

The Vine

Psalm 80

This way for the gas, ladies and gentlemen
(Tadeusz Borowski, English translation from Polish)

Weeping (v5)

Lilies of the Covenant



The Assyrian invasion, c734-722BC

Broken unity

Prayer for God to Remember Israel

v3: Refrain: God

Situation report

v7: Refrain: God of armies

The vine

Prayer for God to Remember

v3: Refrain: LORD God of armies



The Sons of Israel and Rachel (vv1-3)

The shepherd God

blesses Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen.48:14-16)

BUT

**The dominant northern tribes scorn Judah (2 Chr.30:10)
and would soon cease to exist as coherent entities**

Broken unity ('we' in v3)



The situation report (vv4-6)

A broken covenant (v4, v16, compare Deut. 29,30)

The smoke of anger (v4)

A diet of tears (v5)

Enemies contend for the remains

(v6, compare Deut. 29:22-28)

Refrain (v7)



The vine (vv8-16)

The biggest vine you ever saw! (The reign of Solomon)

Nostalgia for a vanished golden age,

Planted by God (vv8,9)

But now:

The wall is broken, the vine burned (vv12,16)

Broken and burned by God!



The vine (vv8-16)

Does God not see? (v14)

A cause for hope, a branch survives! (v15)

branch (v15) = son (v17)

a “son of man”



What happened next?

- 734-722BC:** Northern kingdom exterminated
- 701:** Fall of Lachish,
Jerusalem survives (2 Chron. 32:20-23)
Ups and downs
- 587:** Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians
- 468 onwards:** The exiles return, ups and downs, Romans
- c30AD:** A new claimant!



The Son of Man

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

(NIV Mt 13:41)

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

(NIV Mt 19:28, see also Mt 26:63-64)



The Son of Man

Gathers the refugees:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

(NIV Lk 19:10)

Feeds the hungry:

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” (NIV Jn 6:27)



The True Vine

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful...)

(John 15:1-8)

Covenant warnings (John 15:6) and promises (John 15:7,8)

**Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.**

(NIV Ps 80:19)

