

## Doctrine of the Vine

1. The vine is used in *Scripture* in a literal and in a symbolic way. In the dream which Joseph interpreted, the vine represented the restoration to favor within three days of the butler of Pharaoh.
  - *Genesis 40:9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; 10 And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:*
  - *Genesis 40:12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: 13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.*
2. Jacob predicted in highly figurative terms that the reign of Shiloh (the Messiah) would be one of rural peace and prosperity. There would be an abundance of choice vines producing remarkable blue or purple grapes.
  - *Genesis 49:11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:*
3. The vine was to be cultivated in such a way that would provide for the poor.
  - *Leviticus 25:5 That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land.*
4. Those who took a vow of a Nazarite were not to have any contact with the produce of a vine in order to demonstrate a life of severity and seriousness.
  - *Numbers 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord: 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. 4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.*
5. The traditional picture of Palestine is that of "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8, 17). This view is supported elsewhere in the Bible, as in Deuteronomy 8:8: "A land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey."
6. In poetic imaginary Israel under judgment is compared to a corrupt vine. Sodom and Gomorrah are advanced as types of that which is depraved.
  - *Deuteronomy 32:32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:*

7. Speaking in the form of a parable, Jotham addressed the people of Israel to speak against the ungodly confederacy of Abimelech and the men of Shechem. He reminds them that his father Gideon (the vine) did not choose to rule over the other tribes (“the trees”).
  - *Judges 9:12 Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us. 13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?*
8. The mother of Samson prepared him for his Nazarite vow by not eating anything of the vine.
  - *Judges 13:14 She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.*
9. Being able to dwell safely under one’s own vine was a symbol of peace and prosperity in Israel.
  - *1 Kings 4:25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.*
  - *Micah 4:4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.*
10. The king of Assyria promised false peace and prosperity to Hezekiah.
  - *2 Kings 18:31 Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:*
11. Uzziah, king of Judah (c. BC 809-756), encouraged husbandry.
  - *2 Chronicles 26:10 Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.*
12. The vine is used to teach a moral lesson. Specifically, the sinner’s ruin is the fruit of his own conduct.
  - *Job 15:33 He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.*
  - *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.*

13. The vine is used as a symbol of Israel.

- *Psalms 80:8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.*
- *Psalms 80:14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;*

14. A faithful and useful wife is illustrated by the vine.

- *Psalms 128:3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.*

15. As Solomon desired to see fruit on the vine so the Lord desires to see fruit in His church.

- *Song of Solomon 6:11 I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.*

16. The fruit of the vine is used as a symbol of sensual love.

- *Song of Solomon 7:8 I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;*
- *Song of Solomon 7:12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.*

17. The Lord planted Israel to be a fruitful vine producing acts of worship and praise for Him but, “it brought forth wild grapes”.

- So said Isaiah. *Isaiah 5:2 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.*
- So said Jeremiah. *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?*

18. The absence of the vine speaks of the loss of joy.

- *Isaiah 24:7 The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merry hearted do sigh.*
- *Isaiah 32:12 They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.*

19. The vine is used to illustrate judgment.

- By Isaiah. *Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.*
- By Jeremiah. *Jeremiah 6:9 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall throughly glean the remnant of Israel as a vine: turn back thine hand as a grape gatherer into the baskets....8:13 I will surely consume them, saith the Lord: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.*
- By Ezekiel. *Ezekiel 15:6 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; As the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*
- By Joel. *Joel 1:12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.*
- By Nahum. *Nahum 2:2 For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.*

20. The hope of those in exile was to return to Israel and be blessed.

- *Hosea 14:7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.*
- *Haggai 2:19 Is the seed yet in the barn? Yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.*
- *Zechariah 3:10 In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree. ... 8:12 For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.*
- *Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.*

21. At the dawning of the new dispensation Jesus drank the fruit of the vine with His disciples.

- *Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*

- *Mark 14:25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*
  - *Luke 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.*
22. Jesus said that He was the True Vine as compared to national Israel which had proven itself fruitless.
- *John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*
23. The Christian is a branch of Christ, the True Vine, and so must abide in Him.
- *John 15:4 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.*
24. The branches of the vine can do nothing apart from its vital union to the true vine. In like manner the Christian can do nothing without Christ.
- *John 15:5 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.*
25. Illustrated by the vine, a person is what he is.
- *James 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*
26. The impending judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70 was foretold by the image of the grape harvest.
- *Revelation 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*