

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 27 — Israel's Deliverance and the Defeat of Leviathan

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 27 brings the great prophetic section of Isaiah 24–27 to a powerful conclusion.

The chapter speaks of:

Victory over evil.

The restoration of God's vineyard.

Peace with God.

The purging of sin.

The fall of the proud city.

The gathering of Israel.

And worship on the holy mountain.

The chapter begins with one of Scripture's most striking images:

“The Lord, with His fierce, great, and strong sword, will punish Leviathan.”

Leviathan appears as:

A serpent.

A twisted creature.

A dragon of the sea.

In its immediate poetic setting, Leviathan represents forces of:

Chaos.

Hostility.

Rebellion.

Empire.

Evil.

The imagery draws on ancient pictures of sea monsters and chaos powers, yet Isaiah places them firmly under:

God's authority.

The creature is not God's equal.

The Lord does not struggle uncertainly against it.

He:

Punishes it.

Slays it.

The New Testament later identifies the great dragon and ancient serpent with:

Satan.

That gives the imagery a broader biblical connection to God's ultimate defeat of evil.

The chapter then shifts dramatically.

Instead of:

A monster.

We see:

A vineyard.

In Isaiah 5, God's vineyard produced:

Wild grapes.

Judgment followed.

But in Isaiah 27, the vineyard is pictured differently.

God says:

"I, the Lord, watch over it; I water it continually."

He guards it:

Night.

Day.

The chapter moves from:

Judgment.

To:

Restoration.

From:

Wild growth.

To:

Fruitfulness.

From:

Anger.

To:

Peace.

Then comes one of the great invitations:

“Let them come to Me for refuge; let them make peace with Me.”

God’s purpose is not simply:

To destroy.

He calls people toward:

Reconciliation.

Then Israel is pictured:

Taking root.

Blossoming.

Sprouting.

Filling the earth with fruit.

The chapter also explains that God’s discipline toward Israel is different in purpose from His judgment upon unrepentant enemies.

He disciplines:

To purge sin.

To destroy idolatry.

To remove false worship.

The proof of true cleansing is not merely:

Suffering.

But:

Idols broken.

Altars crushed.

False worship abandoned.

The final verses return to hope.

God gathers His people:

One by one.

A great trumpet sounds.

Those scattered in:

Assyria.

Egypt.

Return.

And they worship the Lord:

On the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

The central truth of Isaiah 27 is:

The Lord will ultimately defeat every power of chaos and evil, lovingly restore and protect His vineyard, purge His people from idolatry, call sinners to make peace with Him, gather His scattered people one by one, and bring them back to worship Him in Zion.

I. THE LORD DEFEATS LEVIATHAN

Isaiah 27:1 — The Great Serpent Is Slain

“In that day the Lord, with His fierce, great, and strong sword, will punish Leviathan the swift serpent, Leviathan the twisted serpent. He will slay the dragon that lives in the sea.”

The chapter begins with:

Conflict.

But the outcome is never uncertain.

The Lord possesses:

A fierce sword.

A great sword.

A strong sword.

Leviathan is described as:

Swift.

Twisted.

Serpentine.

Dragon-like.

Yet:

It dies.

Cross References

Job 41:1

God challenges Job by asking whether a human being can capture Leviathan with a hook or control the terrifying creature by human power, emphasizing humanity's weakness before what God Himself can command.

Psalms 74:14

The psalmist praises God for crushing the heads of Leviathan and demonstrating His victory over powerful forces of chaos and opposition.

Revelation 12:9

The great dragon is identified as the ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, who is cast down under God's authority.

Spiritual Principle

The forces of evil may be terrifying.

They are never equal to God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What humanity cannot tame, God can destroy.

II. LEVIATHAN AND THE BIBLICAL PICTURE OF EVIL

Leviathan is a real poetic image rooted in ancient descriptions of an overwhelming sea creature.

In Isaiah 27, however, the imagery carries a larger symbolic force.

It represents:

Chaos.

Hostile powers.

Rebellion.

Opposition to God.

The New Testament's language of the:

Dragon.

Serpent.

Devil.

Provides a legitimate broader biblical echo.

We should not force every detail of Leviathan into a one-to-one description of Satan.

But the larger biblical pattern is clear:

God defeats evil.

Spiritual Principle

Evil may twist.

Move swiftly.

Hide deeply.

