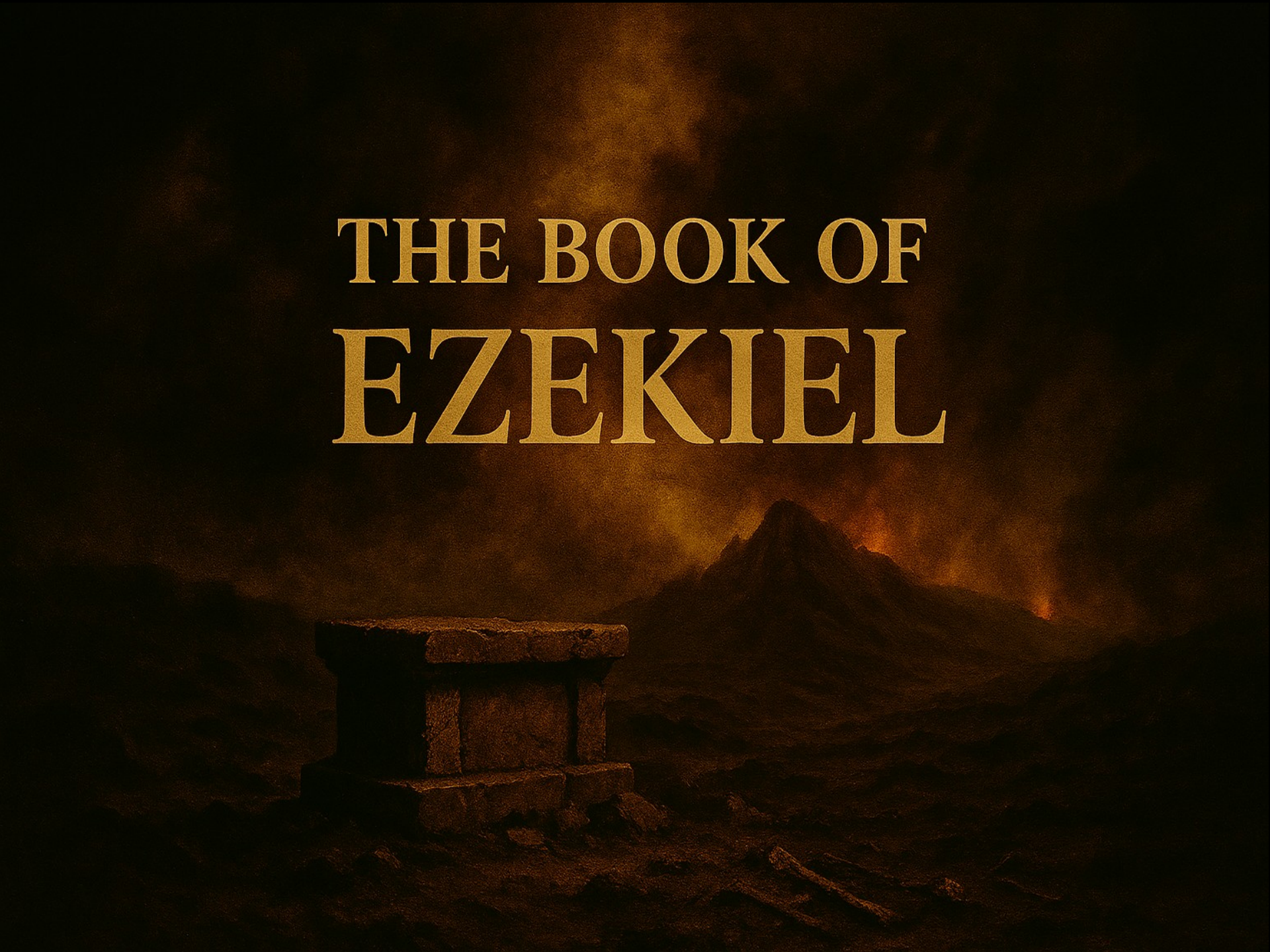

THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL

Lessons To Remember

- *1. Not all preachers are cast in a common mold: We must not expect it nor despise those who are different from our favorite.*
- *2. God desires the salvation of all men.*
- *3. Each man must bear the responsibility for his own sin (18:20).*
- *4. Anyone can condemn his enemies, but it takes a great man to rebuke his friends.*
- *5. The terrific responsibility that rests upon God's messengers should cause them to remain faithful.*
- *6. The church in every age needs hard-headed preachers like Ezekiel.*

Lessons To Remember

- *7. The minister must not let personal griefs and disappointments injure his ministry.*
- *8. The work of preaching God's message is no bed of roses. Sometimes God's man finds himself among scorpions.*
- *9. As a faithful watchman, the preacher must warn the sinner of his folly.*
- *10. Before one can be effective as a teacher, he must see the problem from the other man's point of view.*
- *11. The fall of Judah was not due to God's weakness or some failure on his part, but because of their sins.*

Lessons To Remember

- *12. God will not always strive with sinful men.*
- *13. Israel had to learn that they had not been chosen to rule the world but to lead men to the knowledge of the one God.*
- *14. What He cannot do for us (because of us) He can do for his own name-sake.*
- *15. Israel was not God's elected favorite, but His selected servant (Harrell).*
- *16. God wants us to see His great love as shown in the story of the good shepherd.*
- *17. Here we see the value of repentance and forgiveness.*

Lessons To Remember

- *18. Before they could hope to return to Jerusalem they had to return to God -- so also must we.*
- *19. It is personal faith and obedience, not ancestry, that determines our standing before God (18:1-32):*
- *20. From God flows the life-giving stream that will heal and save all who come to it and drink:*
- *21. God works his will among the nations that the world may know that He is Jehovah.*
- *22. The exile was an act of grace on God's part. The real sinners were left in Jerusalem for fiery punishment.*

Lessons To Remember

- *23. One day, God's people will live with him in the heavenly city, Jehovah-Shammah (48:35)*
  - "The LORD is there"
- *24. "It is the prophet who has raised the race from ignoble sleep, has filled its imagination with lofty ideals, has moved it for costly sacrifices, has led it to victory" (John Watson).*

  - *List complied by John H. Waddey*

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Chapter 15

The Parable of the Vine
that would not bear fruit

Scriptural Idioms of Israel

There are at least 4 idioms for Israel :

- 1) The Olive Tree
- 2) The Fig Tree
- 3) The Vine
- 4) The Bramble Bush

Parable of Jotham
Judges 9:7-15

Parable of Jotham

Judges 9:7-15

- The **Olive Tree** as an idiom of the covenant relationship between YHWH and Israel:
  Rom 11 & Jer 11
- The **Fig Tree** is a common idiom which speaks of Israel in a national sense:
  Matt 24:32
- The Vine speaks of the Spiritual relationship between Israel and YHWH & the divine mission
- Isa 5 & Hos 10
- The **Bramble Bush** is idiomatic of Israel in terms of their failure: Jdg 9:14,15

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

Ezekiel 15:1-2

- The vine is one of the figures of the nation Israel. *"For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel …"* Isa. 5:7; cf. Gen 49:22; Deut 32:32; Hos 10:1; Isa 5:1-7; Jer 2:21; Ezk 17:6; Ps 80:8-16
- What is more special about a vine than other trees?
- Nothing…
- …other than when it fulfills its purpose!

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

Ezekiel 15:1-2

- What is the purpose of a vine?
- To produce fruit!

3 Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will
men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon?
4 Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire
devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is
burned. Is it meet for any work?

Ezekiel 15:1-4

- Is it useful for anything else?
- Can it be used fashioned into anything useful?
- No!
- It is useless (unless it is fulfilling its purpose!)

5 Behold, when it was whole, it was meet for no work:
how much less shall it be meet yet for any work,
when the fire hath devoured it, and it is burned?
6 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; As the vine tree
among the trees of the forest, which I have given to
the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of
Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 15:5-6

- The purpose of vine is not furniture, et al: it either produces fruit, or is burnt up in fire…
- Ezekiel uses this powerful analogy to humble the proud in Israel who saw themselves as *God's elected favorite, rather than His selected servant*

7 And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I set my face against them.

8 And I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 15:7-8

- Consider here the end for an unfruitful vine!
- What is the implication for us?
- What will be the end for Israel?

I I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:1

- ἀληθινός Gr. *Alēthinos*
- 'That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine'
  - Opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended
  - It contrasts realities with their semblances
  - Opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain

Vines

- There are two other vines in scripture:
- One was *divinely appointed* to lead men to God
  - Psalm 80:8-15 (Israel)
- The other *professed* to lead men to ‘God’
  - Revelation 14:9 (The Vine of the Earth)
- Both of these failed to led men to God, so Jesus came as the true Vine
  - He was not imperfect or defective
  - He was without deceit
- He completed the work of leading men to God!

Degenerate Plant

8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast
cast out the heathen, and planted it.
9 Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to
take deep root, and it filled the land.
10 The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the
boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.
11 She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her
branches unto the river.

Psalm 80:8-15

Degenerate Plant

12 Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that
all they which pass by the way do pluck her?
13 The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild
beast of the field doth devour it.
14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down
from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;
15 And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted,
and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

Psalm 80:8-15

Degenerate Plant

1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my
beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved 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.

Isaiah 5:1-7

Degenerate Plant

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?

Isaiah 5:1-7

Degenerate Plant

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.

Isaiah 5:1-7

Degenerate Plant

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 judgment, but behold oppression; for
righteousness, but behold a cry.

Isaiah 5:1-7

Degenerate Plant

21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Jeremiah 2:21

Degenerate Plant

- Israel were to be a witness to the nations, testifying to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- Through this vine, the nations were to come to the knowledge & fear of the One true God
- But... Israel (through disobedience) became a degenerate plant, thus a byword & proverb
- Rather than being a witness they brought God's name into disrepute
- However, the Jewish religious leaders still thought they were the only way to God
  - This is the pride Ezekiel is addressing

National Warning #1

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 3:9-10

National Warning #2

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.

Matthew 21:33-43

National Warning #2

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.

Matthew 21:33-43

National Warning #2

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.

Matthew 21:33-43

National Warning #2

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.

Matthew 21:33-43

- Who is now producing 'fruit' for the Lord of the vineyard?
- The Church – this is the season of the gentiles

National Warning #2

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye 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 marvellous 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.

Matthew 21:33-43

The 'nation' to whom the kingdom of God is given will bring forth the fruit that Israel failed to do

A Holy Nation!

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

1 Peter 2:9

7 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God

Romans 7:4

National Warning #2

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be
broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind
him to powder.
45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had
heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of
them.

Matthew 21:44-45

Vines

- There are two other vines in scripture:
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  - Revelation 14:9 (The Vine of the Earth)
- Both of these failed to led men to God, so Jesus came as the true Vine
  - He was not imperfect or defective
  - He was without deceit
- He completed the work of leading men to God!

Vine of Deception

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, Thrust in thy
sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of
the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.
19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth,
and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into
the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:18-19

Vine of Deception

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Rev 14:8

- Babylon is representative of the apostate religious system
  - which began & ends there (Babel)

Vine of Deception

- This ‘Babylonian’ vine is the epitome false religion
  - Began with Cush, founder of Babel
    - Hermes – ‘son of Ham’
    - ‘Confounder’ (Jer 50:2)
  - Established by Nimrod (Bar-Cush)
  - Propagated by Semaramis
- It promises a way to spiritual security...
- ...but leads to destruction & the cup of wrath of God
  - cf. Numbers 5: ‘Penalty for Adultery’

The True Vine

So... in John 15,

- It is in contrast to these two vines ...
  - Vine of Israel
  - Vine of the Earth
    - ...neither of which can lead anyone to the Father
- ...that Jesus says:
- 'I AM the true (without defect or deceit) Vine'

Note:

- A vine produces that which is presented to a king

I *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

John 15:1

- Lessons for the Church…

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:2

1) What does it mean for an unfruitful branch to be taken away?
   - Is Jesus referring to believers or unbelievers?
2) What does it mean for fruitful branches to be purged?
3) What is the fruit that should be produced?

