

Isaiah 27 Slaying the Dragon in the Vineyard

The Lord zealously keeps His people for everlasting worship.

1. The Lord zealously keeps His people.
 - a. An Affectionate Zeal
 - i. “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!” (v. 2b)
 - ii. “I, the LORD, am its keeper” (v. 3a)
 - iii. “I have no wrath” (v. 4a)
 - b. A Violent Zeal
 - i. “Hard and great and strong sword” (v. 1)
 - ii. “Would that I had thorns and briars to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together.” (v. 4b)
 - iii. “Or let them lay hold of My protection . . .” (v. 5)—peace offered as alternative to destruction
 - iv. “He struck them . . . measure by measure” (vv. 7-8)—measured discipline of His people
 - c. A Constant Zeal
 - i. “Every moment I water it” (v. 3b)
 - ii. “I keep it night and day” (v. 3d)
2. The Lord keeps His people from enemies that destroy worship.
 - a. Intruders/Interlopers from the outside
 - i. “Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and He will slay the dragon that is in the sea” (v. 1b)—Echoes Genesis 3:1ff. “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.” Isaiah sees the “monster(s)” concretized as foreign nations that compete against the LORD for Judah’s trust and loyalty (cf. 30:7, where Egypt is “Rahab” another “monster”; and Rev. 12-13, dragon, beasts from land and sea).
 - ii. Intruders: Foreign Enemies (Assyria)
 - iii. Interlopers: Foreign Allies (Egypt, Syria)
 - b. Defectors from the Inside
 - i. “The guilt of Jacob . . . his sin . . . the stones of the altars . . . Asherim or incense altars” (v. 9)—idolatry
 - ii. “A people without discernment” (v. 11c)—cannot distinguish between good and evil because they reject God’s revelation (cf. Gen. 3).
3. The Lord keeps His people for worship.
 - a. Protection Produces Flourishing—“Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.” (v. 6)—Cosmic blessing comes through God’s people.
 - b. Flourishing for Worship—“In that day . . . [they] will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.” (v. 13)—The cosmic blessing flows from this restored worship.