But it cannot escape:

God's sword.

III. THE VINEYARD BECOMES A SONG OF JOY

Isaiah 27:2 — “A Vineyard of Wine”

“In that day sing of it: ‘A vineyard of wine, beloved of the Lord!’”

Isaiah 5 had a vineyard song of:

Disappointment.

Here:

The vineyard becomes a song of:

Restoration.

Fruitfulness.

Divine care.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:1

Earlier Isaiah sang of God's vineyard that was carefully cultivated but produced wild grapes, leading to judgment.

John 15:1

Jesus identifies Himself as the true vine and His Father as the One who tends and cultivates the vineyard.

Psalms 80:8

Israel is compared to a vine that God brought out of Egypt, planted, and established in the land.

Spiritual Principle

God can restore what once failed to produce good fruit.

Key Truth

The vineyard of judgment can become the vineyard of restoration.

IV. GOD WATCHES OVER HIS VINEYARD

Isaiah 27:3 — Watched and Watered Continually

“I, the Lord, watch over it; I water it continually. I guard it night and day, so no one may harm it.”

Notice how personal the language is.

“I, the Lord.”

He:

Watches.

Waters.

Guards.

And He does so:

Continually.

Night.

Day.

Cross References

John 10:28

Jesus says He gives His sheep eternal life, that they will never perish, and that no one can snatch them from His hand.

Psalms 121:4

The One who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Philippians 1:6

God, who begins a good work in His people, is faithful to continue His work until its appointed completion.

Spiritual Principle

God's care is not intermittent.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The vineyard survives because the Keeper never goes off duty.

V. GOD'S ANGER IS NOT HIS FINAL WORD OVER THE VINEYARD

Isaiah 27:4 — Briers and Thorns Will Be Burned

"I am not angry. But if only briers and thorns confronted Me, I would march against them in battle; I would burn them all together."

This verse communicates:

Changed relationship.

God's anger against His vineyard is no longer presented as the final condition.

But:

Briers.

Thorns.

Persistent rebellion.

Still face:

Judgment.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:6

The earlier vineyard judgment included the land being left unpruned and overgrown with briars and thorns.

Hebrews 6:8

Land that continually produces thorns and briars is described as worthless and dangerously near judgment and burning.

Micah 7:18

God is praised as the One who forgives sin, passes over transgression, and does not remain angry forever because He delights in mercy.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy does not mean God has ceased opposing sin.

VI. GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIM

Isaiah 27:5 — “Let Them Make Peace with Me”

“Or let them come to Me for refuge; let them make peace with Me—yes, let them make peace with Me.”

This is one of the strongest invitations in the chapter.

Instead of facing:

God’s judgment.

The sinner can seek:

God Himself.

For:

Refuge.

Peace.

The invitation is repeated:

“Let them make peace with Me.”

Cross References

2 Corinthians 5:20

Paul appeals on behalf of Christ, urging people to be reconciled to God.

Romans 5:1

Those justified by faith have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Job 22:21

The hearer is urged to become reconciled to God, submit to Him, and experience peace.

Spiritual Principle

The God who can destroy rebellion also offers reconciliation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place for God’s enemy is no longer against Him but reconciled to Him.

VII. ISRAEL WILL TAKE ROOT AND FILL THE EARTH WITH FRUIT

Isaiah 27:6 — Root, Blossom, Fruit

“In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and will fill the whole earth with fruit.”

This is the opposite of:

Uprooting.

Withering.

Desolation.

Israel will:

Take root.

Blossom.

Sprout.

Bear fruit.

Cross References

Isaiah 37:31

The surviving remnant of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

Hosea 14:5

God promises to refresh Israel like dew so that the people will blossom and send down roots.

John 15:5

Jesus teaches that those who remain in Him bear much fruit because apart from Him they can accomplish nothing of lasting spiritual value.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy fruit begins with deep roots.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before God fills the earth with fruit through His people, He first makes sure their roots are in Him.

VIII. GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF ISRAEL IS NOT THE SAME AS TOTAL DESTRUCTION

Isaiah 27:7 — Struck, But Not Abandoned

“Has He struck Israel as He struck her enemies? Has she been killed as her slayers were killed?”

The implied answer is:

No.

God disciplined Israel.

But He did not deal with His covenant people exactly as He dealt with persistent enemies.

His discipline had:

Purpose.

Measure.