The Fruit

"Being a disciple is not to be a 'spectator sport'; active participation is mandated. Whilst we can do nothing to earn our salvation (Eph 2:8), bearing fruit is the evidence that our faith and profession are genuine.

The fruit (whilst almost certainly manifesting itself through good works) is not works themselves, but the 'peaceable fruit of righteousness' (Heb 12:11).

The Fruit

"I do not believe that the fruit mentioned here refers to soul-winning, as so many people seem to think. I believe soul-winning is a by-product but not the fruit itself.

The fruit is the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . ." (Gal. 5:22–23).

This is fruit in the life of the believer. Abiding in Christ will produce effectual prayer, perpetual fruit, and celestial joy:."

J Vernon McGee

A Clear Distinction!

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather
grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither
can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matt 7:16-22

- If there is no fruit, you have to question the connection to the Root!

Abiding In Christ

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear
fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can
ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in
me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

A Warning Against Complacency

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast,
thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.
19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off,
that I might be graffed in.
20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and
thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Rom 11:15-24

A Warning Against Complacency

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.
22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Rom 11:15-24

- Do not make the same mistake as the proud Jews in Ezekiel's day!
- As gentiles we are not now God's elected favorite!
- Rather, we can by faith be His selected servant

A Warning Against Complacency

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree?

Rom 11:15-24

- Note: The hope for the Nation of Israel in v24!

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

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John 15:2

- Purgeth? A strange, but carefully chosen word
- Gr. *kathairō*, which means ‘to cleanse’
- Lit. drain poison from the system
- This is what our Husbandman does with us
- The process is called ‘Sanctification’
- It causes us to bear more fruit

Purging

- Many times in our Christian walk, our Heavenly Father will cut us back to the Root.
- We can get so absorbed in our daily routine, or our ministry etc., that we forget that first and foremost, our Heavenly Father simply wants us to have a relationship of abiding in Christ
  - Cf Martha and Mary (Luke 10:40)

Purging

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after
their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we
might be partakers of his holiness.
11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be
joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it
yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto
them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:10-11

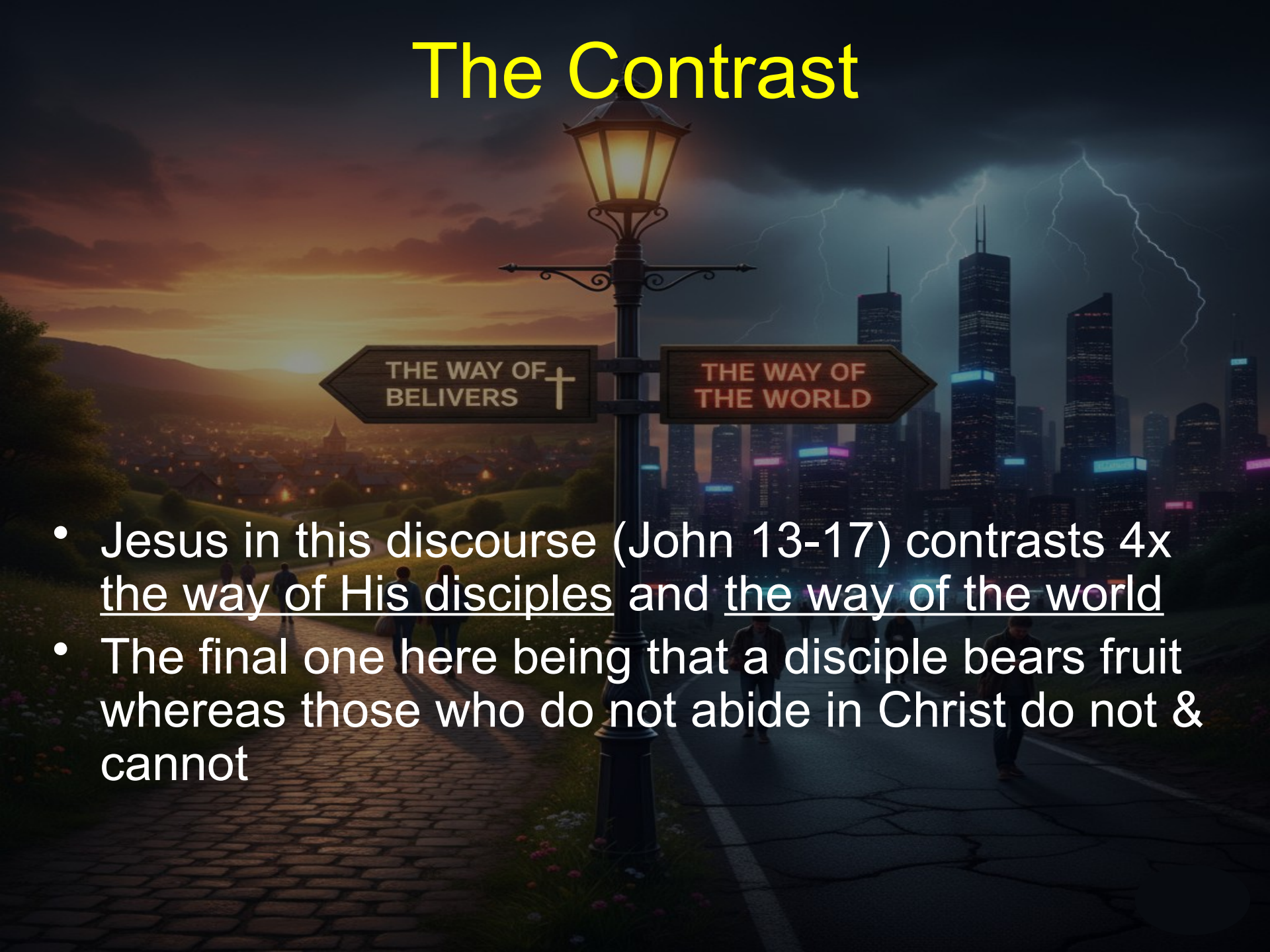
- Gr. *paideuo*, discipline, correction

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The Contrast



- Jesus in this discourse (John 13-17) contrasts 4x <u>the way of His disciples</u> and <u>the way of the world</u>
- The final one here being that a disciple bears fruit whereas those who do not abide in Christ do not & cannot

The Saved & The Perishing

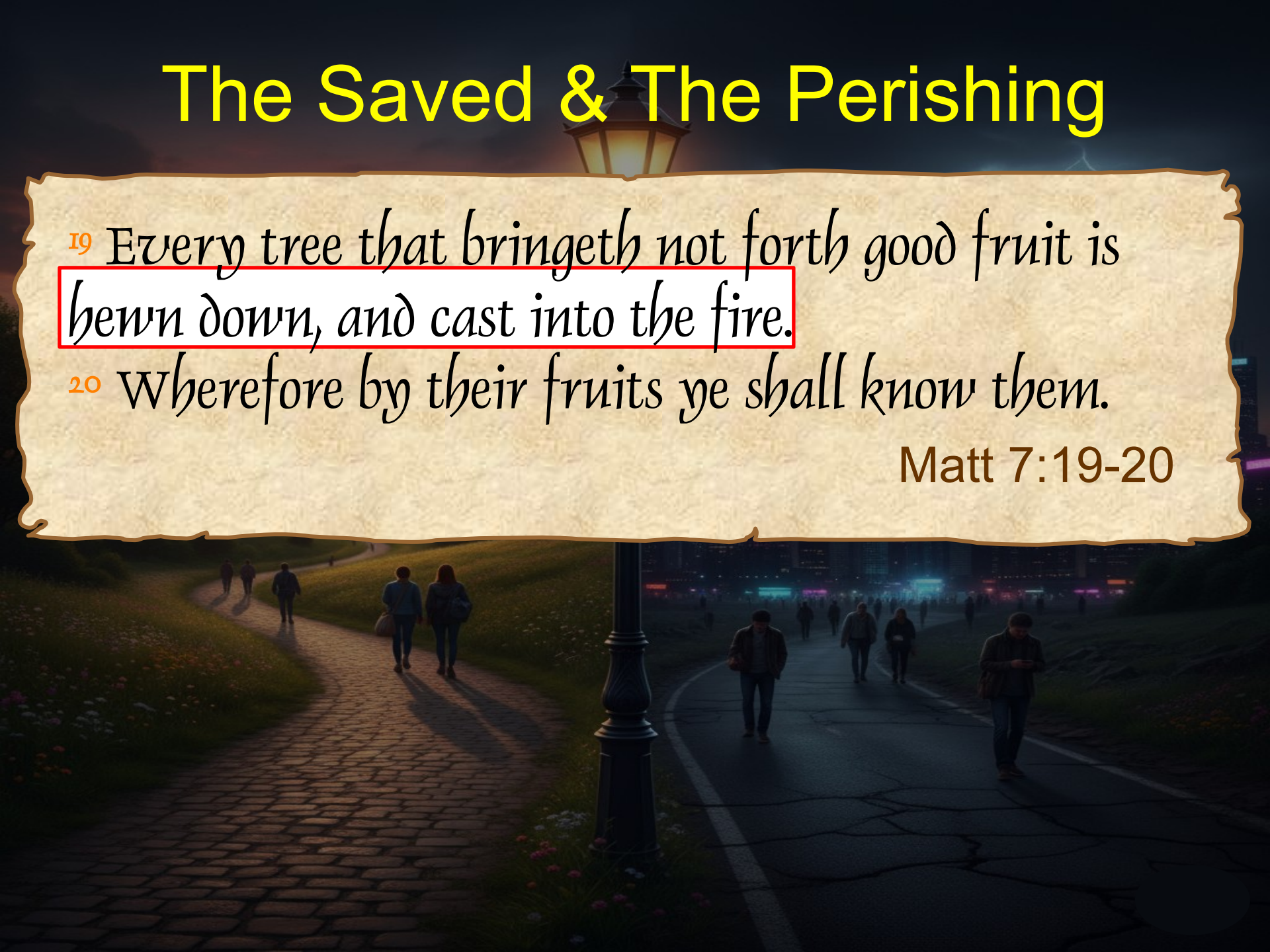
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Matt 7:16-22

The Saved & The Perishing

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is
hewn down, and cast into the fire.
20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matt 7:19-20



6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:6

- We each have a choice of abiding in Christ
- If we choose not to…
  - *If we chose not to fulfil the purpose for which we were created…*
- We are not fitted for any other purpose…
- We devalue ourselves and the only option for us is to be cast into the fire

Summary

"In John 15:1-6, Jesus effectively underlines that which He already told the disciples, that He was the *only* way to the Father (John 14:6). Israel were no longer a vine whose fruit would lead the nations to the Father. Neither could the vine of the earth (Rev 14:19) bear any good spiritual fruit. The only Vine of value was the True Vine. Through His propitiation for the whole world (1 John 2:2), all mankind now had the opportunity of abiding in the Vine. However, if any branch abide not in the Vine, it would be spiritually fruitless, and therefore taken away to wither and finally be burned.

