and blessing is to be found in Him. If Israel is to have any hope of seeing their glorious kingdom restored and becoming the vine of blessing to the whole earth, it is only to be found in Christ.
5. In the last days, those in Israel who will not recognize Jesus Christ as the vine will be cast forth and destroyed. **John 15:6; Matthew 13:41-43**
6. Those in Israel who abide not in unbelief (**Romans 11:23-24**) but abide in Christ will become one with the vine, and Israel will become the fruitful vine that God intended for them to be. **John 15:4-5**

In Conclusion:

1. The church is never referred to as a vineyard or vine, only Israel.
2. But Christian, there is great application for us:
 - The only way that we can possibly bring forth fruit unto God is through the grace and power of Jesus Christ. Just like Israel, we must realize that all blessing and fruitfulness is to be found in Him. **Philippians 1:11**
 - As we are strengthened by **His** glorious power, Christ makes us fruitful in every good work. **Colossians 1:10-11**