Restoration in view.

Cross References

Jeremiah 30:11

God promises to save His people, though He will discipline them justly and will not treat their sin as though it did not matter.

Jeremiah 46:28

Israel is told not to fear because God will preserve His people even while bringing appropriate correction.

Psalms 103:9

God does not continually accuse His people or remain angry forever.

Spiritual Principle

Divine discipline and divine rejection are not the same thing.

Key Truth

God can wound His people for correction without abandoning His purpose for them.

IX. GOD USED EXILE AS DISCIPLINE

Isaiah 27:8 — Driven by the East Wind

“By warfare and exile You contended with her; with His fierce blast He drove her out, as on a day when the east wind blows.”

The discipline was:

Real.

Painful.

Historical.

It included:

War.

Exile.

Displacement.

The east wind commonly symbolized:

Harshness.

Scorching force.

Cross References

Lamentations 3:32

Though God permits grief, He also shows compassion according to the greatness of His faithful mercy.

Jonah 4:8

God appointed a scorching east wind that intensified Jonah's discomfort and exposed what was happening in his heart.

Psalms 103:10

God has not treated His people according to the full measure their sins deserved or repaid them exactly according to their guilt.

Spiritual Principle

God's discipline can be severe without being purposeless.

X. THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE IS THE REMOVAL OF SIN

Isaiah 27:9 — Idolatry Crushed

“By this, then, will Jacob's guilt be atoned for, and this will be the full fruit of removing his sin: When he makes all the altar stones like chalk stones crushed to pieces, no Asherah poles or pagan incense altars will be left standing.”

The fruit of judgment is:

Repentance.

The evidence of cleansing is:

Idols destroyed.

False altars removed.

This verse does not teach that smashing stones earns forgiveness.

Rather:

The removal of idolatry demonstrates the purging effect of God's discipline.

Cross References

Romans 11:27

Paul quotes prophetic promises concerning God removing Israel's sins within His covenantal saving purpose.

Micah 5:13

God promises to cut down idols and sacred pillars so His people will no longer bow before the works of their hands.

Hosea 10:2

Because the people's hearts are divided and guilty, their altars and sacred pillars will be broken down.

Spiritual Principle

Real repentance removes what previously competed with God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The proof that an idol has been judged is that we stop rebuilding it.

XI. ATONEMENT AND THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

Isaiah 27:9 must be read carefully.

The verse connects:

Guilt removed.

Idolatry destroyed.

It does not mean:

Human destruction of altars purchases forgiveness.

Within the larger biblical message:

God provides atonement.

Repentance demonstrates its fruit.

For believers, the ultimate basis of forgiveness is:

Christ's atoning work.

The destruction of idols is the response of a heart being brought back to God.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiveness changes what we worship.

XII. THE FORTIFIED CITY BECOMES DESOLATE

Isaiah 27:10 — Human Security Fails

“The fortified city lies desolate, abandoned and forsaken like a wilderness. There the calves graze; they lie down and strip its branches bare.”

A fortified city should be:

Busy.

Defended.

Populated.

Instead:

Animals graze there.

Human strength has disappeared.

Cross References

Isaiah 32:14

Palaces and populated cities are pictured deserted until animals occupy places once filled with people.

Micah 3:12

Zion and Jerusalem are warned of devastation so severe that their prominent places become overgrown ruins.

Isaiah 6:11

Isaiah was told that cities would eventually stand ruined and uninhabited because of persistent rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

A strong city without spiritual understanding can become an empty field.

XIII. A PEOPLE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING FACE JUDGMENT

Isaiah 27:11 — The Creator Withholds Favor

“When its twigs are dry, they are broken off, and women come and use them for firewood. For this is a people without understanding; so their Maker will show them no compassion, and their Creator will grant them no favor.”

The deepest problem is:

Lack of understanding.

Not mere intellectual ignorance.

But:

Spiritual blindness.

Covenant rebellion.

Failure to know:

Their Maker.

Cross References

John 15:6

Jesus says that a branch that does not remain in Him withers, is thrown away, and is eventually burned.

Hosea 4:6

God says His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because they rejected the truth they were given.

Deuteronomy 32:28

Israel is described as a nation lacking wise counsel and spiritual understanding.

Spiritual Principle

The most dangerous ignorance is ignorance that refuses God.