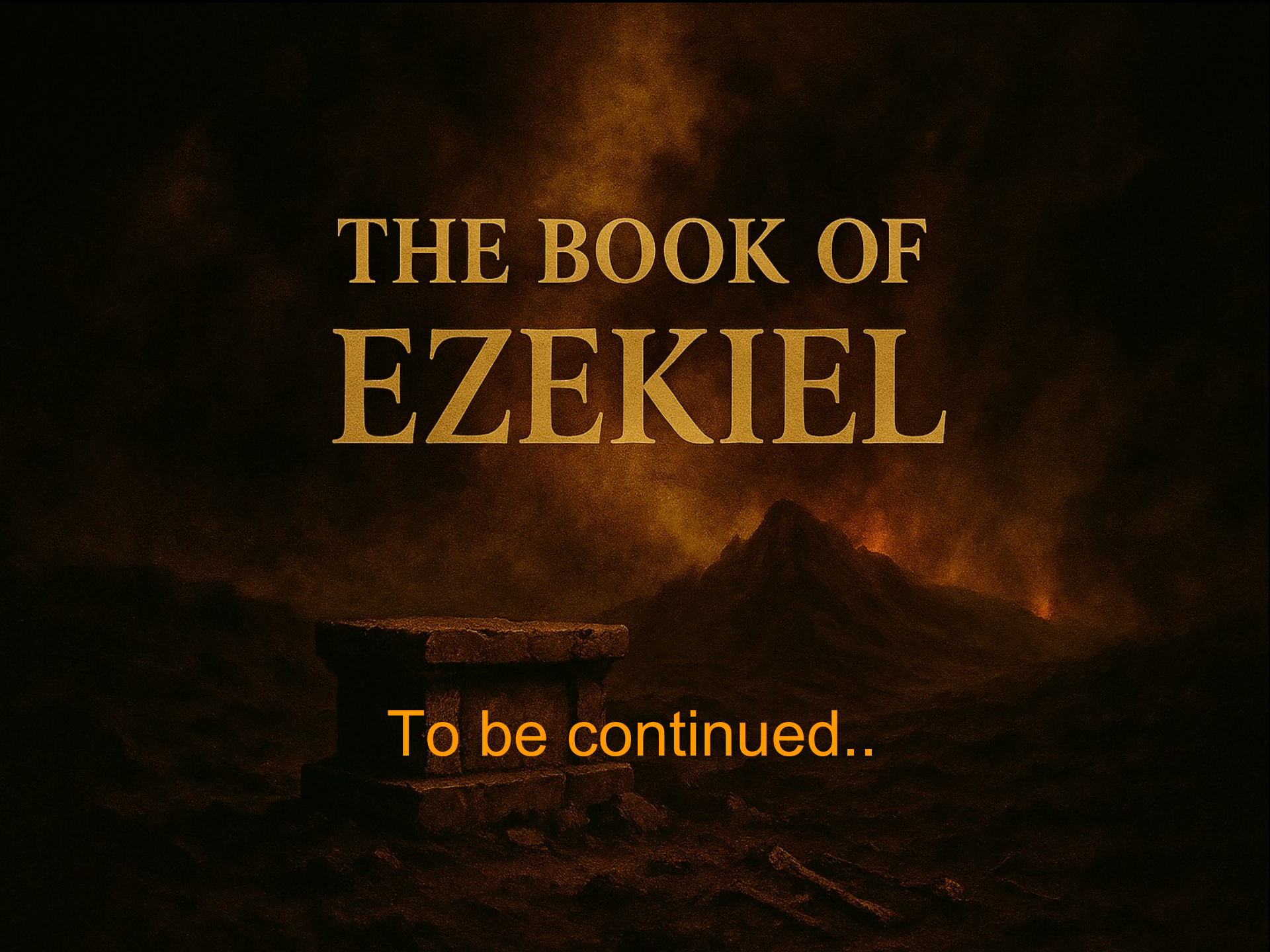
What an incredible picture of the person who rejects Christ!

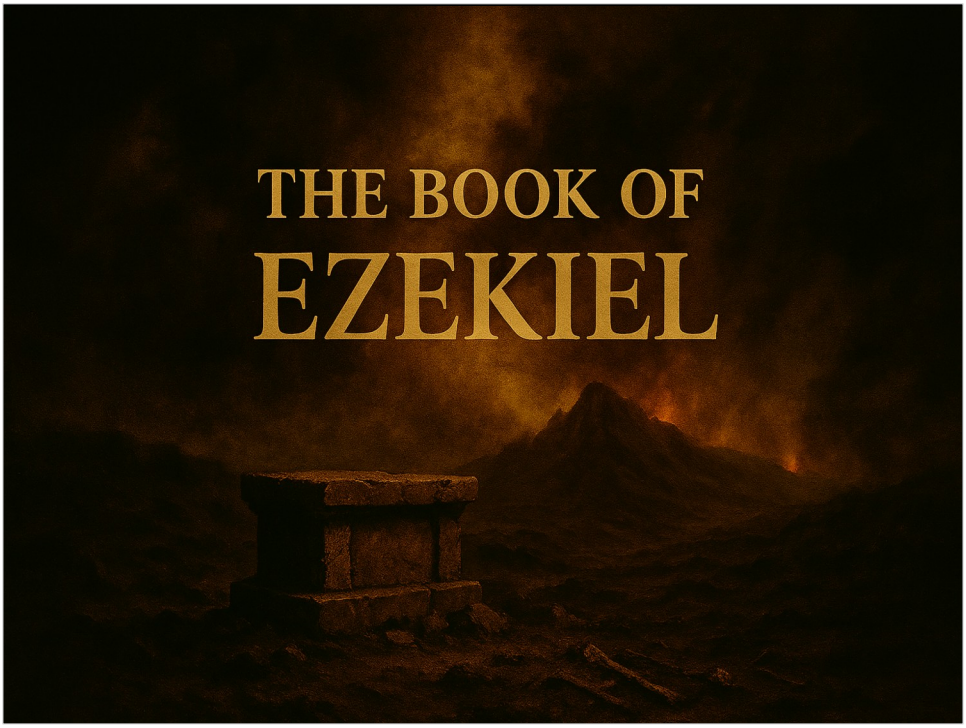
CC Poole: Study Notes on John 15:6

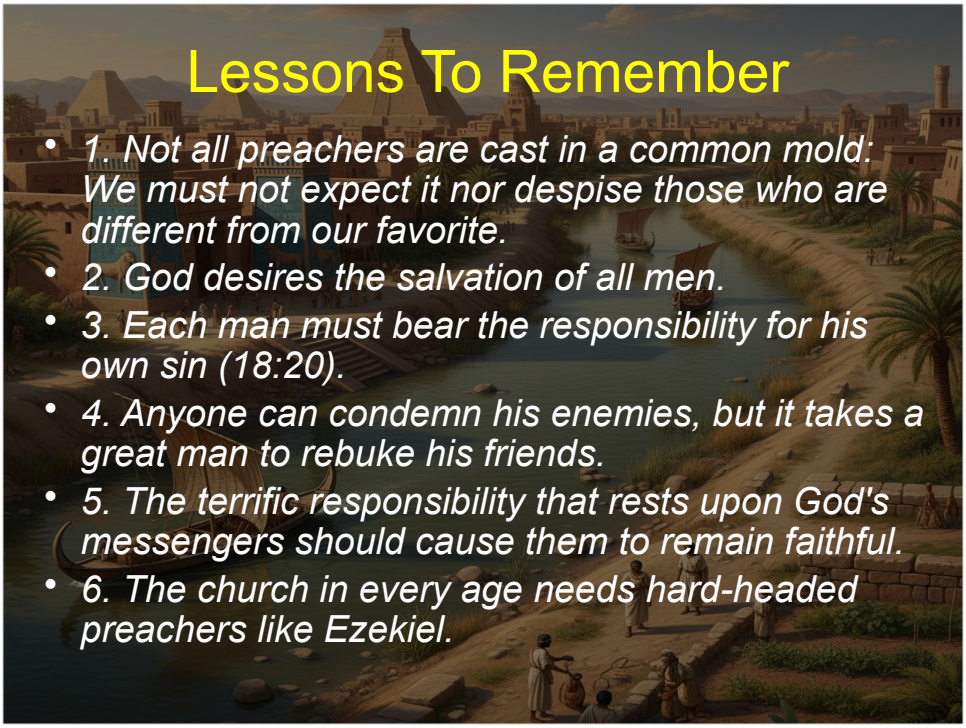
The Hope for Israel

16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the
rebuke of thy countenance.
17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,
upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for
thyself.
18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we
will call upon thy name.
19 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to
shine; and we shall be saved.

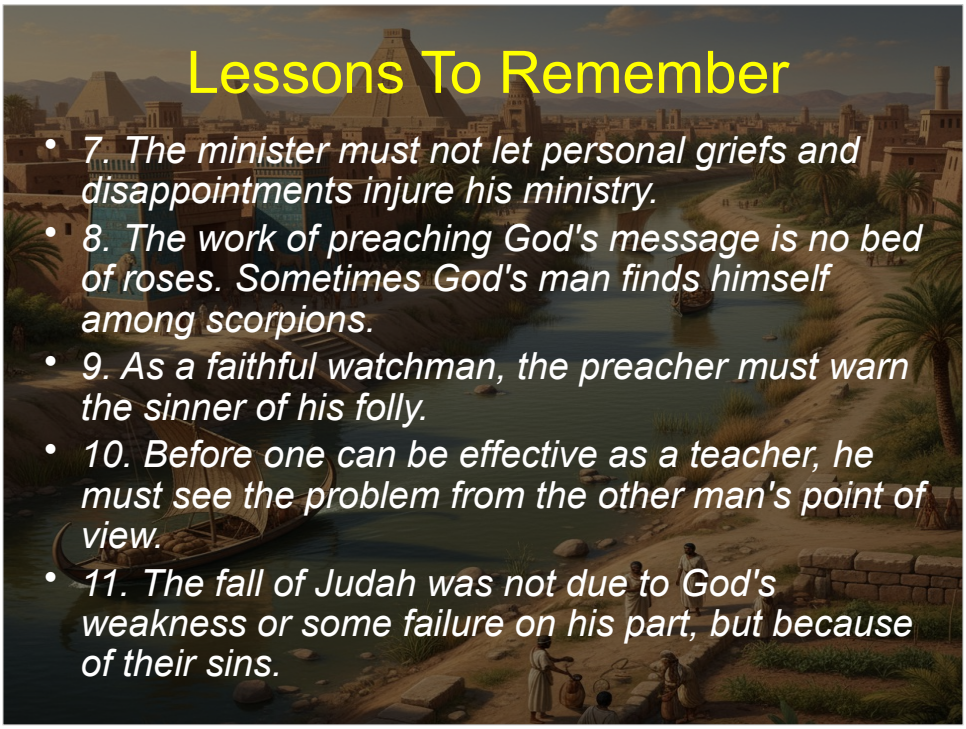
Psalm 80:16-19


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To be continued..

