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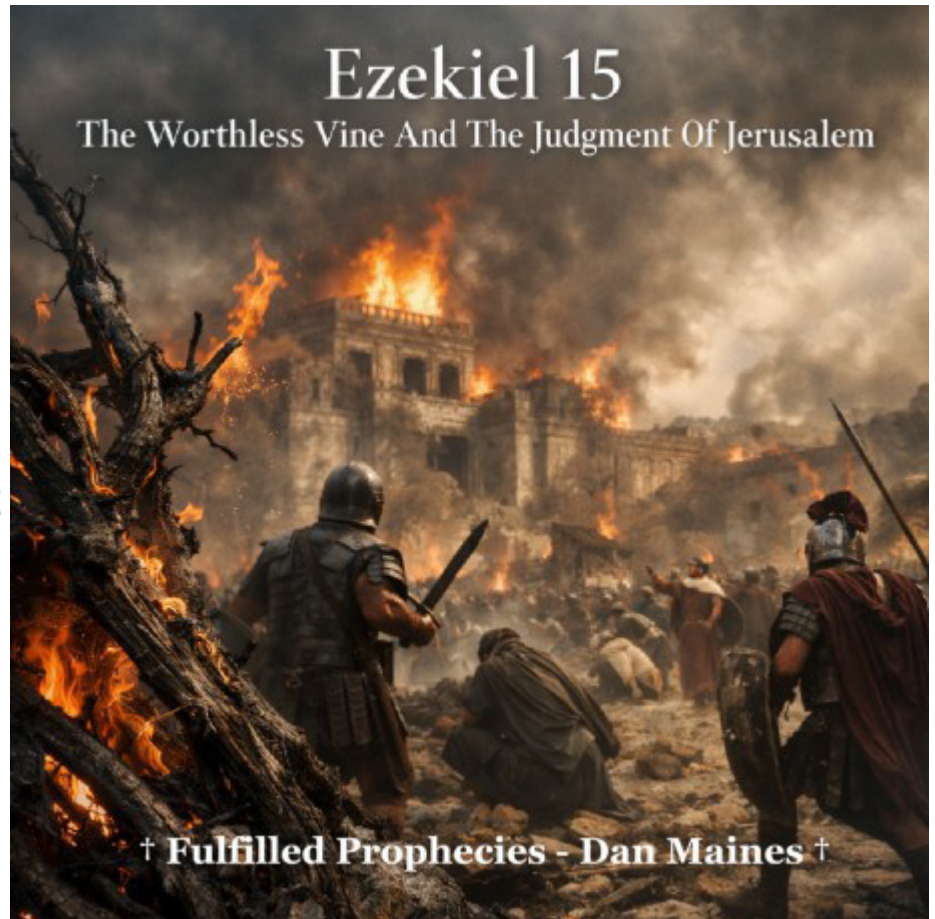
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Ezekiel 15 The Worthless Vine And The Judgment Of Jerusalem



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 15 The Worthless Vine And The Judgment Of Jerusalem

Introduction

† Ezekiel 15 is a short chapter but it's direct and final, God compares Jerusalem to vine wood that has no value once it fails to bear fruit (Isaiah 5:1-7).

† The point isn't that Israel had no calling, the point is that unfruitful covenant people became useless for the purpose God

had set them apart for (John 15:1-6).

† This chapter lines up with what Jesus said about that same generation being judged for their unfruitfulness (Matthew 23:37-38).

Ezekiel 15:1-5

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, how is the wood of the vine better than any wood of a branch which is among the trees of the forest? Can wood be taken from it to make anything, or can men take a peg from it on which to hang any vessel? If it has been put into the fire for fuel, and the fire has consumed both of its ends and its middle part has been charred, is it then useful for anything? Behold, while it is intact, it is not made into anything. How much less, when the fire has consumed it and it is charred, can it still be made into anything!

† Vine wood wasn't useful for building or tools, its only value was in its fruit (Isaiah 5:2).

† God is showing that covenant identity without fruit is worthless (Jeremiah 8:13).

† Once it's burned, its condition is revealed, it was never useful apart from fruit (Luke 13:6-9).

Ezekiel 15:6-8

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, As the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I have given up the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I set My face against them. Though they have come out of the fire, yet the fire will consume them. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I set My face against them. So I will make the land desolate, because they have acted unfaithfully, declares the Lord GOD.

† God directly identifies the vine as the inhabitants of Jerusalem under judgment (Jeremiah 11:16-17).

† Setting His face against them is covenant judgment language, not symbolic or future (Leviticus 26:17).

† They move from one judgment to another because the destruction was total and unstoppable (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).

† This desolation is exactly what Jesus said would happen to that generation (Luke 21:20-22).

Historical References

† Josephus records the burning of Jerusalem and the temple under Rome, matching the fire imagery in this chapter (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6).

† Tacitus confirms the destruction and devastation of Jerusalem by Roman forces (Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13).

† Eusebius connects the fall of Jerusalem to the fulfillment of Christ's warnings (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christ is the true vine now, not Israel under the Old Covenant (John 15:1-5).

† Fruit is still the evidence of life, not profession alone (Matthew 7:19-20).

† The Old Covenant system is gone, it was judged and removed (Hebrews 8:13).

† We live in the fulfilled kingdom now, not waiting for this judgment again (Matthew 24:34).

† Our life is in Christ, and apart from Him we can't produce anything of value (John 15:5).

Q & A Appendix

Q What is the vine in Ezekiel 15

A The inhabitants of Jerusalem under covenant judgment
Ezekiel 15:6

Q Why is the vine considered useless

A Because it has no value apart from bearing fruit John 15:5

Q What does the fire represent

A Covenant judgment resulting in destruction Deuteronomy
28:49-52

Q When was this fulfilled

A In the destruction of Jerusalem in that generation Luke 21:20-
22

Q What is the application today

A Life and fruit are only found in Christ John 15:1-5

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 15:1-8

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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