XIV. GOD GATHERS ISRAEL ONE BY ONE

Isaiah 27:12 — The Lord's Great Harvest

“In that day the Lord will thresh from the flowing Euphrates River to the brook of Egypt, and you, O children of Israel, will be gathered one by one.”

The threshing imagery describes:

Separation.

Gathering.

Careful collection.

The people are not gathered:

As an anonymous mass.

But:

“One by one.”

Cross References

Isaiah 11:12

God raises a banner for the nations and gathers the scattered people of Israel and Judah from distant places.

Ezekiel 37:21

God promises to take the children of Israel from among the nations and gather them back together.

Amos 9:9

Israel is pictured being sifted among the nations like grain, while God preserves what belongs to Him.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration is national in scope and personal in attention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can gather a nation without losing sight of a single person.

XV. THE GREAT TRUMPET SOUNDS

Isaiah 27:13 — The Scattered Return to Worship

“And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiles in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.”

The chapter ends with:

A trumpet.

A gathering.

A return.

Worship.

Those once:

Perishing.

Exiled.

Scattered.

Now:

Come.

And the destination is not merely:

Land.

It is:

Worship.

Cross References

Matthew 24:31

Jesus speaks of a great trumpet accompanying the gathering of His chosen people from every direction.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

The return of the Lord is described with a commanding shout, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God as the dead in Christ rise.

Zechariah 14:16

Survivors from the nations are pictured going up to worship the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Spiritual Principle

God gathers people not merely to relocate them.

He gathers them:

To Himself.

Key Truth

The goal of restoration is worship.

XVI. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 27

1. God Defeats Evil

Leviathan falls.

Principle:

No force of chaos, evil, empire, or satanic rebellion can survive God's final judgment.

2. God Restores His Vineyard

The vineyard that once failed becomes:

Beloved.

Protected.

Fruitful.

Principle:

Failure does not exhaust God's ability to restore.

3. God Watches Continually

He guards:

Night.

Day.

Principle:

God's care never takes a shift off.

4. Peace with God Is Available

The invitation is:

"Make peace with Me."

Principle:

Reconciliation is better than resistance.

5. God Wants Fruitfulness

Israel takes root and fills the earth with fruit.

Principle:

Restoration has a purpose beyond survival.

6. God Disciplines Without Abandoning His People

Principle:

Correction can be evidence of covenant care rather than rejection.

7. Discipline Should Destroy Idolatry

Principle:

God's correction is fruitful when false gods lose their place.

8. Human Strongholds Fall

The fortified city becomes:

Desolate.

Principle:

No security system can replace spiritual understanding.

9. God Gathers Personally

His people are gathered:

One by one.

Principle:

God's plan is vast, but His care is personal.

10. Restoration Ends in Worship

The exiles come to:

The holy mountain.

Principle:

God does not merely bring His people out; He brings them back to Himself.

XVII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT EVIL

Evil is pictured as:

Serpentine.

Twisted.

Dragon-like.

Chaotic.

But never:

Sovereign.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Evil may be ancient.

God is eternal.

Evil may be terrifying.

God is Almighty.

XVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT SATAN

Revelation's identification of:

The ancient serpent.

The dragon.

Satan.

Provides a broader biblical connection with Isaiah's serpent imagery.

Yet Isaiah's immediate language is poetic and may encompass more than one historical or spiritual enemy.

Spiritual Principle

Whatever hostile power Leviathan represents in the immediate setting, the Bible's larger message remains:

God ultimately defeats the serpent.

XIX. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE

God's people are compared to:

A vineyard.

That means they are meant for:

Cultivation.

Growth.

Fruit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not preserve His vineyard merely to keep it alive.

He preserves it so it will bear fruit.

XX. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT DIVINE PROTECTION

God says:

“I guard it night and day.”

Protection belongs to:

The Keeper.

Spiritual Principle

Your security does not depend upon your ability to stay awake all night if God never sleeps.

XXI. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE WITH GOD

Peace is not achieved by:

Avoiding God.

Outrunning God.

Fighting God.

But by:

Coming to Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God we once feared as Judge becomes refuge when we are reconciled to Him.

XXII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT ROOTS

Jacob takes:

Root.

Only then:

Blossoms.

Then:

Fruit.

Spiritual Principle

God often works underground before others can see what He is producing above ground.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT FRUIT

The restored people fill:

The earth.