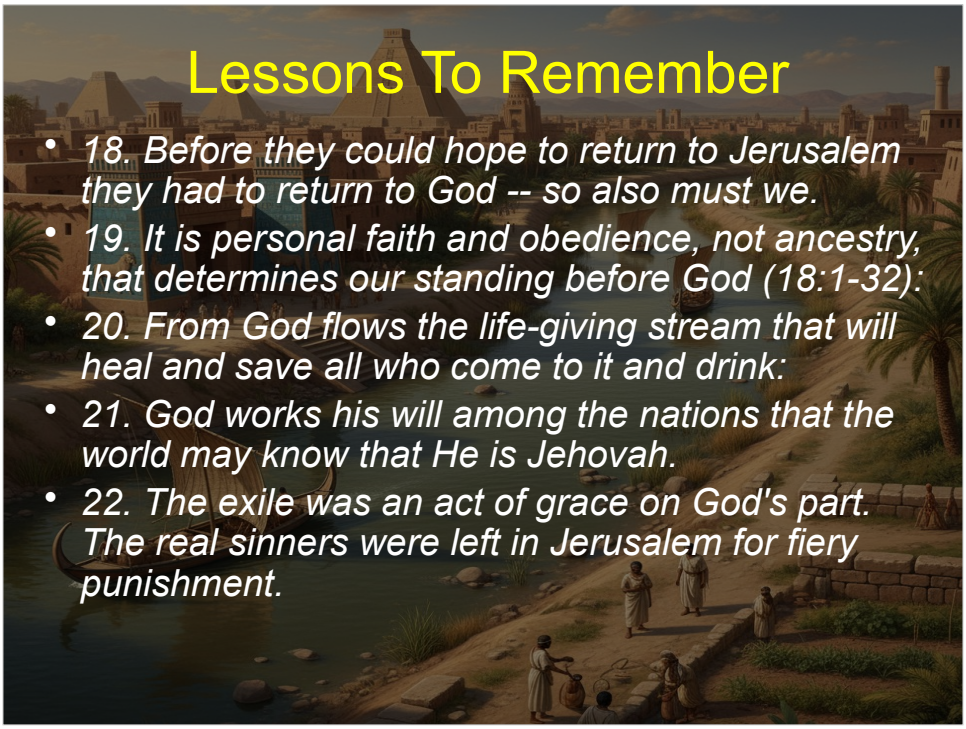

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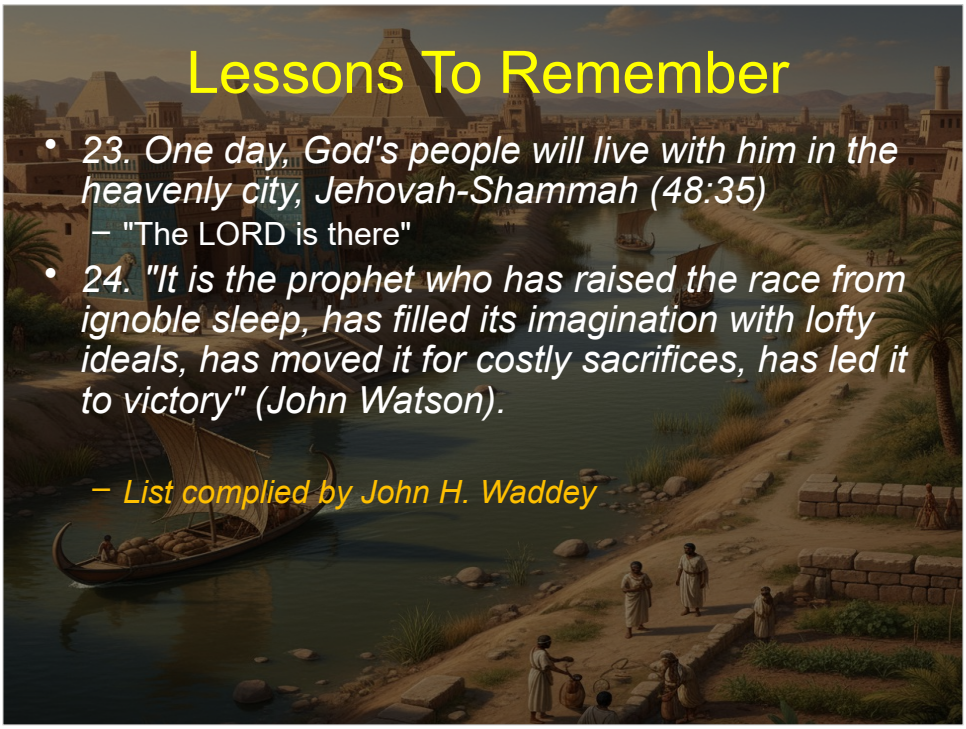


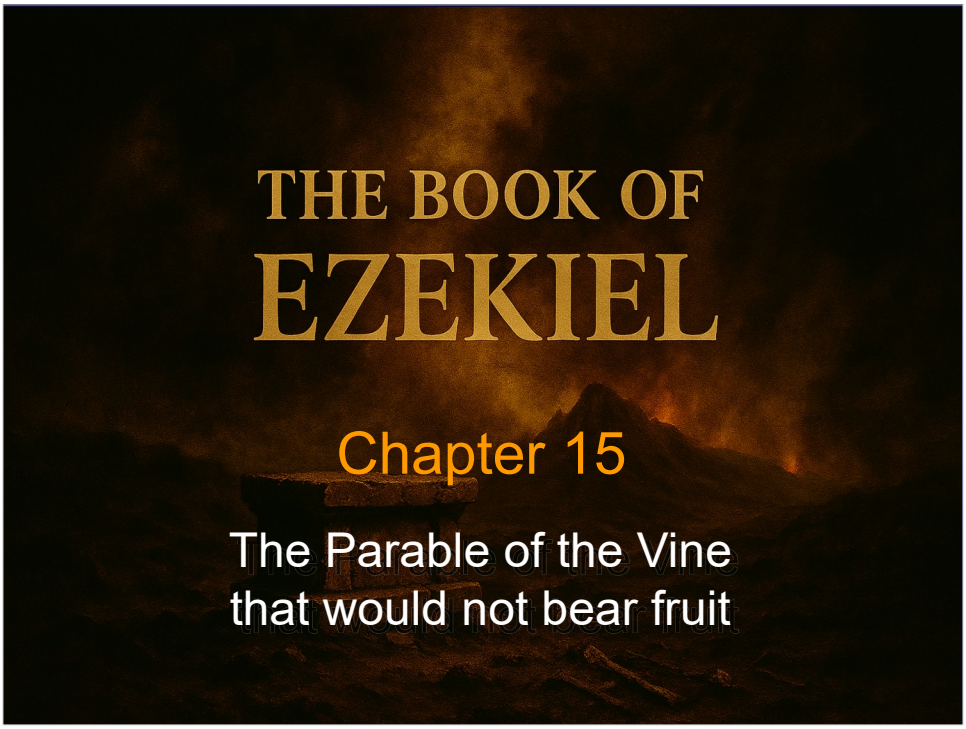
John H Waddey


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  Rom 11 & Jer 11
- The **Fig Tree** is a common idiom which speaks of Israel in a national sense:
  Matt 24:32
- The Vine speaks of the Spiritual relationship between Israel and YHWH & the divine mission
- Isa 5 & Hos 10
- The **Bramble Bush** is idiomatic of Israel in terms of their failure: Jdg 9:14,15

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

Ezekiel 15:1-2

- The vine is one of the figures of the nation Israel. *"For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel …"* Isa. 5:7; cf. Gen 49:22; Deut 32:32; Hos 10:1; Isa 5:1-7; Jer 2:21; Ezk 17:6; Ps 80:8-16
- What is more special about a vine than other trees?
- Nothing…
- …other than when it fulfills its purpose!

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

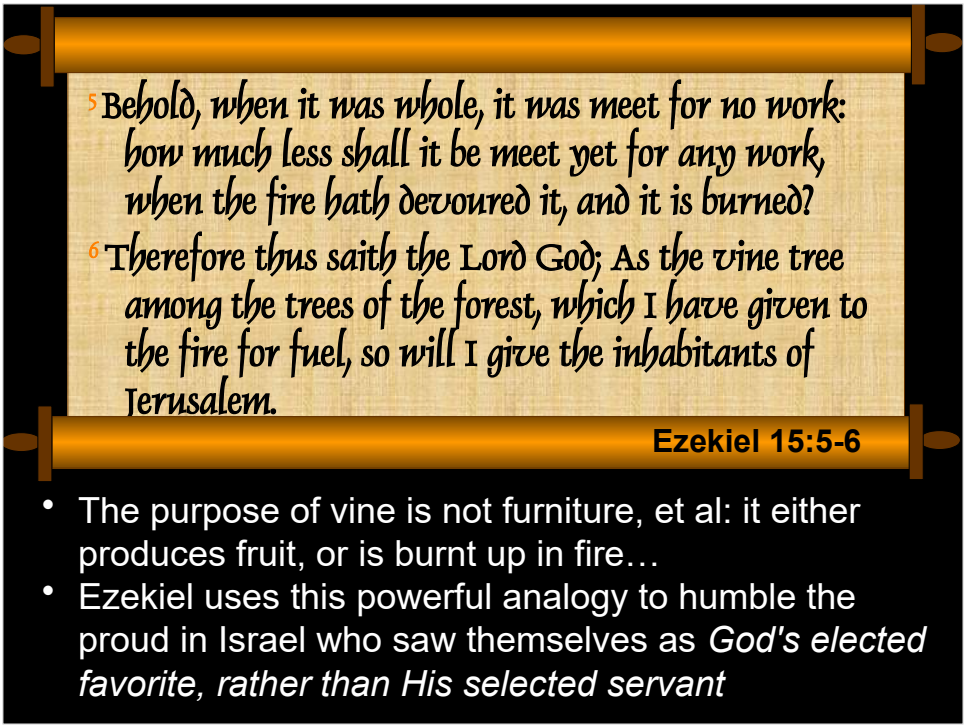
Ezekiel 15:1-2

- What is the purpose of a vine?
- To produce fruit!

3 Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will
men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon?
4 Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire
devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is
burned. Is it meet for any work?

Ezekiel 15:1-4

- Is it useful for anything else?
- Can it be used fashioned into anything useful?
- No!
- It is useless (unless it is fulfilling its purpose!)



The purpose of vine is not furniture, et al: it either produces fruit, or is burnt up in fire…

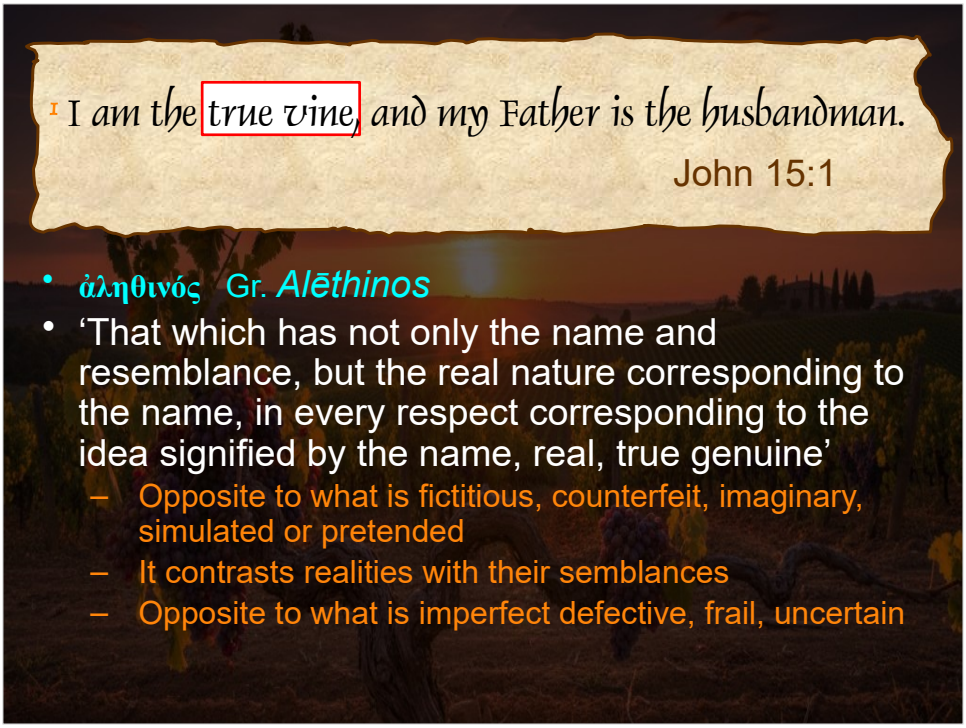
[Who is the "true

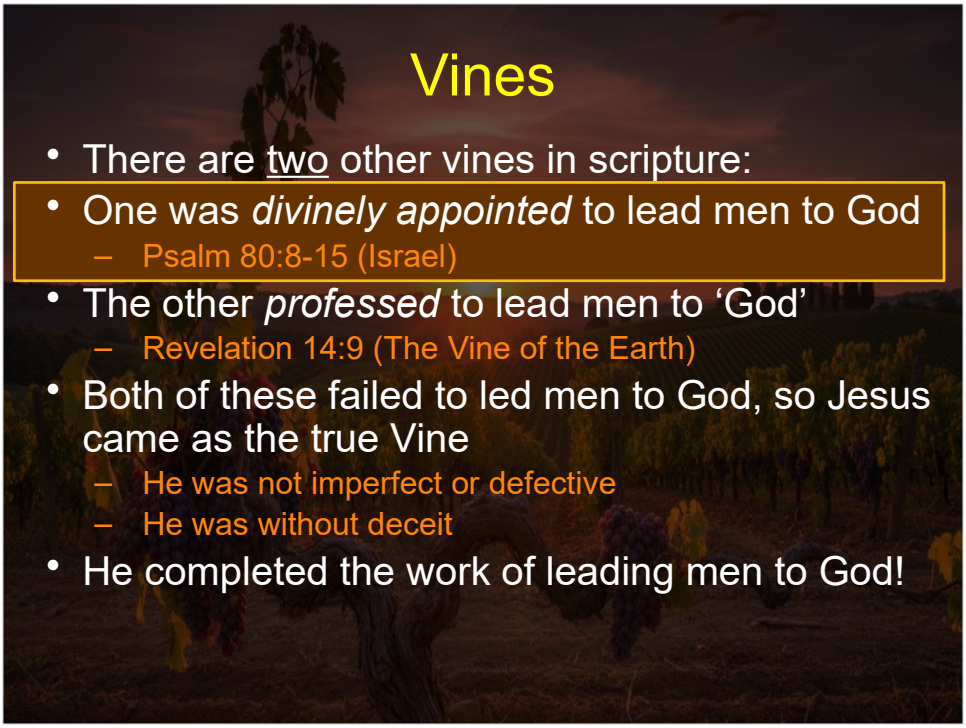
7 And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I set my face against them.

