THE PARABLE OF **THE VINEYARD**

By William T. Barrett

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ISAIAH 5: Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein : and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 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, brought it forth wild grapes ? 5 And now go to ; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard : I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down : 6 And I will lay it waste : it shall not be pruned, nor digged ; but there shall come up briers and thorns : I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgement, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

WHAT <u>QUESTIONS</u> DO YOU HAVE ABOUT THIS BIBLE TEXT ?

QUESTIONS:

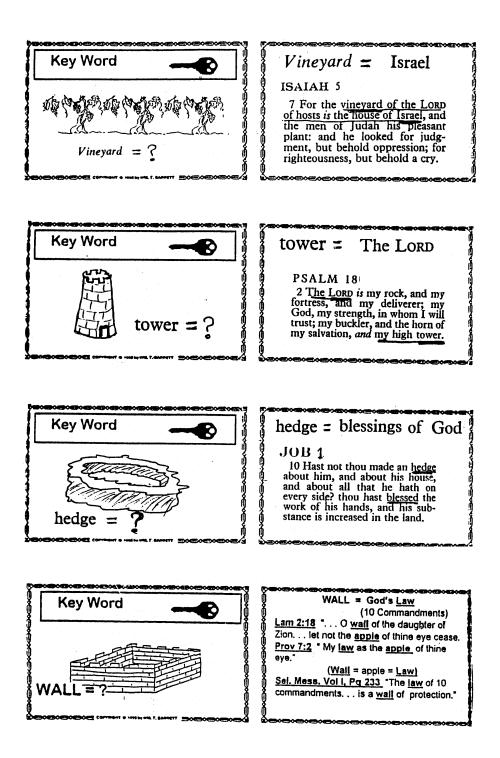
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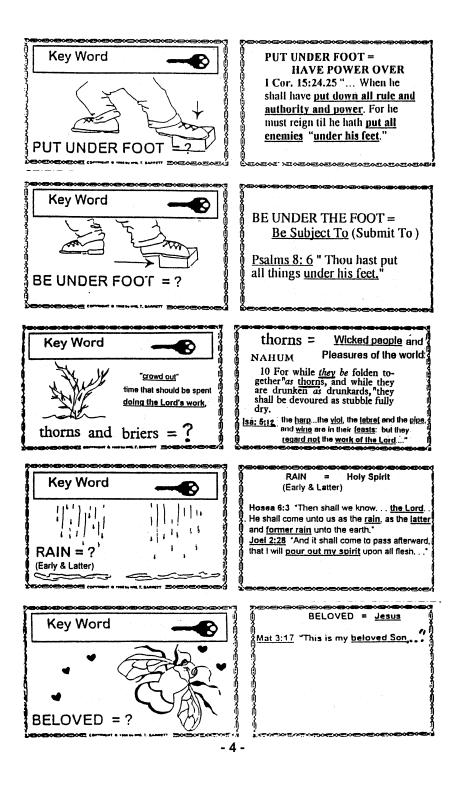
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 Think about the Spiritual: Identify the real objects in the verse: 3. Discover their **Spiritual Meaning**: (See next page for **Bible Word Pictures**)

NOTE IT IS HELPFUL TO UNDERLINE THE REAL OBJECTS IN THE BIBLE TEXT.





ISAIAH 5: Now will I sing to my well **beloved** a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a **tower** in the midst of it, and also made a **winepress** therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vinevard. 4 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, brought it forth wild grapes ? 5 And now go to ; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard : I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down : 6 And I will lay it waste : it shall not be pruned, nor digged ; but there shall come up **briers** and **thorns** : I will also command the clouds that they rain no **rain** upon it. **7** For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant; and he looked for judgement, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT THIS BIBLE TEXT ?

QUESTIONS

- 1 <u>Who</u> is the "**beloved**"?
- 2 <u>What</u> is the "vineyard"?
- 3 <u>What</u> is the significance of having a "**tower**" in the midst of the vineyard ?
- 4 What does it mean to gather out the "stones"?
- 5 What do the "grapes" represent ?
- 6 What is the significance of the "winepress"?
- 7 What does the "**hedge**" represent and when it is <u>removed</u>, what happens ?
- 8 What does the "**wall**" represent and what does it mean for the <u>vineyard</u> to be "**trodden down**"?
- 9 What do the "**thorns and briers**" represent and what is the significance if they are **not removed** ?
- 10 What does the "rain" represent ?

