

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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The Book of John

Lesson 27 - The Vine

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read: John 15: 1-27

This chapter may take as long as chapter one. Let us go to chapter 14, verse 31. *Arise, let us go hence.* they are heading out of the upper room now down across the brook Kidron into Gethsemane and into the garden where the Lord would pray. *Arise, let us go hence. I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

If a man... Look carefully because these verses are used to teach that you can lose your salvation. They are being taught by people who teach you that you lose your place in the millennial kingdom. Look very carefully. Verse 2. *Ye.* Verse 4. *You.* Verse 4. *Ye.* Verse 4. *Ye.* Verse 5. *Ye.* Verse 5. *Ye.* Verse 6, *If a man...* In verse 6, He shifts the subject from His disciples to men in general. *If a man abide not in me, HE is cast forth as a branch,* (well, did not He just say that they already abode in Him? So, He is not talking about them. *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. The verse that supposedly teaches somebody can lose their salvation and lose their place in the kingdom is addressing a completely different group or company of people. It is *ye, ye, you, you,* all the way through the passage, except in verse 6 when suddenly it becomes *if a man* and *them* and *they*, so verse 6 is not addressed to those that are clean and those that are abiding in Christ which Jesus says is true of His disciples.

There is a lot of ground that we need to cover on this matter of the vine and the branches. First of all, Jesus says, *I am the true vine.* There is a vine clearly identified in scripture that is not the true vine. Turn to Isaiah 5. If you are going to talk about the vine, let's find out who or what the vine is. Isaiah 5:1-7. *Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 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. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the*

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vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: Now according to Isaiah 5, who is the vine? Who is the vineyard? It is the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 27:2-3. *In that day (Second Coming) sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.* Verse 6. *He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.* Who is the vine? Who is the vineyard? It is the nation of Israel.

Psalm 80:8-9. *Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.* Again, who is the vine? The vine is Israel.

Jeremiah 2: 21. *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?* Hosea 10:1. *Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.* Other references you can just make note of: Judges 19:13; Psalm 104:15.

Now, come back to John 15. Verse 1. *I am the true vine.* Was He born of the seed of David? Was He born king of the Jews? Then – *I am the true vine. My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:* What is the warning? In all of these Old Testament passages the warning was if Israel does not bear fruit, they will be removed. I want you to think about something. Look at the end of verse 31 of chapter 14. *Arise, let us go hence.* Do you know what is going on at the same time period in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? He is telling them, Matthew 24, the destruction of Jerusalem. Luke 21. The Destruction of Jerusalem; John 15. The Destruction of Jerusalem, the ruin of the nation of Israel. In Matthew 24 and Mark 13, there will not be left one stone upon another. In Luke, you are going to be scattered among the Gentiles. In John, I am going to cut off branches that did not bear fruit and cast them into the fire and burn them.

If you check your time reference which will help you establish context, if you run the context through the four gospels, this matches the warnings of doom upon the nation of Israel, He came unto His own; His own received Him not. There are consequences. That nation cried, Hosanna; blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. But they do not want Him. They are going to reject Him. They are going to cast Him out. They are going to crucify Him. Why? They are fruitless. He is warning them if you do not abide in me, you are going to be burned.

Cast forth... look at verse 6. *If a man (a man, not ye, not the disciples, not the believers.) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, (What happened to the nation of Israel? Were not they cast forth? Did not God cast them out?) and is withered;* (What happened to that land flowing with milk and honey? What happened to that land where the desert was to blossom as a rose? What happened to that land where the reapers would overtake one another and one harvest season would run right clean into the other one? What happened to that land? It withered.) *and men gather them, (Who would that be? That would be the citizens of that land.) and cast them into the fire, (Have you ever heard about the citizens of the nation being cast into fire? It is a strange thing. Stalin shot them and buried them. Ukrainians. Red Russians. White Russians. Cossacks. He shot them and buried them. The Japanese went into Manchuria. They raped and tortured and shot them and buried them. Hitler rounded up Jews and He burned them. When Edi Amin*

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went through in Africa and Pol Pot and Cambodia, you had genocide throughout the centuries. But this business of burning members and citizens of a nation just because of their nationality, where does that come from? "Why did they burn the Jews?"

