

# 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, חמה, 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, מי יתנני שמייר שית במלחה).

**Briers and thorns** (shamir vashayit, שמייר ושיית) 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, אפסעה בה אצטנה יחד) 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

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**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

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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

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רָאֵת חַמְתִּי	לֹא יִתְּחַמֵּת	בַּתְּנִינָה נִי	שָׁמַר יְרֵא	שָׁמַר יְרֵא
Fury	H369	H0	H4310	is not in me who would set
H2534				the briers and thorns
				H8068 H7898

בְּמִלְחָמָה הָ	בְּמִלְחָמָה הָ	אָפָשָׁע הָ	אָצִית בָּה	לְזִהְבָּה
against me in battle	I would go	H0	through them I would burn	them together
H4421	H6585		H6702	H3162

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 throughly 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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