ISAIAH 5 : Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 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, brought it forth wild grapes ? 5 And now go to ; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard : I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down : 6 And I will lay it waste : it shall not be pruned, nor digged ; but there shall come up briers and thorns : I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vinevard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgement, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

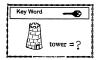
 Think about the Spiritual: Identify the real objects in the verse: 	 Discover their Spiritual Meaning: (By using the Bible Word Pictures
BELOVED	JESUS
VINEYARD	ISRAEL
TOWER	THE LORD SALVATION
HEDGE	BLESSINGS OF GOD
WALL	GOD'S LAW (10 commandments)
TRODDEN DOWN	UNDER SOMEONE POWER
THORNS + BRIERS	
	L PLEASURES OF THE WORLD
RAIN (WITHELD)	(NO) HOLY SPIRIT
GRAPES	?
(WILD) GRAPES	?
WINEPRESS	?
STONES	?

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- 1 <u>Who</u> is the "**beloved**" ? (JESUS)
- 2 <u>What</u> is the "**vineyard**" ? (ISRAEL)
- 3 <u>What</u> is the significance of having a "**tower**" in the midst of the vineyard ? (?)
- 4 What does it mean to <u>gather out</u> the "**stones**" ? (?)
- 5 What do the "**grapes**" represent ? (?)
- 6 What is the significance of the "**winepress**" ? (?)
- 7 What does the "**hedge**" represent and when it is <u>removed</u>, what happens?

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(BLESSINGS OF GOD) (GREAT HARDSHIP)
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- 8 What does the "wall" represent and what does it mean for the <u>vineyard</u> to be "trodden down" ? (LAW OF GOD) (ENEMY HAS POWER OVER)
- 9 What do the "**thorns and briers**" represent and what is the significance if they are **not removed** ?
 (?)
- 10 What does the "**rain**" represent ? (?)



Use the sample of the <u>Concordance</u> below to *discover* the significance of having a "**tower**" in the midst of the vineyard.

TOWER

to, let us build us a city and a <i>t</i>	Gen 11:4	
down to see the city and the t	Gen 11:5 WRITE YOUR DISCOVE	RIES
his tent beyond the <i>t</i> of Edar	Gen 35:21	
peace, I will break down this t	Judg 8:9	
And he beat down the t of Penuel	Judg 8:17	
of the t of Schechem heard that	Judg 9:46	
that all the men of the t of	Judg 9:47	
men of the t of Shechem died also	Judg 6:49	
was a strong <i>t</i> within the city	Judg 9:51	
gat them up to the top of the t	Judg 9:51	
And Abimelech came unto the t	Judg 9:52	
of the <i>t</i> to burn it with fire	Judg 9:52	
horn of my salvation, my high t	2 Sa 22:3	
He is the <i>t</i> of salvation for his	2 Sa 22:51	
And when he came to the <i>t</i> , he took	2 Kin 5:24	
a watchman on the <i>t</i> in Jezreel	2 Kin 9:17	
from the t of the watchmen to the	2 Kin 17:9	
from the t of the watchmen to be	2 Kin 18:8	
the watch <i>t</i> in the wilderness	2 Chr 20:24	
even unto the <i>t</i> of Meah they	Neh 3:1	
it, unto the t of Hananeel	Neh 3:1	
piece, and the <i>t</i> of the furnaces	Neh 3:11	
the <i>t</i> which lieth our from the	Neh 3:25	
the east, and the <i>t</i> that lieth out	Neh 3:26	
the great t that lieth out	Neh 3:27	
from beyond the <i>t</i> of the furnaces	Neh 12:38	
the t of Hananeel	Neh 12:39	
the <i>t</i> of Meah, even unto the	Neh 12:39	
of my salvation, and my high t	Ps 18:2	
a strong <i>t</i> from the enemy	Ps 61:3	
my high <i>t</i> , and my deliverer	Ps 144:2 Prov 18:10	
name of the LORD is a strong t		
Thy neck is like the <i>t</i> of David	Song 4:4	
Thy neck is as a <i>t</i> of ivory thy nose is as the <i>t</i> of Lebanon	Song 7:4 Song 7:4	
And upon every high <i>t</i> , and upon	Is 2:15	
built a <i>t</i> in the midst of it, and	ls 5:2	
I have set thee for a <i>t</i> and a	Jer 6:27	
t of Hananeel unto the gate of	Jer 31:38	
from the <i>t</i> of Syene even unto the	Eze 29:10	
from the <i>t</i> of Syene shall they	Eze 30:6	
O <i>t</i> of the Flock, the strong hold	Mic 4:8	
my watch, and set me upon the t	Hab 2:1	
from the <i>t</i> of Hananeel unto the	Zec 14:10	
a winepress in it, and built a t	Mt 21:33	
for the winefat, and built a t	Mk 12:1	
upon whom the <i>t</i> in Siloam fell,	Lk 13:4	
of you, intending to build a <i>t</i>	Lk 14:28	
	0	

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3 <u>What</u> is the significance of having a "**tower**" in the midst of the vineyard ?

