

Mark 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.

Analysis

What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do?—Jesus forces His accusers to pronounce their own judgment. **He will come and destroy the husbandmen**—ἀπόλλυμι (apollymi, to destroy utterly, kill). God's patience has limits; persistent rejection culminates in judgment. **And will give the vineyard unto others**—the kingdom will be transferred from unfaithful Israel's leaders to a new people (cf. Matthew 21:43, 'a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof').

This is Jesus' clearest prediction of AD 70's temple destruction and the transfer of kingdom administration to the church—Jew and Gentile united in Christ. The 'others' are the new covenant community, the 'holy nation' of 1 Peter 2:9. The religious leaders understood perfectly, which is why 'they sought to lay hold on him' (verse 12). Judgment on covenant-breaking Israel vindicates God's justice while the vineyard's transfer demonstrates His faithfulness to save a remnant.

Historical Context

Forty years after this parable, the 'lord of the vineyard' indeed came in judgment—Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, scattering the Jewish leadership and ending the sacrificial system. Simultaneously, the gospel spread to Gentiles, fulfilling the 'giving to others.' Mark's audience (around AD 65-70) would see this prophecy beginning fulfillment. The parable became history.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's destruction of wicked tenants vindicate His justice after centuries of patient sending of servants?
2. What does the vineyard's transfer to 'others' teach about the church's responsibility as new covenant stewards?
3. How does this warning guard you against presuming on God's patience while persisting in spiritual unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

τί	οὖν	ποιήσει	ὁ	κύριος	τοῦ	ἀμπελῶνα	ἐλεύσεται
What	therefore	do	G3588	the lord	G3588	of the vineyard	he will come
G5101	G3767	G4160		G2962		G290	G2064
καὶ	ἀπολέσει	τοὺς	γεωργούς	καὶ	δώσει	τὸν	
and	destroy	G3588	the husbandmen	and	will give	G3588	
G2532	G622		G1092	G2532	G1325		
ἀμπελῶνα	ἄλλοις						
of the vineyard	unto others						
G290	G243						

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:43 (Parallel theme): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Luke 19:27 (Parallel theme): But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

