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Before we start our Bible study today, please take a moment to pray. Ask God to forgive you for any sin that you have committed and to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Now please read Isaiah 27:2-6

Who does the vineyard represent and who keeps it?

Israel is compared to a vineyard. As believers in Christ, spiritually speaking, we can apply the verses to ourselves as well. God is the keeper and we are the vineyard.

The word *keep* does not simply mean *own* or *tend to*; it means to guard, to preserve, to guard from dangers, to defend. Isn't it wonderful that God guards us from dangers? Sometimes "guarding us from dangers" means that God will allow trials to come and rid us of *dangerous* sinful attitudes and habits or character flaws.

What else is trying to grow in the vineyard in addition to grapes?

Briars and thorns. From the Garden of Eden to the crucifixion of Christ, briars and thorns are symbols of sin.

What does God do to rid the vineyard of the briars and thorns?

He burns them. In 1 Peter 4:12, God tells us not to be surprised when we face fiery trials. As painful as they may be, fiery trials burn off the sinful parts of our lives, leaving us with a sanctified character. The fiery trials are for our benefit, that the glory of God may be revealed in us.

According to verse 5, what does God long to do with us?

He longs for us to live in peace with Him.

When we live in peace with God what shall be the result (verse 6)?

We shall root, grow, bud and fill the world with the fruit He produces in us by the power of His Holy Spirit.

This day, please take the next step that is needed in order rid your life of briars and thorns so you may bless those around you with the gifts that God has given you.

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