COMPARING SCRIPTURE

2 KINGS 9 : 17 And there **stood** a **watchman** on the **tower** in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, *Is it* peace ?

ISAIAH 21 : 6 For thus hath the Lord said unto me, go, set a **watchman**, let him **declare what he seeth**. **7** And he saw a chariot *with* a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, *and* a chariot of camels ; and he hearkened diligently with much heed : **8** and he cried, a lion : My Lord, **I stand** <u>continually upon the</u> **watchtower** in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights : **9** and, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, *with* a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, **Babylon is fallen**, **is fallen** ; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

EZEKIEL 3 : 17 Son of man, I have made thee a **watchman** unto the house of Israel : therefore **hear the word** at my mouth, and <u>give</u> them warning from me. 18 When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not **warning**, nor <u>speakest to</u> warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life ; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity ; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

PSALM 61 : 3 For **thou** hast been shelter for me, *and* a strong **tower** from the **enemy**.



CONCLUSION

The "**tower**" represents the **Lord**. His "**watchmen**" or <u>ministers</u> or <u>priests</u> are to "**stand** on **Him**" as their <u>strength</u>, <u>rock</u> and <u>salvation</u> !

The Lord, their "tower" would allow them to "see" the enemy and to then warn the people.

The "tower" allowed a "watchman" to see things he could not normally see.

4 What does it mean to gather out the "stones"?

STONY GROUND

Mark 4 : 5 And some fell on **stony** <u>ground</u>, where it had not much earth ; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth. **6** But when the sun was up, it was scorched ; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Ezk 11 : 19 And I will give them <u>one heart</u>, and I will <u>put</u> a **new spirit** within you ; and I will take the **stony** heart out of their flesh, and give them an <u>heart of flesh</u>. **20** That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them...

CONCLUSION

The "**stony**" ground represents a **hard heart**, which is **not willing** to obey God.

The "spirit" in that heart is not God's Spirit.

GOOD GROUND

Luke 8 : 8 And **other** fell on **good** <u>ground</u>, and sprang up, and <u>bare</u> **fruit** an hundred fold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Throughout this parable <u>in each case</u> the "<u>seed</u>" fell <u>upon</u> "**something**" that represented the **condition of a person's heart**. Example: **stony** <u>ground</u>.

Job 42 : 24 His heart is as firm as a stone ; yea as hard as a piece of nether millstone.

Stony ground = (hard) heart

Thus, good ground would again represent the condition of a person's Good ground = (soft) heart

Ezk 36 : 26 A **new heart** also will I give you, and a **new spirit** will I put within you : and I will take away the **stony** <u>heart</u> out of your flesh and give you an <u>heart</u> of **flesh**. (soft heart)

CONCLUSION

The <u>seed</u> only produced <u>fruit</u> when it fell upon <u>good ground</u> Thus the <u>Word</u> (seed) only produces the <u>Christian Virtues</u> (fruit) when it falls upon a "<u>soft</u>" <u>converted heart</u> (good ground).

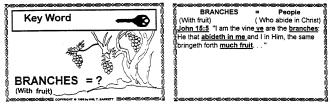
When the "stones" were gathered out of the vineyard, that represented the Lord removing those with hard "stony" hearts from among His people. <u>Only</u> the <u>Lord</u> can look on the <u>heart</u> to see if it is "<u>hard</u>" (stony) or **unconverted** or whether it is "<u>soft</u>" (good ground) or **converted** !

5 What do the "grapes" represent ?

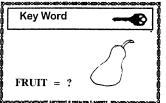


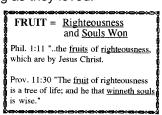
Since the "**vineyard**" represents <u>Israel</u> or "<u>the Church</u>", we would expert that the "**grapes**" or <u>fruit</u> of the vineyard has something to do with the **people**.

Comparing Scriptures:



Hosea 9 : 10 I found **Israel** like **grapes** in the wilderness ; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time : *but* they went to Bāăl-pē-ôr, and separated themselves unto *that* shame; and *their* abominations were according as they loved.





Galatians 5 : 22 But the **fruit** of **Spirit** is : love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...

