



The True Vine of Israel

By Ken Terry January 15, 2024

TODAY'S READING: John 15

For years I have read this chapter in John and focused on the I AM reference, Jesus being God. For this is the last of Jesus seven I AM saying in this Gospel. What struck me differently about this passage today is the True Vine reference, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser"* (John 15:1, NKJV).

Jesus is the True Vine of Israel. (See the vineyard song in Isaiah 5:1-7) The Old Testament frequently uses the vineyard and the vine as a symbol for Israel. However, Israel continued to sin, failing to produce fruit, which resulted in divine judgment. By contrast, Jesus is the TRUE VINE, and His followers abide in Him and produces *fruit*. *Now as you read this next scripture understand the significance of the True Vine, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5, NKJV).

Without Jesus, the Vine, the branches cannot produce fruit in their lives--specifically, living a righteous and godly life, one that is acceptable to God, the Father. Where are you, my friends, in this conundrum? For you cannot serve Jesus and serve worldly pursuits at the same time. It is impossible. You see, serving worldly pursuits, you will fall into the darkness of sin. Your life will be encompassed by selfishness, pride, and greed. People continue to fail in this mindset like the Israelites in the past. Jesus states unequivocally the results of such persons; *"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned"* (John 15:6, NKJV).

However, those who serve Jesus would exemplify the loving disposition of the Master! His branches would continue to receive the spiritual nectar from the True Vine, being spiritually filled with the capacity to bear more fruit!! Jesus is the True Vine! He is the Vine of Israel and the Vine to the Gentile nations. If you have not made the hard turn towards Jesus, let today be the day of spiritual awakening, for without Jesus as Lord of your life, you cannot bear fruit. My friends, we have to abide in the Master and here's why; *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love"* (John 15:7-9 NKJV).

PRAYER: Dear Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for Your True Vine, Jesus Christ our Lord. Father, we thank You for all He represents--Your Glory. Father, help us position ourselves to abide in Him. Help us continue in a daily personal relationship with Jesus. Help us to believe, trust, and follow the King of Glory to the best of our ability. Father, we know, in doing so, we magnify His name through our mortal being and glorify Your name. Father, we love You and praise You in the matchless name of Christ Jesus our Lord, amen!

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 26

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