

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 358 – What Is The Vine Tree Through Desolation (Ezekiel 15:1-8)

1. For discussion, let's answer this question: "What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?"

The chapter starts with: "(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**)?

- Since this context is about judgment on the erring people of God, the point is that the trees of the forest and the vines are not different in that they will both just be fuel for the fire of judgment. Consider: **Joel 1:1-20**
- The vine tree is only as good as the fruit it produces (**Hosea 10:1**).
- Applications: **Jeremiah 2:21** and **John 15:1-8**

2. Is wood taken from a vine useful for anything?

In a rhetorical question, the Lord establishes it is not fit to work or be used to make nails: "*Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon?*" (**Ezekiel 15:3**)?

- Vine wood is really useless for work (vs. 4-5). The only use of a vine is to bring fruit (**Song of Solomon 2:13**). Vines can actually cause a lot of harm if not properly tended to (**Proverbs 24:30-31**). So is Israel, the vine of the Lord (**Psalms 80:1-8**), in their sins (**Isaiah 5:1-7**).
- This a point that applies all through even the days of Christ (**Mark 12:1-12**).
- Question yourself: what good are you to God (**Matthew 7:19** and **Luke 3:1-9**)?

3. What use is a vine, that is only good for the fruit it bears, if it is used to fuel a fire?

If burned for fuel, that is the end of it's use: "(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? (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*" (**Ezekiel 15:4-5**)?

- "*For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch*" (**Malachi 4:1**).
- The Lord's people had become empty (**Jeremiah 2:1-5**). The Lord's people had changed their glory for that which had no profit (**Jeremiah 2:11-13**).
- How fruitful are you (**Matthew 13:23**)?

4. What did the Lord use the vine tree for that He also was going to use the inhabitants of Jerusalem for?

Fuel for fire: *“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 15:6).*

- You can repair a lot of broken things. What about things burned up? Jerusalem, etc. was to be burned up (**Jeremiah 2:15, Jeremiah 7:20, Jeremiah 9:10-12, Jeremiah 39:8, and Lamentations 2:3**).
- An unquenchable fire (**Ezekiel 20:47-48**).
- We see the aftermath in Nehemiah (**Nehemiah 1:3; 2:17**).

5. What was going to happen to the inhabitants of Jerusalem when they went out from one fire?

Another would devour them: *“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” (Ezekiel 15:7).*

- First, think about what it means when God sets His face AGAINST a people (**Psalms 34:16, Psalms 76:7, Psalms 90:11, Jeremiah 10:10, Nahum 1:1-6, Hebrews 10:31, and Hebrews 12:29**).
- Flee from one into the other for they were not going to escape God’s wrath (**Amos 5:18-19; 9:1-4**).

6. Why was the Lord going to make the land desolate?

Because they committed a trespass: *“And I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 15:8).*

- **II Chronicles 33:9, II Chronicles 36:14-16, Ezra 9:1-13, Ezekiel 16:44-47, and Ezekiel 17:19-21**