Ephesians 5 :9 For the **fruit** of **spirit** in all **goodness** and righteousness and **truth**.

Thus, "grapes" represent the **people** and what they are **like**. "Good grapes" having the "fruit" of the <u>Holy Spirit</u> or "Wild" grapes having the <u>character</u> of satan.

Deuteronomy 32: For <u>their vine</u> *is* of <u>the vine</u> of **Sodom**, and of the fields of Gō-mŏr-rǎh : their **grapes** *are* <u>grapes</u> of <u>gall</u>, their clusters *are* bitter : **33** Their <u>wine</u> *is* the <u>poison of dragon</u>, and the cruel venom of asps.

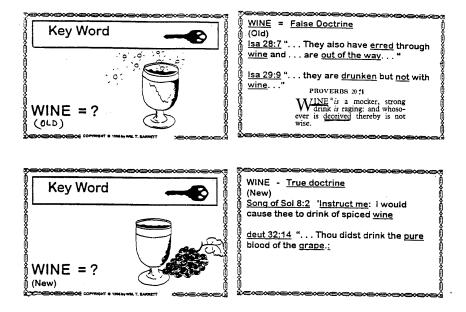
Jeremiah 8 : 13 I will surely <u>consume them</u>, saith the Lord : *there shall* be **no grapes** on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade ; and <u>the things that I have given them</u> shall <u>pass away from them</u>.

6 What is the significance of the "winepress" ?

Hosea 9 Rejoice not, O **Israel**, for joy, as *other* people: for <u>thou</u> <u>hast gone a whoring from thy God</u>, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor. **2** The floor and the **winepress** <u>shall not feed</u> <u>them</u>, and the **new wine shall fail** in her.

Jeremiah 48 : 33 And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab ; and I have caused **wine** to <u>fail</u> from the **winepress** : none shall tread with shouting ; their shouting shall be no shouting.

"Wine" comes from the winepress. "New wine" is true doctrine. If the "wine" is not <u>coming</u> from the winepress, then truth is not being taught.



Thus, **one meaning** of "to **tread** the **winepress**" is to **teach doctrine** to someone.

6 What is the significance of the "winepress" ? (continue)

Isaiah 63 : 2 Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that <u>treadeth in the</u> **winevat** ? 3 I have <u>trodden the</u> **winepress** alone; and of the people *there was* none with me : for <u>I will tread</u> **them** in <u>mine anger</u>, and trample them in my fury ; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For <u>the day of vengeance</u> *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and <u>there was</u> none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold : therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me ; and my fury, it up held me. 6 And <u>I will tread down the people in mine</u> **anger**, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

The "**grapes**" or "**people**" will be trodden in the "**winepress**" by God in <u>His anger</u> and <u>vengeance</u> !

Lamentations 2 : 15 The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty *men* in the midst of me : he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men : <u>the Lord hath</u> trodden <u>the virgin</u>, the daughter of Judah, *as* in a **winepress**. 16 For these *things* I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: <u>my children are desolate</u>, because the <u>enemy prevailed</u>. 17 Zion spreadeth forth her hands, *and there is* none to comfort her: the Lord hath commanded concerning Jacob, *that* his adversaries *should be* round about him: Jerusalem is a menstruous woman among them.

The people of the Lord have sinned against Him.

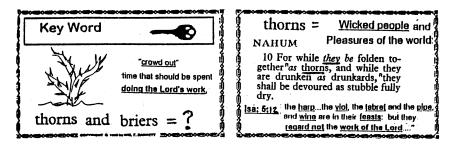
Revelation 14 : 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire ; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, <u>thrust in thy sharp sickle</u>, and gather the <u>clusters</u> <u>of the vine</u> of the earth ; for her **grapes** are <u>fully ripe</u>. **19** And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and <u>gathered the vine</u> of the earth, and <u>cast *it*</u> into the <u>great</u> **winepress** of the wrath of God.

Revelation 19 : 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations : and he shall rule them with a rod of iron : and he <u>treadeth the winepress</u> of the fierceness and **wrath of Almighty God**.

The **harvest** of the **grapes** will take place and those who have **sinned against Him** will suffer His **wrath** in the <u>great</u> "**winepress**" of the **judgement** !

The <u>second meaning</u> of "to **tread** the **winepress**" represents the **judgement** and **wrath** of God poured out upon the **wicked**.

9 What do the "**thorns and briers**" represent and what is the significance if they are **not removed** ?



The "thorns" and "briers" represent wicked people and the pleasures of this world.

When **wicked people** are allowed to <u>remain</u> in the church, **they** <u>influence other people</u> to **do wrong**.