John 15:6. Cast them into the fire and they are burned. Now look, the Lord did not say He was going to do that. He said, men would gather them and men would cast them into the fire; and men would burn them. Anybody recall the captivity in Babylon? What did men do in Babylon? They built a burning fiery furnace? Daniel 3.

Look in Matthew 21. This is not about a believer losing his salvation and being burned. This is about members of the nation of Israel not recognizing the true vine and as a result being cast out and as a result the land, the nation, the people, the race withering and men gathering them up and burning them. The vine references in the Bible are to Israel.

Let us look again. Matthew 21:33-35. Hear another parable: *There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, (Now who is the householder who planted the vineyard? It is God the Father.) and hedged it round about, (Isaiah 5) and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, (Isaiah 5. Look – the Lord, He is quoting that passage. He is driving it right home to them.) and let it out to husbandmen, (Who is the husbandman? the Jews) and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants (who are the servants? The prophets of God) to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, (First Kings 22:24) and killed another, (Jeremiah 26:23) and stoned another. (Second Chronicles 24:21. Do you know what He is doing? He is telling their history.)*

Verse 36. *Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.* Now, what is the vineyard? It is the nation of Israel. He was cast out. What did he say when he was cast out? Arise. Let us go hence. Let us suffer with him without the gate. Let us follow him outside the camp. I am the good shepherd. Let me lead you out of this pasture and into another. Let me lead you out of unbelieving Israel; and into faith in me, the Lord Jesus Christ. I am the true vine. Do not stay as branches on that withered vine, that dead vine, that fruitless vine; that vine's going to be burned of men. Follow me. I am the true vine.

Do you know what Peter said in Acts 2:40, to this same group of people? Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Do not stay in that nation of Israel, get out here and join yourself to Jesus Christ. 2 Cor 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

Verses 39-43. *And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? (Who are these husbandman? the Jews) They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. (John 15. I am the true vine, abide in me and you will bear fruit.) Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God (That is the spiritual kingdom in Matthew.)*

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shall be taken from you, and given to a nation (First Peter 2:9, a nation that was not a nation before) *bringing forth the fruits thereof*. Now do you see what these vineyard passages all have in common?

Come back to John 15. *I am the true vine*, (as opposed to the false vine.) *and my Father is the husbandman*. Now HE is the husbandman over the true vine, His Son.) *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit*. Notice, the branches in Christ are not cast off; they are taken away. Not given away, not thrown away – taken away. Look, when I am done bearing fruit, where do I go? To the husbandman. He does not cast me away. He takes me away. If I am still bearing fruit, He purges me that I may bring forth more fruit. What does that mean? He is allowing me to go through trials and tribulations as HE is pruning, clipping and hedging me. – Here we have seeming pain and punishment inflicted on a branch that is doing a very good job; so it can do a better job. Cancer, loss, sickness, unemployment and funerals are all a result of sin, but God uses them to trim, clip, & prune us to maturity in HIM *And every branch that beareth fruit*, To bear fruit? Well, then, why would you be purged? So you can bear more fruit. Cut it back. Let it get stronger. Cut it back – let it rebuild. Cut it back. Let it strengthen.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me ye clean ones. 1 John 3 *and I abide in you*, ye clean ones. Why? *As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me*. Our fruit bearing is not what we do for the Lord. It is what the Lord does in and through us. It is the result of our union with Jesus Christ. It is not something we can do so we can have union with Jesus Christ. This idea of *abiding in the Lord*, what does that mean? He tells you. How does a branch bear fruit? It takes life and nourishment from the vine. What is it to abide in Christ? It is to take life and nourishment from Jesus Christ. Fruit just follows.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Now again, look what He says. He did not say that some of His branches did not bear fruit or that His branches had to be cast out and burned because they were not producing anything. He said, *he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit* of the result of our relationship, our union with Christ is fruit. So when I read in verse 6 about, *If a man abide not in me*, - look how these people read it. They say, “well, if a man beareth not fruit...” That is not what He said. He said, if you do not abide in Him. The people in verse 6 are not in Christ. Those that do not abide in Christ are *cast forth as a branch... and men gather them*.