With:

Fruit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's blessings are never meant to terminate entirely on the person receiving them.

They should become fruit for others.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT DISCIPLINE

Israel was:

Struck.

Exiled.

Driven.

But not:

Annihilated.

Spiritual Principle

God's discipline has a different purpose from His final judgment of persistent rebellion.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

At the heart of restoration is:

Idol destruction.

Asherah poles fall.

False altars disappear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot fully return to God while insisting on keeping rival gods standing.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT UNDERSTANDING

The desolate people are described as:

Without understanding.

This means spiritual understanding matters.

Spiritual Principle

Knowledge of technology, politics, money, or culture cannot replace knowledge of God.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT GATHERING

God gathers:

One by one.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No exile is too far away for God to find.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 27 TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP

The chapter does not end merely with:

National restoration.

But:

Worship.

Spiritual Principle

The highest purpose of deliverance is restored fellowship with God.

XXIX. THE FIERCE, GREAT, AND STRONG SWORD

Three descriptions emphasize:

Absolute adequacy.

God's sword is:

Enough.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never arrives at battle under-equipped.

XXX. THE SWIFT SERPENT

Evil can move:

Quickly.

Unexpectedly.

Strategically.

But:

God is not surprised.

Spiritual Principle

Speed does not create sovereignty.

XXXI. THE TWISTED SERPENT

The word:

Twisted.

Fits the nature of evil.

Sin:

Distorts.

Bends.

Corrupts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's truth is straight.

Sin is always twisting something God made good.

XXXII. THE DRAGON IN THE SEA

The sea often symbolizes:

Chaos.

Danger.

Uncontrolled power.

Yet:

The dragon in the sea is still within God's reach.

Spiritual Principle

There is no depth where evil can hide from God.

XXXIII. THE VINEYARD OF WINE

The vineyard is no longer defined mainly by:

Failure.

It becomes:

Beloved.

Fruitful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can write a new chapter over an old failure.

XXXIV. “I WATER IT CONTINUALLY”

Growth depends upon:

God’s provision.

Spiritual Principle

Fruitfulness requires continual grace.

XXXV. “I GUARD IT NIGHT AND DAY”

The vineyard is:

Never unattended.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s people are never between shifts of divine care.

XXXVI. BRIERS AND THORNS

God opposes what destroys:

The vineyard.

Spiritual Principle

God's love for His vineyard includes opposition to what would choke it.

XXXVII. “MAKE PEACE WITH ME”

The repetition adds urgency.

God genuinely offers:

Reconciliation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The repeated invitation of grace should not be treated casually.

XXXVIII. JACOB TAKES ROOT

Roots suggest:

Stability.

Nourishment.

Identity.

Spiritual Principle

Shallow faith produces fragile fruit.

Deep roots sustain lasting growth.

XXXIX. ISRAEL BLOSSOMS

Blossoming signals:

Life returning.

Hope returning.

Fruit approaching.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God often gives blossoms before fruit to remind us that restoration is underway.

XL. FRUIT FILLS THE EARTH

The blessing expands beyond:

Israel.

Spiritual Principle

God's restored people are meant to become instruments of blessing.

XLI. STRUCK, BUT NOT DESTROYED

God's discipline should never be confused with:

Meaningless cruelty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The hand that disciplines His people is still the hand that keeps covenant.

XLII. THE EAST WIND

The east wind is:

Harsh.

Drying.

Painful.

Yet:

Temporary.

Spiritual Principle

A difficult wind can carry God's corrective purpose.

XLIII. THE CRUSHED ALTARS

True restoration is visible.

False altars:

Come down.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Repentance is not merely saying:

“I am sorry.”

It changes what remains standing.

XLIV. THE DESOLATE CITY

The human stronghold loses:

Population.

Purpose.

Security.

Spiritual Principle

A city can be fortified against armies and still be defenseless against divine judgment.

XLV. THE DRY TWIGS

Dryness eventually becomes:

Breakage.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual deadness left unaddressed eventually produces visible collapse.

XLVI. “ONE BY ONE”

This is one of the most beautiful phrases in the chapter.

God’s gathering is:

Precise.

Personal.

Individual.

Spiritual Principle

The Shepherd does not merely count the flock.

He knows the sheep.

XLVII. THE GREAT TRUMPET

The trumpet announces:

Gathering.

Return.

Restoration.

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows how to call His scattered people home.

