

Notes

The Restoration of Israel (27:1–13)

- Isaiah 27 concludes this prophetic section (Isaiah 24-27) by revealing God's final purpose for His covenant people, Israel. After His judgments have accomplished their purpose, He will defeat every enemy, purify His people, and restore them to Himself. God's judgment is never His final word; His ultimate purpose is restoration.

1. The LORD's Victory Over the Serpent (27:1)

- The chapter opens with a powerful declaration of God's final victory over Leviathan (or, Satan) and every force of evil (v1). The expression "*in that day*" points to the future Day of the LORD when God will intervene in history to judge evil. Leviathan is described as:
 - The piercing (swift, fleeing) serpent — swift & elusive.
 - The crooked (coiling) serpent — twisted, deceptive, and ensnaring.
 - The dragon in the sea — a terrifying sea monster, picturing Satan working behind the rebellious nations of the world (57:20; Dan 7:2–3).
- Elsewhere in Scripture, Leviathan is portrayed as a mighty and untameable sea creature (Job 3:8; Job 41; Ps 74:14; Ps 104:26). Here, however, Isaiah uses Leviathan symbolically to represent Satan and the evil powers that oppose God. This symbolism is confirmed by later revelation, where Satan is called "*that old serpent*" and "*the dragon*" (Rev 12:9; 20:2).
- Isaiah emphasizes not the fearsome power of Satan but the greatness of God. The LORD comes with His "*sore and great and strong sword*" to judge and overthrow Satan. Satan is not God's equal. He is a created being who can act only within the limits God allows. His defeat is certain because God has already determined his end. Christ has already won the decisive victory over Satan (Heb 2:14–15), and one day Satan will be bound and cast into the lake of fire forever (Rev 20:1–3, 20:10).
- Until then, we are called to "*be sober, be vigilant*" (1 Pet 5:8), to "*resist the devil*" (Jas 4:7), to "*put on the whole armour of God*" (Eph 6:11), and to remember that "*the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly*" (Rom 16:20). The final victory belongs to the LORD.

2. The LORD's Care for His Vineyard (27:2–6)

- In contrast to Isaiah 5:1-7, where Israel was pictured as an unfruitful vineyard under judgment, the vineyard is now described as "*a vineyard of red wine*" (v2), flourishing under God's continual care (v3).

- He protects His vineyard: "*I the LORD do keep it.*" The LORD Himself watches over His people (Ps 23:4).
- He continually provides for it: "*I will water it every moment.*" He sustains and blesses His people (John 15:5).
- He watches over it continually: "*I will keep it night and day.*" His people are never outside His loving care (Ps 121:4).
- God also declares, "*Fury is not in me*" (v4) because God's discipline has accomplished its purpose. The relationship is no longer characterised by wrath but by reconciliation and peace. His desire is to bless and restore them. Even His invitation in verse 5 reveals His gracious heart: "*Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me.*" True peace is found by surrendering to the LORD and trusting in His strength.
- As a result, Israel will flourish: "... *to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit*" (v6).
 - Taking root — Israel will be firmly established in the land.
 - Blossoming and budding — The nation will flourish spiritually, morally, and materially under the Messiah's reign.
 - Filling the world with fruit — Israel will become a channel of blessing to all nations, fulfilling God's covenant promise to Abraham (Gen 12:3).
- God's discipline is never His final purpose. He prunes in order to restore, corrects in order to heal, and removes what is harmful so that greater fruit may grow (John 15).

3. The LORD Chastens His People (27:7–11)

- Isaiah points out that although Israel was disciplined, she was never treated as her enemies were (v7). God judged the surrounding nations in wrath, but He disciplined Israel in mercy. His purpose was correction, not destruction. Verse 8 describes God's measured discipline: "*In measure...he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.*" The "east wind" pictures God's severe chastening, ultimately experienced through the Babylonian captivity. Yet even then, God restrained His judgment according to His covenant mercy (Jer 10:24; 30:11).
- The purpose of this discipline is clearly stated in v9: "*By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged.*" The exile was intended to remove Israel's idolatry and bring the nation back to the LORD. After the Babylonian captivity, Israel never again returned to the widespread idol worship that had characterized her earlier history. God's correction is meant to restore

fellowship, deepen our faith, and produce spiritual maturity (eg. David, Peter). Even when He disciplines His children, it is always for their good (Heb 12:6,10). When we submit to His refining work, He shapes us into the likeness of Christ (Rom 8:28–29).

- Verses 10–11 remind us that cities and nations that reject God cannot endure. The greatest problem was not political weakness or military failure but spiritual blindness: "*For it is a people of no understanding...*" (Isa 44:9–20; Hos 4:6). The root problem was never ignorance alone but a deliberate refusal to acknowledge God.

4. The Great Regathering of Israel (27:12–13)

- The chapter concludes with the promise of Israel's future restoration (v12). Like a farmer carefully gathering each stalk at harvest, God will personally gather His people: "*one by one.*" No one will be forgotten because He remains faithful to every covenant promise. The boundaries described - from the Euphrates River to the Stream of Egypt - highlight the completeness of this restoration (Gen 15:18).
- Verse 13 speaks of "*the great trumpet*," announcing Israel's return from Assyria and Egypt. Their return to the land will be accompanied by a renewed heart, genuine repentance, and joyful worship (Ezk 37; Zech 12:10). This looks to the future regathering that will take place when Christ returns. This future regathering corresponds with Christ's prophecy that His angels will gather His elect from "*the four winds*" (Matt 24:30–31). Israel will be restored to her land, and the redeemed will worship the LORD in Jerusalem as He reigns over the earth.
- For believers, this passage reminds us
 - God never forgets His promises. God remains faithful. Every promise He has made to those who belong to Christ will surely come to pass.
 - God knows each of His people personally (John 10:3; Luke 15:4–7). No believer is ever forgotten or overlooked by the Lord.
 - Our future hope is certain. One day believers from every nation and generation will stand together before the throne of God, worshipping Him forever in the New Jerusalem (Rev 21–22).
- History is moving according to God's sovereign plan. One day the great trumpet will sound, God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled & Christ will reign forever. The God who restores Israel is the same God who will complete His work in every one of His children (Phil 1:6).