8 And I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 15:7-8

- Consider here the end for an unfruitful vine!
- What is the implication for us?
- What will be the end for Israel?


1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
John 15:1
ἀληθινός Gr. Alēthinos
'That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine'
Opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended
It contrasts realities with their semblances
Opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain



Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt:
thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
Thou preparedst room before it,
and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.
The hills were covered with the shadow of it,
and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.
She sent out her boughs unto the sea,
and her branches unto the river.
Why hast thou then broken down her hedges,
so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?

Degenerate Plant

8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast
cast out the heathen, and planted it.
9 Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to
take deep root, and it filled the land.
10 The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the
boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.
11 She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her
branches unto the river.

Psalm 80:8-15

Degenerate Plant

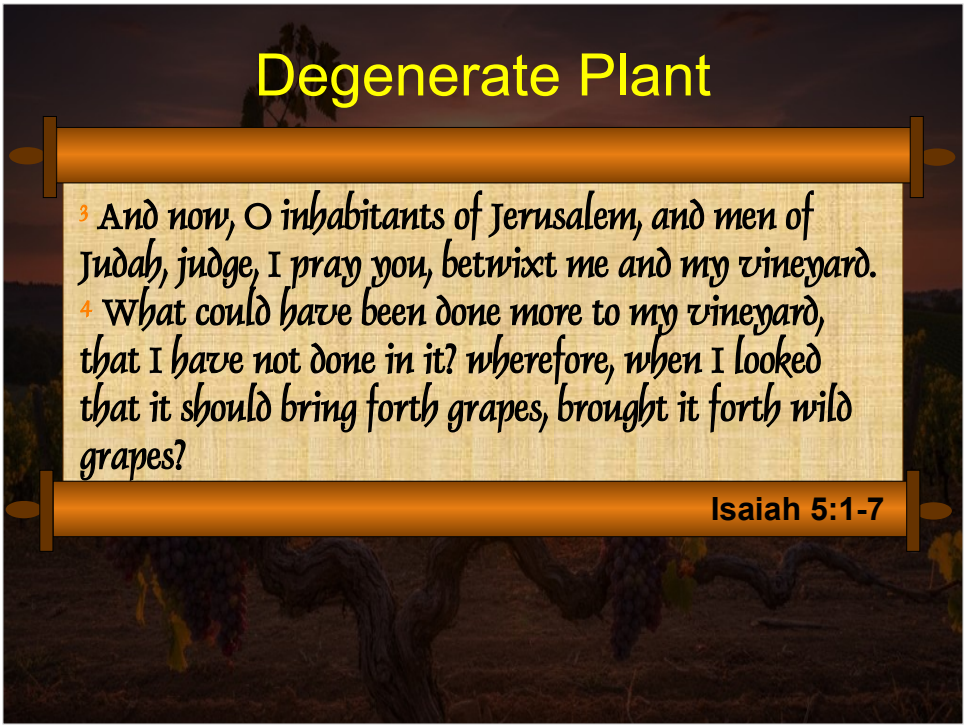
12 Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that
all they which pass by the way do pluck her?
13 The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild
beast of the field doth devour it.
14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down
from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;
15 And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted,
and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

Psalm 80:8-15

Degenerate Plant

1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved 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.

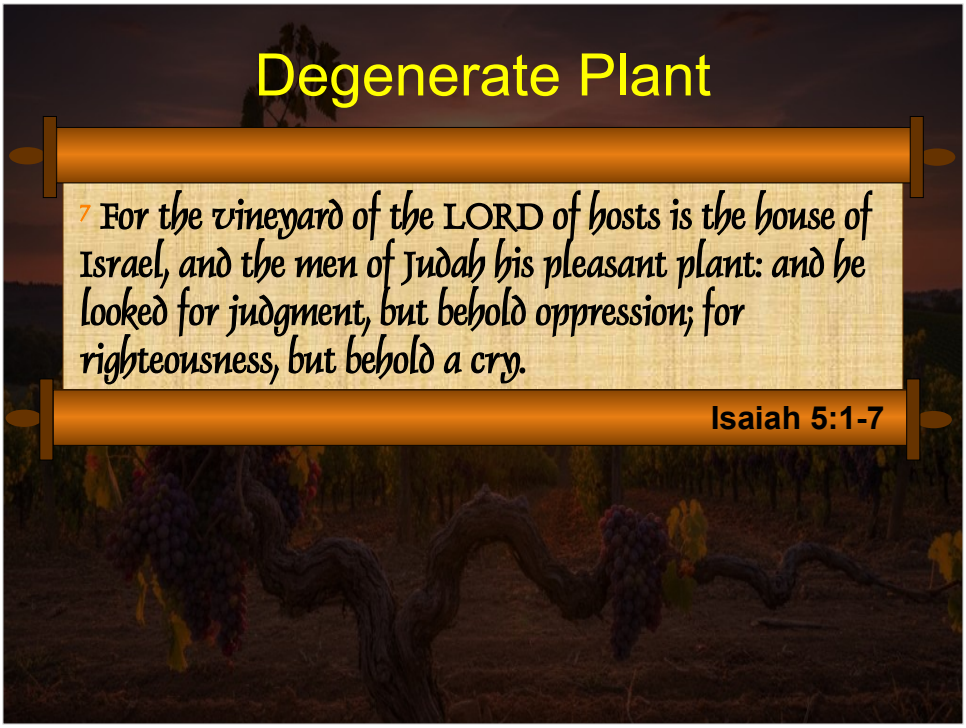
Isaiah 5:1-7

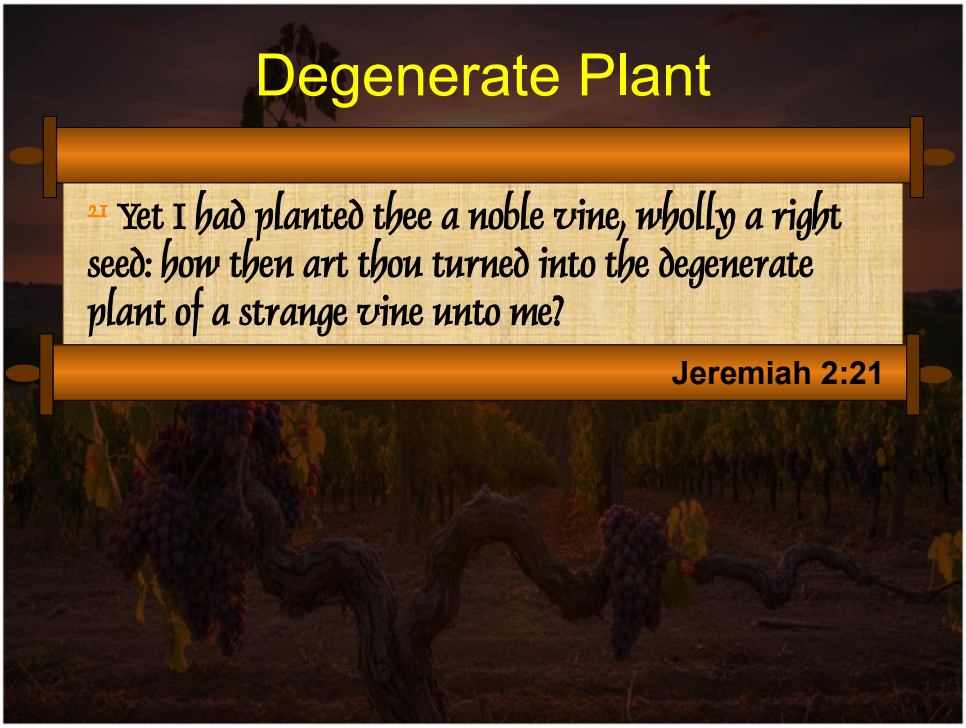

Degenerate Plant
3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.
4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?
Isaiah 5:1-7

Degenerate Plant

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.

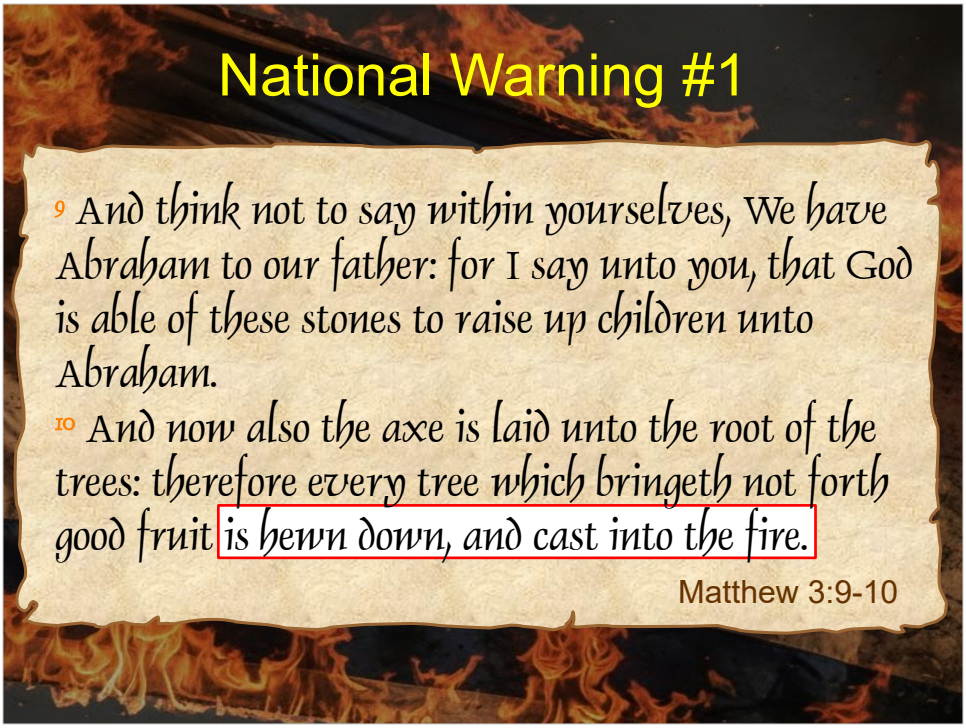
Isaiah 5:1-7


Degenerate Plant
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 judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.
Isaiah 5:1-7