XLVIII. FROM ASSYRIA AND EGYPT

These represented major places of:

Oppression.

Exile.

Scattering.

Yet God gathers people from both.

Spiritual Principle

No place of exile lies beyond the reach of restoration.

XLIX. THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

The destination is:

Jerusalem.

But the purpose is:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Restoration is incomplete until the restored heart returns to worship.

L. ISAIAH 27 AND CHRIST

Several themes in Isaiah 27 find their fullest biblical expression in Christ.

Through Christ:

Peace with God is possible.

The true Vine gives life to His branches.

The serpent's defeat is guaranteed.

God gathers a people to Himself.

Fruitfulness comes through abiding in Christ.

The New Testament therefore allows us to see Isaiah 27 within the larger redemptive story without erasing its original focus on:

Israel.

Restoration.

The nations.

Zion.

Spiritual Principle

Christ does not cancel Isaiah's hope.

He brings its redemptive themes into their fullest biblical horizon.

LI. ISAIAH 27 AND ISRAEL

The chapter explicitly speaks of:

Jacob.

Israel.

The children of Israel.

Assyria.

Egypt.

Jerusalem.

Therefore the chapter should not be stripped of its historical and national dimension.

God promises:

Purging.

Fruitfulness.

Gathering.

Worship.

At the same time, the New Testament shows that themes of:

Reconciliation.

Fruitfulness.

Defeat of the serpent.

Final gathering.

Have broader fulfillment in God's work through Christ.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Respect the original promise to Israel while also recognizing the larger redemptive pattern Scripture itself develops.

LII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is defeated in Isaiah 27:1?

Leviathan, pictured as a swift and twisted serpent and a dragon of the sea.

Question 2

What does Leviathan represent?

At minimum, the imagery represents hostile powers of chaos and rebellion; in the larger biblical pattern it echoes God's ultimate victory over satanic evil.

Question 3

How does God defeat Leviathan?

With His fierce, great, and strong sword.

Question 4

What image describes Israel in verses 2–6?

A vineyard.

Question 5

How does God care for the vineyard?

He watches over it, continually waters it, and guards it night and day.

Question 6

What does God offer those who might otherwise face judgment?

Refuge and peace with Him.

Question 7

What happens to Jacob in the future?

Jacob takes root, Israel blossoms and sprouts, and fruit spreads widely.

Question 8

Does God discipline Israel exactly as He judges her enemies?

No.

His discipline of Israel is corrective and purifying rather than simple annihilation.

Question 9

What is one major purpose of Israel's discipline?

The removal of sin and idolatry.

Question 10

What evidence shows that idolatry has been purged?

False altars, Asherah poles, and pagan worship structures are torn down.

Question 11

What happens to the fortified city?

It becomes abandoned and desolate.

Question 12

Why is the people judged?

They are described as lacking spiritual understanding.

Question 13

How will God gather Israel?

One by one.

Question 14

From what regions are the scattered people described as returning?

Assyria and Egypt.

Question 15

What announces the gathering?

A great trumpet.

Question 16

What is the ultimate purpose of the return?

To worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

LIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 27 asks several searching questions.

What Leviathan Am I Afraid Of?

Do I think some evil is:

Too large?

Too entrenched?

Too powerful?

For God?

Do I Believe God Watches Over His Vineyard?

Can I trust His care:

At night?

During uncertainty?

During danger?

Am I Bearing Fruit?

Or merely surviving?

Have I Made Peace with God?

Am I still resisting:

His authority?

His truth?

His grace?

What Briers and Thorns Need to Be Removed?

What is choking:

Faith?

Prayer?

Obedience?

Fruitfulness?

Is God Using Discipline to Purge Something from My Life?

What idol is He trying to bring down?

Am I Rebuilding an Altar God told me to destroy?

Is there something I keep returning to that competes with Him?

Do I Have Deep Roots?

Would my faith survive:

Heat?

Wind?

Pressure?

Do I Believe God Can Gather the Scattered?

A child?

Family member?

Church?

Nation?

Is Worship the Goal of My Restoration?

Or do I merely want circumstances fixed?

LIV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Slays the Serpent Is the Same God Who Waters the Vineyard”

Isaiah 27 reveals two sides of God’s sovereign action.

Against evil:

A sword.

Toward His vineyard:

Water.

