

Psalm 80:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

Analysis

And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. This verse appeals to God's personal investment in Israel. "The vineyard which thy right hand hath planted" (kannah asher nat'ah yeminekha, כָּהָא אֲשֶׁר נָתַעַת יְמִינְךָ emphasizes divine agency. Yamin (ימין, right hand) symbolizes power, skill, favor, and oath-keeping (Exodus 15:6, 12; Psalm 16:11, 48:10). God didn't delegate Israel's planting to angels but personally invested His own power and honor in establishing them. Kannah (כָּהָא) means stock, base, root—the fundamental planting from which all else grows.

"The branch that thou madest strong for thyself" (ve'al-ben immatzta lakh, וְעַל-בֵּן אִמְצַת לְךָ) shifts to singular "branch" or "son" (ben, בֵּן can mean both). The phrase "madest strong" (immatzta, אִמְצַת from amats, עַמְצָה) means to strengthen, make firm, fortify—God personally strengthened this son/branch. Critically, "for thyself" (lakh, לְךָ) indicates purpose: Israel exists for God's glory, pleasure, and purpose—not independent existence but chosen instrument for divine purposes.

The dual imagery—vineyard and branch/son—creates interpretive richness. Collectively, Israel is God's vineyard; individually or dynastically, the king or Messiah is the son/branch. This anticipates Messianic interpretation: Jesus is the true vine (John 15:1), the branch from Jesse's root (Isaiah 11:1), the son God strengthened for Himself. The verse's appeal is powerful: why would God destroy what He personally created for His own purposes?

Historical Context

The "branch" language connects to Messianic prophecy throughout Scripture. Isaiah 4:2, 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12 all use "branch" (tsemach, תְּשֵׁמֶךְ or netser, נֶצֶר) to describe coming Davidic Messiah. Some interpreters see Psalm 80:15, 17 as proto-Messianic, looking beyond immediate restoration to ultimate fulfillment in Christ. Historically, the "son" may reference the Davidic king whom God established to rule Israel (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 2:7). The appeal for God to remember this son/branch may reflect crisis during weak or threatened monarchy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the emphasis on God's 'right hand' planting Israel affect understanding of election, calling, and security of God's people?
2. What does it mean that God strengthened the branch/son 'for thyself'—for God's own purposes rather than Israel's independent benefit?
3. How does this verse's vineyard and branch imagery point toward Christ as ultimate fulfillment of Israel's purpose?

Interlinear Text

כָּבֵד | אָשָׁר | נָטַע הַ | יָמִינְךָ | יָמִינְךָ | בָּנָא | וְ | בָּנָא |
And the vineyard H834 hath planted which thy right hand H5921 and the branch H1121
H3657 H5193 H3225

אָמַת אַפְתָּה | לְךָ
that thou madest strong H553 H0

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:1 (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Psalms 80:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

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?

Mark 12:1 (Parallel theme): And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.

Zechariah 6:12 (Parallel theme): And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

Zechariah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

John 15:1 (Parallel theme): I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.