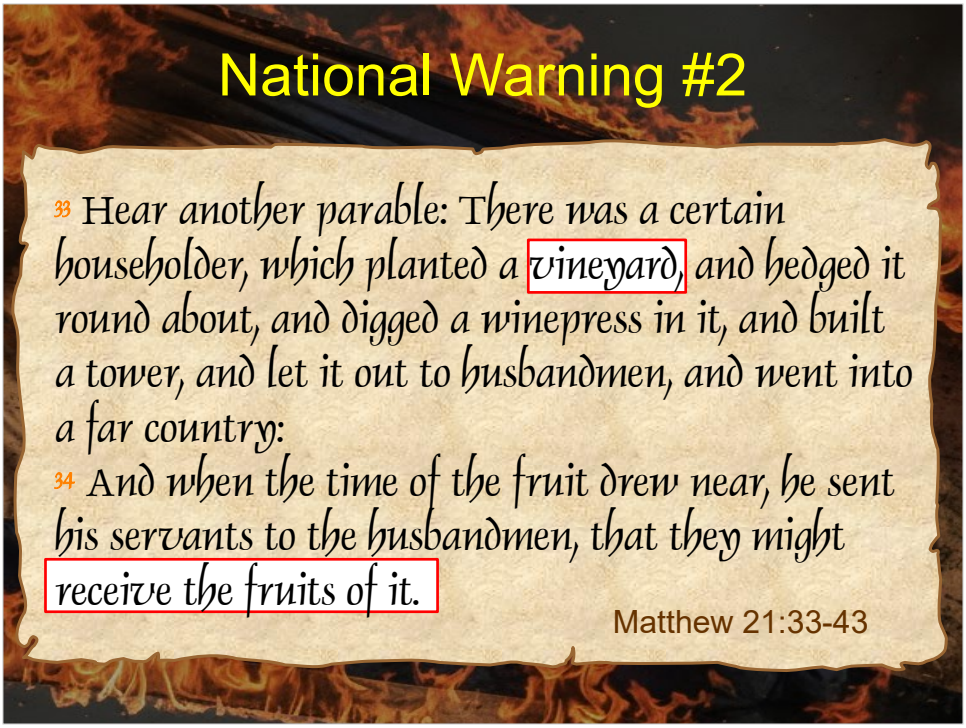

Degenerate Plant
21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?
Jeremiah 2:21

Degenerate Plant

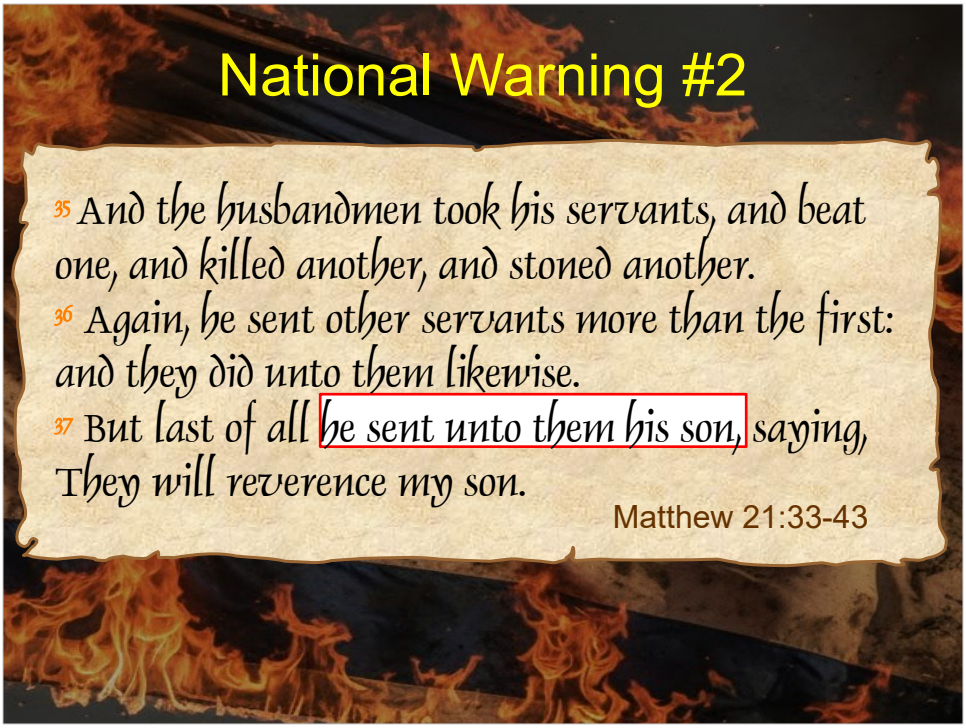
- Israel were to be a witness to the nations, testifying to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- Through this vine, the nations were to come to the knowledge & fear of the One true God
- But... Israel (through disobedience) became a degenerate plant, thus a byword & proverb
- Rather than being a witness they brought God's name into disrepute
- However, the Jewish religious leaders still thought they were the only way to God
  - This is the pride Ezekiel is addressing



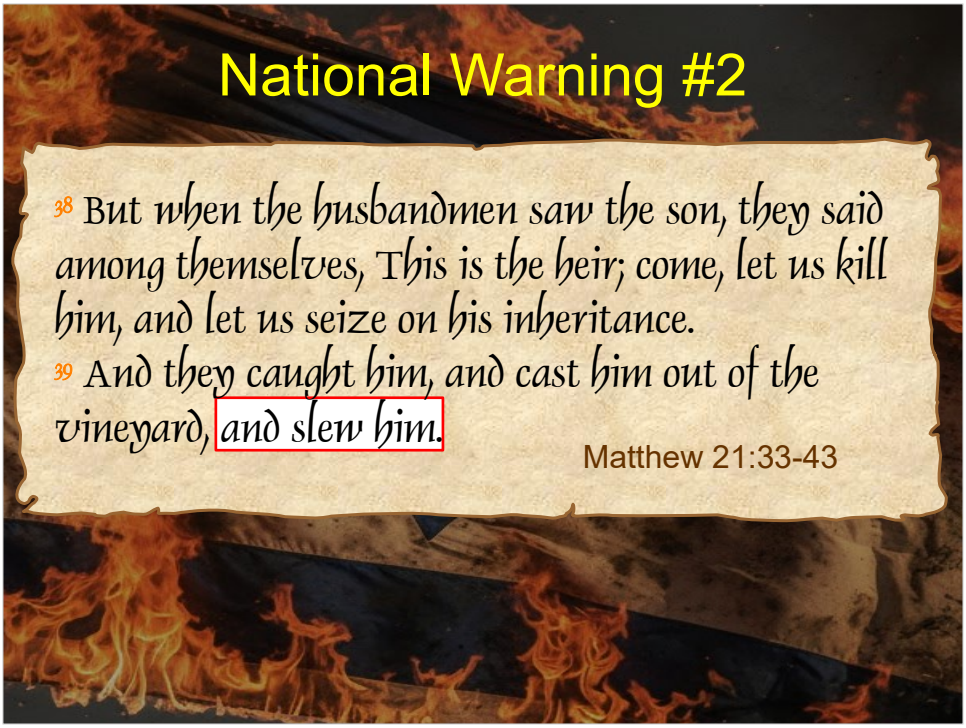
Some sort of religious profession is not sufficient – you bear good fruit.



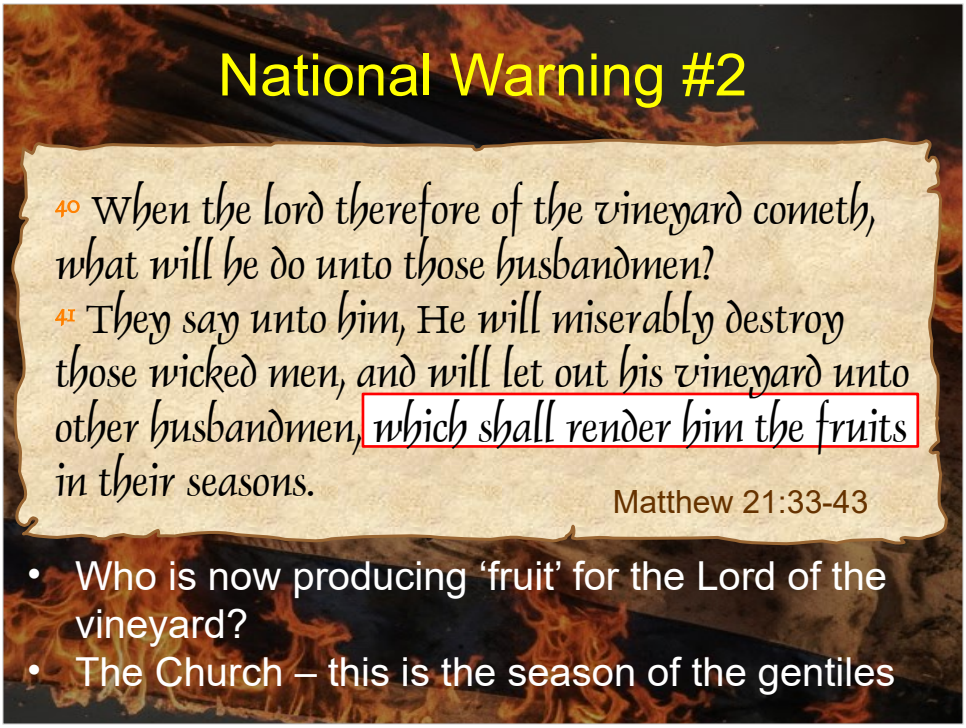
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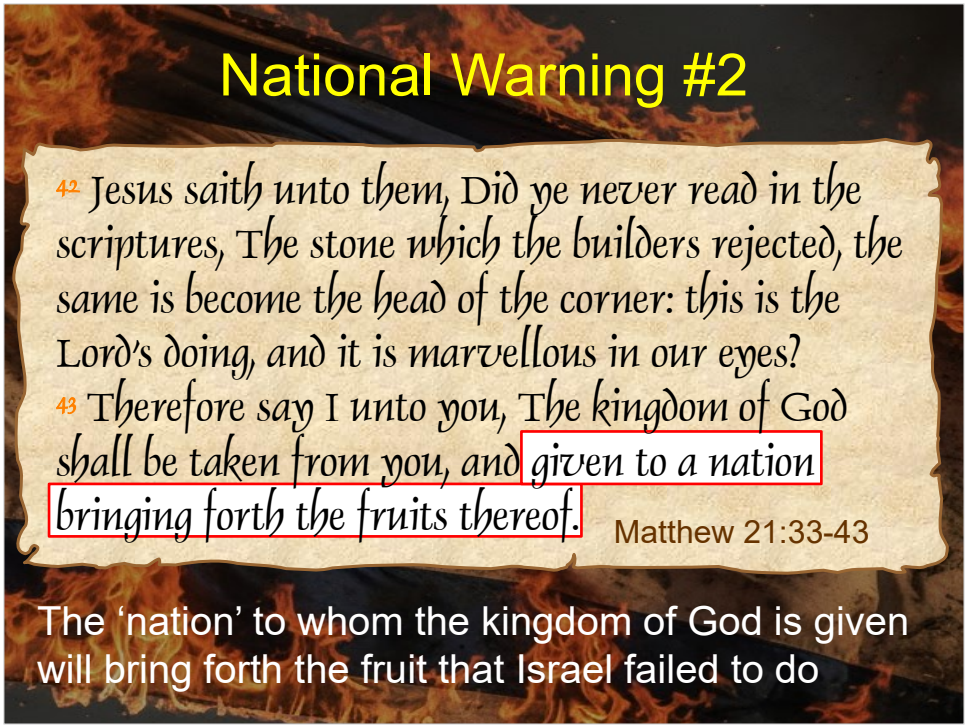
Some sort of religious profession is not sufficient – you bear good fruit.



Some sort of religious profession is not sufficient – you bear good fruit.



