

Ezekiel Ministry

By Barry A. Wilson

The Vineyard

“I’ll sing a ballad to the one I love, a love ballad about his vineyard: The one I love had a vineyard, a fine, well-placed vineyard. He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds, and planted the very best vines. He built a lookout, built a winepress, a vineyard to be proud of. He looked for a vintage yield of grapes, but for all his pains he got junk grapes. “Now listen to what I’m telling you, you who live in Jerusalem and Judah. What do you think is going on between me and my vineyard? Can you think of anything I could have done to my vineyard that I didn’t do? When I expected good grapes, why did I get bitter grapes? “Well now, let me tell you what I’ll do to my vineyard: I’ll tear down its fence and let it go to ruin. I’ll knock down the gate and let it be trampled. I’ll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for— thistles and thorns will take over. I’ll give orders to the clouds: ‘Don’t rain on that vineyard, ever!’” Do you get it? The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies is the country of Israel. All the men and women of Judah are the garden he was so proud of. He looked for a crop of justice and saw them murdering each other. He looked for a harvest of righteousness and heard only the moans of victims.” (Isaiah 5:1-7 MSG)

Isaiah described Israel as the vineyard. God has done everything He knew for the people He loved. He had given them the most productive environment possible for them to become precisely what he wanted them to be. But Israel did not produce. Israel remained a sinful, rebellious nation. God had to act. Israel rejected God, instead of worshipping God they worshipped idols.

This morning as I sit on my front porch drinking my coffee and praying. I ask God to give me some uplifting scripture and God gave me this scripture. It was not very uplifting, but I know that it was what I needed to hear. God keeps burdening my heart that we must be the watchman on the wall telling others about Jesus and that we as a nation must return to God. If we don’t return to God, He will leave us just like he talks about in this scripture. God more than anything else wants to love us and take care of us. He wants us to be the vineyard that produces sweet grapes. He will do anything in His power to help us, all we have to do is give it all to Him.

“At times you have to fight. No way around it. At some point, every one of us is confronted with danger or injustice. How we choose to combat that challenge is often life-defining. You can face difficulties head-on, or run from them, or ignore them until they consume you. But no one escapes conflict. No one.

In my experience of more than thirty years of practicing journalism, I have found that most people do not like to fight. No surprise there. Battle is not only exhausting and dangerous; it also requires skill and discipline to emerge victorious, much less unscathed.” Bill O’Reilly

I don't like conflict any more than anyone else, but the time has come that we must fight if we are going to win the battle that is raging in our nation. I believe that if we fight and pray, we can win this battle. One problem is we don't have the right information. The News media is not always truthful. If we don't fight, we are going to lose our freedom.

If we do anything for the Lord, Satan will fight us. He will fight us in all areas of our live. Satan has been fighting me. When Satan fights as hard as he has been fighting me, I know that God is about to move in a mighty way. The main way that he fights us is by telling us lies; just like he did in the Garden of Eden. The lie that he tells me is, why do you write devotions and books? No one cares and you are not helping anyone. He makes me want to doubt God and the call that God has put on my life. He wants me to give up. I should know better; this has been his lie to me for the past forty years. Satan wants to defeat us in our work for God. If we continue to listen to him, we will at some point believe him. Don't believe the lies of Satan! He is defeated and all he can do is imitate. When Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead, Satan lost the war and Jesus won. Paul tells us how we can fight Satan and win. "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm." (Ephesians 6:12-13)

This scripture in Isaiah asked a question. Do you get it? Do you realize that we are standing at a crossroad? The question at the crossroad is, do you serve Satan or do you serve God? There is no middle ground. I want America to be the vineyard that produces sweet grapes. God will provide this if we just stand and fight.

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