

Note: Isaiah 27 has three parts. (1) Isaiah 27:2-5 is a vineyard song, which may be connected to an earlier vineyard song in Is 5:1-7. (2) Verses 6-11 is a poem about God's pardon of all the Hebrews, the descendants of Jacob (who was renamed Israel). (3) Verses 12-13 describe a great gathering of the people of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and the people of Judah (Southern Kingdom) in the heavenly Jerusalem.

1. Isaiah is told by God to "Sing about a fruitful vineyard." (Is 27:2-5)
 - a. List the different things God does to benefit the vineyard. (Is 27:3)
 - b. Who are the people symbolized by the briars and thorns? (Is 27:4)
 - c. What alternatives does God give to the briars and thorns? (Is 27:5)
2. How does God describe himself in this song so that we can believe that he wishes life, not death, for those who are the briars and thorns? (Is 27:4)
3. *Challenge:* Compare this song about a fruitful vineyard (Is 27:2-5) to the earlier song about the Lord's vineyard in Is 5:1-7.
 - a. What are some similarities?
 - b. What are some differences?
 - c. What is the outcome in each vineyard song?

4. Using symbolism, what three things does the Lord promise will happen to the people of Jacob in days to come? (Is 27:6)

Note: Verses 8-11 describe the utter destruction of Israel's enemies. In verse 8, the term "you" or "thou" refers to Israel (Jacob) and "them" refers to the enemy's city with its pagan temples and altar stones.

5. Describe the way Isaiah sees how Jacob's guilt will be atoned for. (Is 27:9-11)
6. God acknowledges that he was the Maker of Israel's oppressors, yet he has no compassion for them. What does Isaiah claim is the reason for God showing the oppressors no favor? (Is 27:11)
7. In the end times, Isaiah writes, God will go into the lands where Hebrew exiles lived, and gather them up to be together again. (Is 27:12-13)
 - a. Name some of the places where Isaiah envisions some of the exiles still living. (Is 27:12-13)
 - b. In what special way will God gather them? (Is 27:12)
8. Isaiah talks about the final gathering of his people.
 - a. How will God announce the final harvesting of his people? (Is 27:13)
 - b. Where will they be found when they are finally gathered together? (Is 27:13)
9. *Reflection:* If Isaiah were alive today, do you think Isaiah would be surprised to find God gathering Hebrew exiles from the United States, South America, Russia, Europe, and Asia?
10. The image of harvest is common in the Bible. Here, God is sifting, saving, and gathering in. What incentive does this image give us to be patient and steadfast during a lifetime of faith and witness? (Is 27:12-13)