Those whom the vineyard is let out to SHALL render fruit

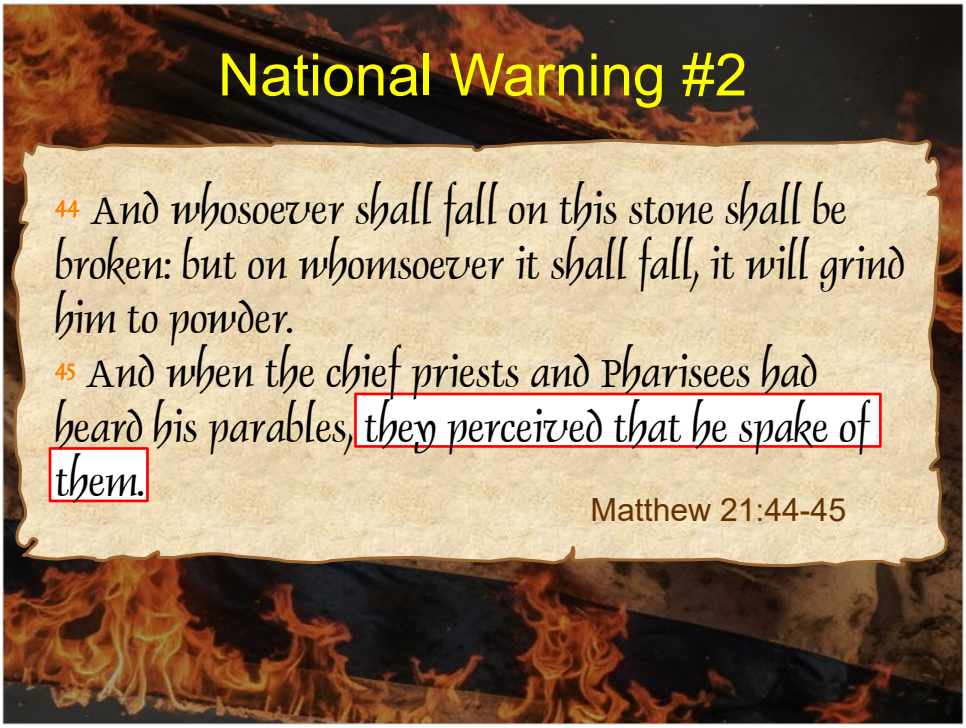


The nation to whom the kingdom of heaven is given will bring forth the fruit that Israel failed to do

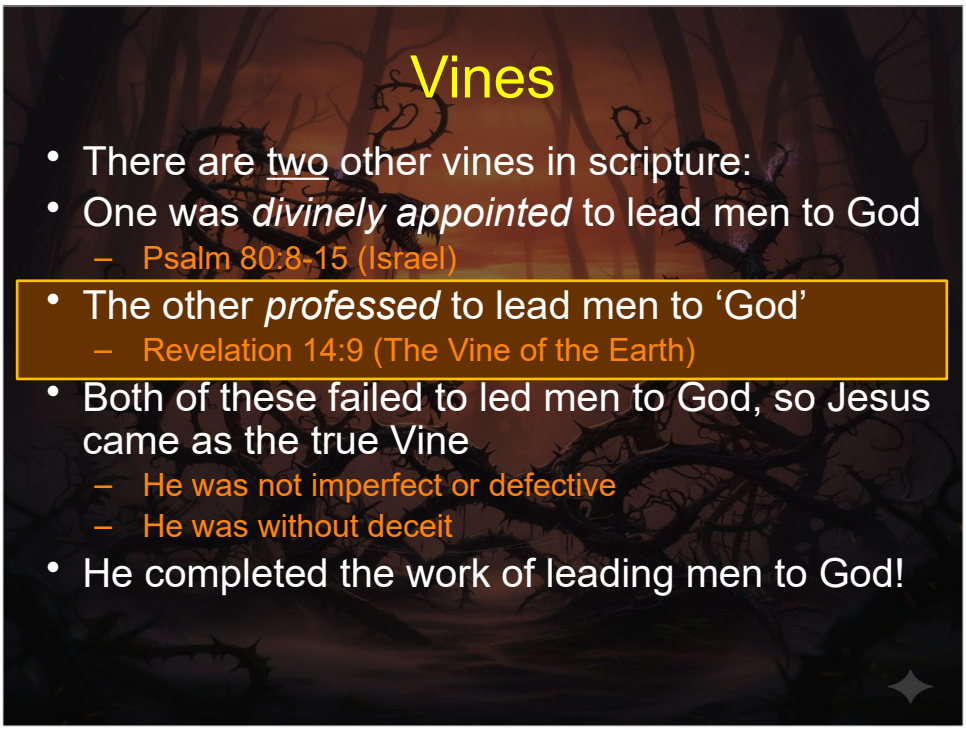
A Holy Nation!

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: 1 Peter 2:9

7 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God Romans 7:4



Some sort of religious profession is not sufficient – you bear good fruit.



Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt:
thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
Thou preparedst room before it,
and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.
The hills were covered with the shadow of it,
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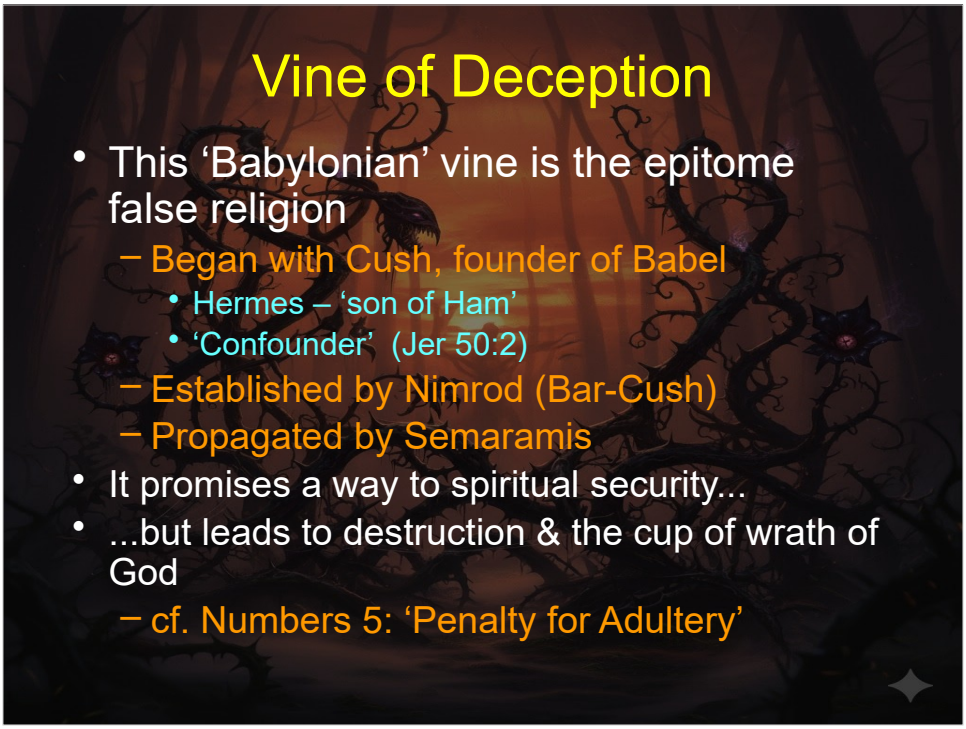
Vine of Deception

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, Thrust in thy
sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of
the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.
19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth,
and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into
the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:18-19



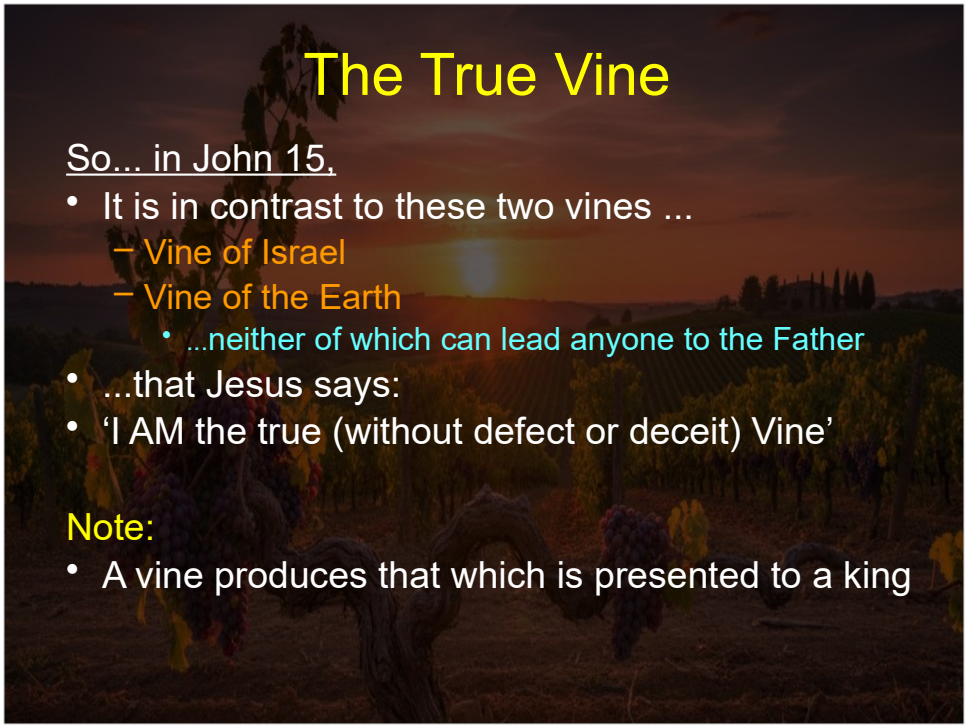
- , thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!



Roger Oakland – New Wine & the Babylonian Vine

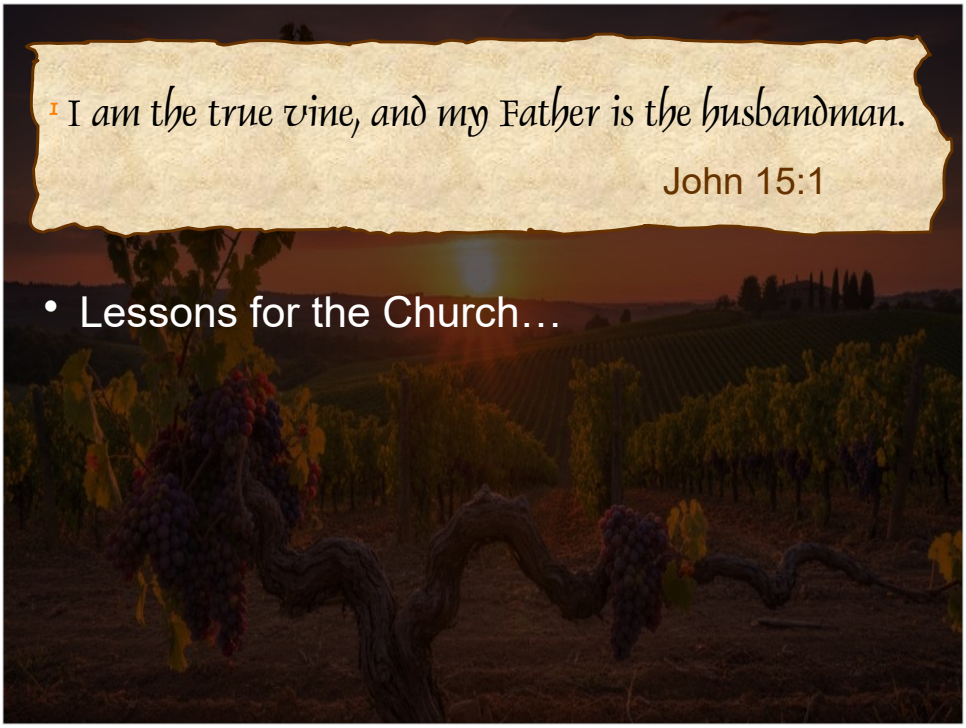
A vine produces that which is presented to a king

Hermeneutics: the science of interpretation



Roger Oakland – New Wine & the Babylonian Vine

A vine produces that which is presented to a king


1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
John 15:1
• Lessons for the Church…

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:2

1) What does it mean for an unfruitful branch to be taken away?
   - Is Jesus referring to believers or unbelievers?
2) What does it mean for fruitful branches to be purged?
3) What is the fruit that should be produced?

