

Isaiah 27:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.

Analysis

Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. God declares that His former **fury** (chemah, חֶמָּה, burning anger) against the vineyard is gone—a dramatic reversal from chapter 5:25 where His anger burned against His people. The rhetorical question challenges any who would oppose: **who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle?** (mi yitteneni shamir shayi bamil chamah, מִי יִתְּנֵנִי שָׁמִיר שָׁאֵי בַמִּלְחָמָה).

Briers and thorns (shamir vashayit, שָׁמִיר וַשָּׂאֵי) symbolize worthless, destructive elements that choke fruitful plants—used in 5:6 for what would grow in the judged vineyard. Now these enemies of the vineyard face God's wrath instead of the vineyard itself. **I would go through them, I would burn them together** (ep'se'ah bah atsitenah yachad, אֶפְשָׁעָה בָּהּ אֲצִיְתֶנָּה יַחַד) uses military language of marching through enemies and burning them completely. The twice-repeated "I would" emphasizes God's readiness to defend His vineyard. His fury has turned from His people to their enemies—a gospel picture of Christ bearing wrath so believers receive protection (Romans 8:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Historical Context

Ancient Israelites knew briers and thorns as curses from the Fall (Genesis 3:18), agricultural nuisances, and symbols of judgment. God's promise to burn these

enemies while protecting the vineyard reversed the curse. For New Testament believers, Christ became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13), wearing a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29) and bearing God's fury so we might be God's protected vineyard. The early church facing persecution found comfort knowing God's wrath was against their enemies, not them.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the absence of God's fury toward the vineyard teach about the New Covenant and Christ's atoning work?
2. How should knowing that God fights against threats to His people ('briers and thorns') encourage believers facing opposition?
3. In what ways has God's fury been redirected from believers to their spiritual enemies through the cross?

Interlinear Text

חַמָּה	אֵין	לִי	מִי	יִתֵּן נִי	שֹׁמֵר	יֵר	שֵׁ יֵת
Fury	H369	H0	H4310	is not in me who would set	the briers		and thorns
H2534				H5414	H8068		H7898
בְּמִלְחָמָה	אֶפְשָׁע	הָ	בָּה	אֶצִּיֵּת נָה	יָדָם		
against me in battle	I would go		H0	through them I would burn	them together		
H4421	H6585			H6702	H3162		

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:8 (Parallel theme): But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

Isaiah 10:17 (Parallel theme): And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;

Matthew 3:12 (Parallel theme): Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

2 Samuel 23:6 (Parallel theme): But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

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