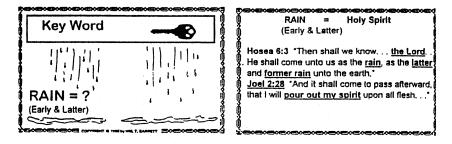
When God's people allow the **pleasures** <u>of this</u> **world** to take up <u>so much of their</u> **time** that they <u>do</u> **not** <u>have</u> **time** to **study Gods' Word**, they are being **choked** by "**thorns**" !!

Even good things can take up too much time !

10 What does the "rain" represent ?

The "rain" represents the Holy Spirit.

The command to "withhold the rain" signifies the removal of the Holy Spirit from the people.



Jeremiah 3 : 3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain ; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

ISAIAH 5: Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 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, brought it forth wild grapes ? 5 And now go to : I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard : I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down : 6 And I will lay it waste : it shall not be pruned, nor digged ; but there shall come up briers and thorns : I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant; and he looked for judgement. but behold oppressions; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

2. Think about the Spiritua Identify the real objects in the verse:	
THE BELOVED	JESUS
VINEYARD	ISRAEL
TOWER	THE LORD (our strength and salvation)
WINEPRESS	JUDGEMENT + WRATH OF GOD
GRAPES	GOD'S OBEDIENT PEOPLE
WILD GRAPES	GOD'S DISOBEDIENT PEOPLE
HEDGE	BLESSINGS OF GOD
TRODDEN DOWN	UNDER SOMEONE'S POWER
THORNS + BRIERS	wicked people + pleasures of the world
RAIN (WITHELD)	HOLY SPIRIT (WITHELD)
GATHER OUT STONES	REMOVE UNCONVERTED PEOPLE

4. Substitute the Spiritual Meaning for the Real Objects

PARAPHRASE

I will tell you the story of **Jesus** (beloved) and <u>His people Israel</u> (vineyard). Jesus <u>protected</u> Israel (fenced vineyard). He <u>removed</u> the **unconverted** (gathered out stones), from their midst and left only those who were <u>converted</u> (choicest vine).

He offered his <u>strength</u> and <u>salvation</u> (tower) to them and expected that the <u>leaders and teachers</u> would <u>watch and warn</u> the people (tower).

He told them of the judgement to come (winepress). When the time of <u>harvest</u> came, he expected <u>his people</u> (grapes) to have the **fruits** of **the Spirit** (grapes) and to have won <u>many converts</u> (grapes).

Instead, they had become <u>disobedient and wicked</u> (wild grapes). After doing all that he could for them, he finally <u>removed his</u> <u>blessings</u> (take away hedge) because <u>His law</u> (wall) that had protected them, was no longer kept (wall broken down).

He no longer <u>removed</u> wicked people (thorns not removed) from their midst and the people, following their bad example, spent their time on the pleasures of the world (thorns not removed), instead of working for the Lord.

Finally, the Lord <u>removed His Holy Spirit</u> from them (command no rain to fall), and said that **Israel** would be **under the power of** others (vineyard trodden down).

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable : There was a certain householder which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a **tower**, and let it out to **husbandmen**, and went into a far country. 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the **fruits** of it. **35** And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, they will reverence my son, **38** But when the husbandmen saw the **son**, they said among themselves, this is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. **39** And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, did ve never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes ? 43 Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

PARAPHRASE

(householder) (vineyard)
God took the people of Israel and gave them his
(hedge) (winepress)
blessing and protect. He warned them of the judgement that would
come upon them if they disobeyed Him, He offered them his
(tower) (husbandmen)
strength and salvation. He expected the <u>leaders and teachers</u> (<u>fruits)</u>
to prepare His people so that He might receive them. Then, He sent
(servants) (husbandmen)
His prophets to warn the leaders and teachers to turn from their evil
(husbandmen)
ways. But, the leaders and teachers beat, stoned, and killed
(servants) (servants)
His <u>prophets</u> . God sent other <u>prophets</u> and they did the (His Son)
same things to them ! Then, God sent <u>Jesus</u> , saying they
(husbandmen)
will listen and respect My Son, but the <u>leaders and teachers</u> killed (son)
Jesus the heir of the Kingdom of Heaven !
THEREFORE : Because of what you have done, the kingdom of God shall be <u>taken</u> <u>irom you</u> , <u>Israel</u> , and given to another nation, which will bring forth fruit for me !
The Son = Jesus

Acts 8 : 37 ... Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

(husbandman = teacher)

2 Tim 2 : 2 ... faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also,6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

