

## **“THE GRAPES OF WRATH”**

**Hosea 9:10-17**

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### INTRODUCTION

Grapes in a “wilderness” would certainly be a welcome and somewhat unexpected delight. As we know here in Arizona, grapes can be grown in the wilderness—when proper irrigation and horticultural practice is maintained. But wild grapes are more unusual. Once discovered they are a real treat.

The same is true for the first ripe figs on a tree—especially in their first season. They are a real delight to their owner.

The most interesting factor here is that these grapes and figs represent people—God’s people Israel in their early days as the people of God whom He “found” in the Sinai wilderness and made them His people and enjoyed their fruit.

Unfortunately, Israel soon turned on his Maker and Master and chose another Master/Husband. The people became detestable to their Maker/Master/Husband Yahweh.

*The point for us is clear; the Lord delights in His people and wants us to belong to Him exclusively—so that He can bless us and give us the very best He has to offer spiritually and materially.*

- He delights in our fellowship.
- He enjoys our worship.
- He loves to see us grow spiritually .
- He wants us to “bear fruit.”
- He wants us to be “happy” .

However, if we stubbornly resist His commands and directives for our lives, we will experience misery and unhappiness. Instead of blessing we will experience chastisement.

**YOU ARE THE OBJECT OF GOD’S DELIGHT; DON’T BECOME THE OBJECT OF HIS DESTRUCTION.**

- I. PROSPERITY AND BLESSING IS THE PORTION OF GOD’S PEOPLE (10, 11, 13)
  - A. Like grapes and figs (10)
  - B. Glorious (11)
  - C. Pleasant circumstances (13—“Pleasant meadow like Tyre”)
  - D. Divine love (15)
- II. PEER PRESSURE AND LUST LEAD TO THEIR APOSTASY (1, 15)
  - A. The Moabites used beautiful women to seduce the men to commit adultery and idolatry with “Baal of Peor” .

- B. Numerous men fall into the moral and spiritual trap—“everybody is doing it”!
- C. Men become “religiously zealous” (“Separated themselves”—like Nazirites) over their sin. (10); they do not listen to the Lord (17b).
- D. Devotion to sin is really devotion to Shame.
  - Idols were often connected with “shame”—cf. Ish-Baal with Ish-bosheth.
  - Christians ought to be ashamed to participate in ungodly and worldly practices that are a reproach to the Lord’s name.
- E. Wicked behavior and worship is “detestable” to the Lord
- F. All of the leaders are rebels (15)
- G. Detestable behavior makes men **detestable** to God (10b)
  - Note that we become like what we love in God’s eyes!
  - God comes to “hate them” due to their hateful lifestyle (15)
  - Wicked deeds are despicable to the Lord
- H. Places of Blessing become places of Cursing (15)  
God had “rolled away their reproach” at Gilgal, but idolatrous practices even at Gilgal had restored reproach to Israel.
- I. What God’s people have belongs to God—not to them; when misused He takes it back (v. 15—“my house”)

### III. FORSAKING GOD RESULTS IN RUINATION

It is what sinners deserve, and **we must concur with the Lord’s analysis** (14—“Give them, O Lord—what will you give?”)

- A. Loss of Divine love (15); hated (15); detestable (10); divine departure (12)
- B. Loss of Glory (splendor and beauty)—flying away as a bird (11)
- C. Loss of family blessings (11b; 12, 13; 14b; 16)
  - No birth, pregnancy, conception (reverse order!) (11)
  - Miscarriages and dried breasts (14)
  - Surviving children will die—they are bereaved till no one is left (12).
  - Children are brought out for slaughter (13).
  - “Precious ones of their womb” are slain (16)
- D. Castaways and wanderers among the nations (17)
- E. Dried root and no fruit (16)
- F. Woeful condition (12—“Woe to them indeed”)

### CONCLUSION

**Be the object of God’s delight—not the object of His destruction!**

**DON’T MESS WITH GOD—YOU WILL LOSE!**