There are several trees used in the New Testament to teach important lessons. The fig tree was used by the Lord to show the causes of the doom of Israel. It was time that they had three and a half years to show some fruit and they did not. In Romans 11, Paul applies the olive tree to Israel; and shows when Israel, the olive tree did not bear fruit, the Lord brought in new branches, (the church) taken from among the Gentiles who would bear fruit. There is no blessing for Israel as a nation until - now listen. - Israel the vine failed; the walls are broken down. The enemy's come in. The vine is trampled. The branches are scattered and burned. And the true vine is cast out. Israel will never be blessed as a nation until the true vine is planted in that land on that hill tower of Mount Zion, then and only then will the nation be blessed once again. He is the true vine. So as long as He is gone there cannot be blessing for that nation, if He is the true vine and He is.

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So the interpretation of this passage is for Israel. Application can be made to the church; but the passage is for Israel according to all the cross references.

Verse 7. *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you*, look back at verse 4. *Abide in me, and I in you*. how does Jesus abide in us? Through His words. *...ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you*. If God's words are abiding in me, are not my requests going to be in line with His word? Will not that increase my chances of getting my prayers answered? *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (Fruit, verse 2. More fruit, verse 8 Much fruit,.) ...so shall ye be my disciples.*

Verse 9. *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full*. The fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22, the first three are love, joy, peace. Look at verse 9. *...my love*. Look at verse 11. *...my joy*. Look at chapter 14, verse 27. *...my peace*. Do you know what that is? That's fruit. But it is not our fruit. It is His fruit born in us as we abide in Him.

Verse 12. *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you*. That is a pretty high calling. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you*. Now that speaks pretty admirably of John the Baptist. Jesus called him *the friend of the bridegroom*. John must have been doing what He asked him. Jesus said in John 11:11, *our friend Lazarus sleepeth*. John the Baptist and Lazarus had earned friendship with Jesus. You cannot earn salvation but you can earn His friendship.

Henceforth I call you not servants; Why? They are believers. What does Galatians 4 say? Unbelieving Israel are servants; born again believers of the New Testament church are sons. They are not servants. Jesus says, Henceforth (from now on) I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Christ proves His love for the disciples by taking them into His confidence. Abraham (James 2:23) is called the Friend of God. Exodus 33:11. Abraham is the only Old Testament saint that is called a friend of God. (Isaiah 41:8) But in the New Testament, He is called the Father of all who believe. We can all be the Lord's friends just like Abraham was – that is He will take us into His confidence and reveal the future to us. Do you know about the rapture? Unbelievers do not. Do you know about that glorified body? The world does not. Do you know about the Second Coming and the Millennium and your place and part in it?

Verse 16. *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you*. This choosing and this ordaining, it is very frequently mentioned in the Bible and I want to run some of those verses for this reason. You and I can know that it is God's choice to use us and it is the fact that God chooses to use us that makes it possible for us to do anything for Him. Because even if we wanted to be fruit-bearing branches, we could not bear fruit if we did not abide in Him. *Without me ye can do nothing*. "The disciples say, but, you are leaving." Jesus said, "yes, but I have ordained, determined, purposed, and empowered you, so you could go out and bear much fruit. This way you can abide in me even if I am not here, through the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Notes

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Read: John 15: 1-27

Name _____

1. Who is the only OT saint that is called God's friend?
2. What is the result of our friendship with Christ?
3. How does verse 2A relate to the history of the children of Israel?
4. How does verse 2B relate to the history of the Church?
5. Who is the vine in Old Testament scripture?
6. What makes one clean?
7. If Jesus is the true vine how does this explain Israel's fruitlessness?
8. Explain in your own words the picture of verses 4 & 5.
9. What important difference do you see between Israel & the Church?
10. How is Jesus' love defined in verses 12 & 13?
11. What are the 5 fruits of obedience found in verses 8 through 11?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
12. Relate verse 7 with John 14:13. What are the conditions for answered prayer?

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13. Unto what are the disciples chosen?
14. What are the three qualities of fruit in these passages?
15. Discuss fruit bearing in light of Galatians 5:22-25.
16. Explain how purging results in more fruit?

True/False

- The true vine is Israel
- If we do not bear fruit, God will not allow me into the Millennial Kingdom
- We obtain fruit by doing thing for the Lord



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV) John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:22-26

any questions?