The Fruit

"Being a disciple is not to be a 'spectator sport'; active participation is mandated. Whilst we can do nothing to earn our salvation (Eph 2:8), bearing fruit is the evidence that our faith and profession are genuine.

The fruit (whilst almost certainly manifesting itself through good works) is not works themselves, but the 'peaceable fruit of righteousness' (Heb 12:11).

The Fruit

"I do not believe that the fruit mentioned here refers to soul-winning, as so many people seem to think. I believe soul-winning is a by-product but not the fruit itself.

The fruit is the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . ." (Gal. 5:22–23).

This is fruit in the life of the believer. Abiding in Christ will produce effectual prayer, perpetual fruit, and celestial joy:."

J Vernon McGee

A Clear Distinction!

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather
grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither
can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matt 7:16-22

- If there is no fruit, you have to question the connection to the Root!

Abiding In Christ

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear
fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can
ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in
me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

A Warning Against Complacency

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast,
thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.
19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off,
that I might be graffed in.
20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and
thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Rom 11:15-24

What is the primary cause of a carnal lifestyle for a believer? Unbelief.

A Warning Against Complacency

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.
22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. Rom 11:15-24

- Do not make the same mistake as the proud Jews in Ezekiel's day!
- As gentiles we are not now God's elected favorite!
- Rather, we can by faith be His selected servant

A Warning Against Complacency

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.
24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree?

Rom 11:15-24

- Note: The hope for the Nation of Israel in v24!

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:2

1) What does it mean for an unfruitful branch to be taken away?
   - Is Jesus referring to believers or unbelievers?
2) What does it mean for fruitful branches to be purged?
3) What is the fruit that should be produced?

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:2

- Purgeth? A strange, but carefully chosen word
- Gr. *kathairō*, which means 'to cleanse'
- Lit. drain poison from the system
- This is what our Husbandman does with us
- The process is called 'Sanctification'
- It causes us to bear more fruit


Purging
• Many times in our Christian walk, our Heavenly Father will cut us back to the Root.
• We can get so absorbed in our daily routine, or our ministry etc., that we forget that first and foremost, our Heavenly Father simply wants us to have a relationship of abiding in Christ
– Cf Martha and Mary (Luke 10:40)

Purging

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after
their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we
might be partakers of his holiness.
11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be
joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it
yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto
them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:10-11

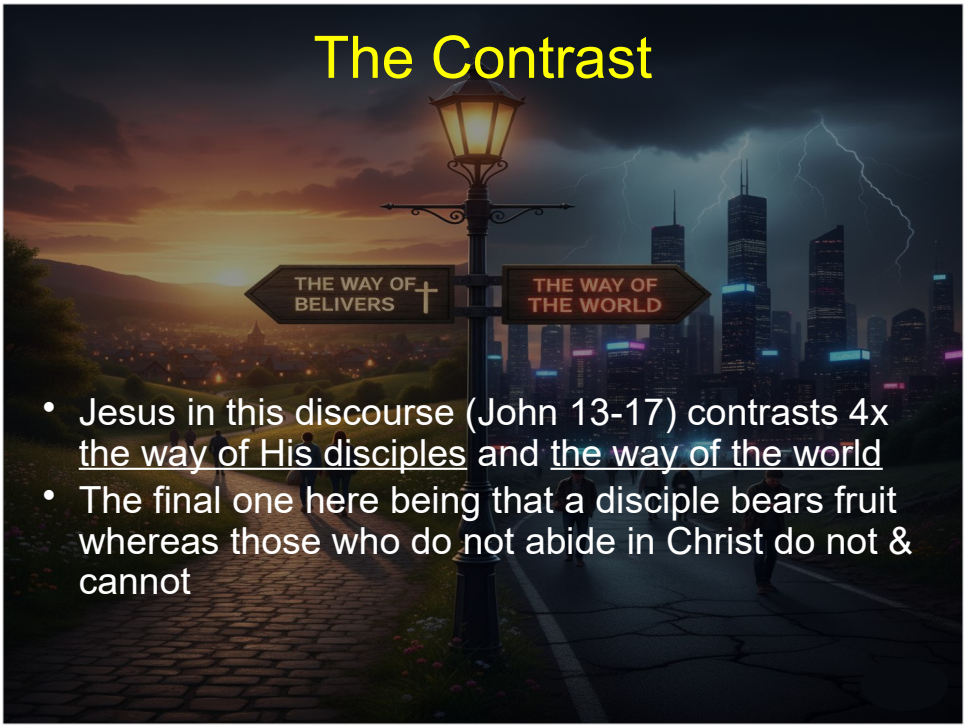
- Gr. *paideuo*, discipline, correction

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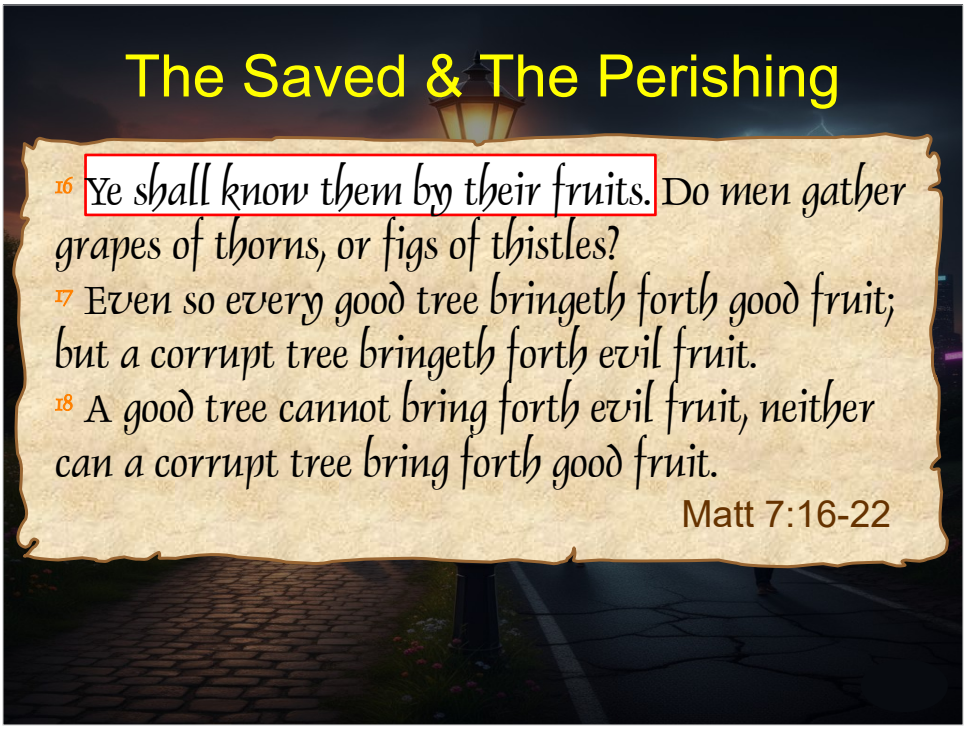
John 15:2

1) What does it mean for an unfruitful branch to be taken away?
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The Contrast



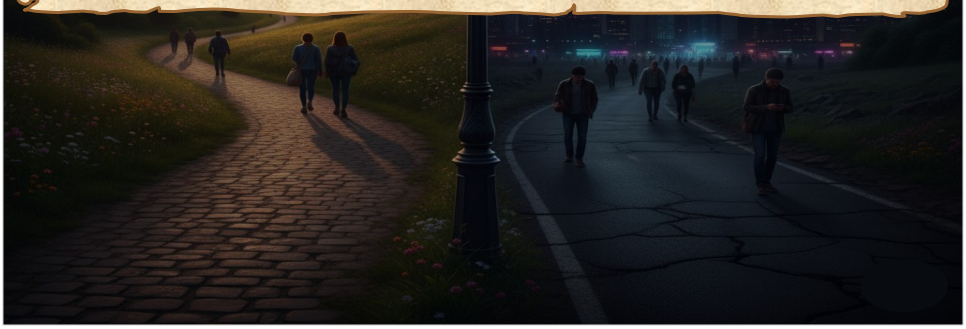
- Jesus in this discourse (John 13-17) contrasts 4x <u>the way of His disciples</u> and <u>the way of the world</u>
- The final one here being that a disciple bears fruit whereas those who do not abide in Christ do not & cannot

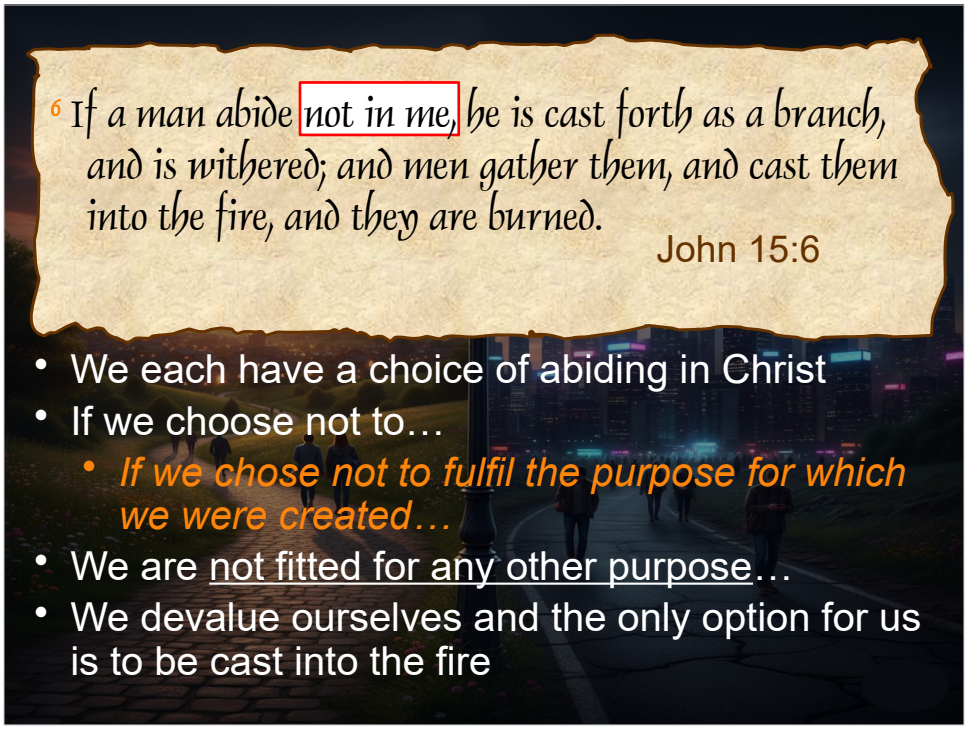

The Saved & The Perishing
16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather
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17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither
can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
Matt 7:16-22

The Saved & The Perishing

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is
hewn down, and cast into the fire.
20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matt 7:19-20




6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch,
and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them
into the fire, and they are burned.
John 15:6
• We each have a choice of abiding in Christ
• If we choose not to…
• If we chose not to fulfil the purpose for which we were created…
• We are not fitted for any other purpose…
• We devalue ourselves and the only option for us is to be cast into the fire

Summary

"In John 15:1-6, Jesus effectively underlines that which He already told the disciples, that He was the *only* way to the Father (John 14:6). Israel were no longer a vine whose fruit would lead the nations to the Father. Neither could the vine of the earth (Rev 14:19) bear any good spiritual fruit. The only Vine of value was the True Vine. Through His propitiation for the whole world (1 John 2:2), all mankind now had the opportunity of abiding in the Vine. However, if any branch abide not in the Vine, it would be spiritually fruitless, and therefore taken away to wither and finally be burned.

What an incredible picture of the person who rejects Christ!

CC Poole: Study Notes on John 15:6


The Hope for Israel
16 It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.
17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.
18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.
19 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.
Psalm 80:16-19


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
To be continued..