

Isaiah 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The parable details God's exhaustive preparation: fencing (protecting), gathering out stones (removing obstacles), planting choice vines (selecting the best), building a tower (providing security), and making a winepress (preparing for harvest). Despite perfect conditions, the vineyard produced 'wild grapes' (be'ushim, stinking or worthless fruit). The Hebrew wordplay contrasts expected grapes (anavim) with worthless grapes (be'ushim).

Historical Context

Jesus later uses similar vineyard imagery (Matthew 21:33-41), showing continuity in God's prophetic metaphors. The detailed care mirrors God's covenant faithfulness providing law, land, priesthood, and prophets.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How has God 'prepared your soil' through circumstances, teaching, and relationships?
2. What 'wild grapes' of sinful habits are you producing despite God's careful cultivation?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲזֶק הוּא	וַיִּסְקֶל הוּא	וַיִּטֵּעַ הוּא			
And he fenced	it and gathered out the stones	thereof and planted			
H5823	H5619	H5193			
שֶׁר קַ	וַיִּבֶן	מִגְדָּל	בְּתוֹךְ ו	וְגַם	יֵקֵב
it with the choicest vine	and built	a tower	in the midst	H1571	a winepress
H8321	H1129	H4026	H8432		H3342
חָצַב	בּוּ	וַיִּקֶּה	וַיַּעַשׂ	עֲנַב יֵם	
of it and also made	H0	therein and he looked	and it brought forth	grapes	
H2672		H6960	H6213	H6025	
וַיַּעַשׂ	בְּאֲשִׁים:				
and it brought forth	wild grapes				
H6213	H891				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:21 (Parallel theme): 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?

1 Corinthians 9:7 (Parallel theme): Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

Mark 11:13 (Parallel theme): And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

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