Principle:

God is fierce against what destroys His people and tender toward the people He is restoring.

LV. THE SWORD AND THE WATERING CAN

The chapter moves immediately from:

Sword.

To:

Vineyard care.

This is important.

God is:

Warrior.

Gardener.

Judge.

Keeper.

Spiritual Principle

Divine power and divine tenderness are not contradictions.

LVI. THE GOD WHO NEVER SLEEPS

God guards:

Night.

Day.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your greatest security is not how alert you are.

It is how faithful your Keeper is.

LVII. REFUGE INSTEAD OF RESISTANCE

Verse 5 offers a choice.

Fight God.

Or:

Take refuge in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance means discovering that the One we resisted is the only One who can truly shelter us.

LVIII. ROOT BEFORE FRUIT

The order is:

Root.

Blossom.

Fruit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God develops inward stability before lasting outward usefulness.

LIX. DISCIPLINE WITH PURPOSE

Israel's exile was:

Painful.

But God's purpose extended beyond:

Pain.

Toward:

Purification.

Spiritual Principle

Ask not only:

“Why does this hurt?”

Also ask:

“What does God want this to remove?”

LX. THE IDOLS MUST FALL

An idol is anything given:

Trust.

Love.

Fear.

Allegiance.

That belongs to God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not renovate idols.

He removes them.

LXI. THE CITY AND THE VINEYARD

The fortified city falls.

The vineyard flourishes.

Human security:

Fails.

God-cultivated life:

Bears fruit.

Spiritual Principle

Better to be a vine in God's care than a fortress outside His will.

LXII. GATHERED ONE BY ONE

God's restoration has:

Scale.

And:

Personal attention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never becomes so occupied with the multitude that He loses sight of the individual.

LXIII. THE TRUMPET AND THE RETURN

The trumpet means:

The scattered season is ending.

Spiritual Principle

God knows when exile has lasted long enough.

LXIV. THE FINAL DESTINATION IS WORSHIP

The people return to:

Jerusalem.

But the central action is:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not save us merely from something.

He saves us:

For Himself.

LXV. SEVEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 27

1. Leviathan → The Lord's Sword

2. Wild Vineyard → Guarded Vineyard

3. Anger → Peace

4. Exile → Rooted Fruitfulness

5. Idolatry → Purity

6. Desolation → Gathering

7. Scattering → Worship

Key Truth

God's final purpose is not chaos, exile, idolatry, or defeat, but victory over evil, purification of His people, fruitful restoration, and gathered worship.

LXVI. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 27 begins with:

A dragon.

And ends with:

Worship.

That tells the story of redemption beautifully.

At the beginning:

Evil looks terrifying.

Leviathan is:

Swift.

Twisted.

Powerful.

Hidden in the sea.

Yet God does not tremble.

He draws:

His sword.

And the dragon falls.

That should remind us:

Never measure evil only by how terrifying it appears.

Measure it by:

The God who judges it.

Then the picture changes.

God is no longer holding a sword.

He is tending:

A vineyard.

He waters it.

Guards it.

Watches it.

Night.

Day.

This is the God of Scripture.

Against evil:

Fierce.

Toward His people:

Faithful.

Then comes the invitation:

“Let them make peace with Me.”

Perhaps that is the most important invitation in the chapter.

You do not have to remain:

At war with God.

Afraid of God.

Running from God.

Peace is possible.

The New Testament shows that peace with God comes through:

Jesus Christ.

Then Israel begins:

Taking root.

Blossoming.

Bearing fruit.

That is what God wants from restored lives.

Not merely:

Survival.

Fruit.

Then comes discipline.

God's people had idols.

False altars.

Competing loyalties.

So God's discipline works toward:

Purification.

That gives us a difficult but necessary question.

When God corrects us:

What is He trying to remove?

Sometimes we want:

Relief.

God wants:

Holiness.

We want:

The pressure gone.

God wants:

The idol gone.

Isaiah says the evidence of purification is that:

The false altars are crushed.

Do not rebuild what God has torn down.

Then the chapter ends with:

Gathering.

God threshes.

Searches.

Collects.

And remarkably:

“You will be gathered one by one.”

One by one.

God sees:

The nation.

And:

The individual.

He knows:

Where the scattered are.

Where the exiles are.

Where the discouraged are.

Where the wandering are.

Then:

The trumpet sounds.

The scattered return.

And what do they do?

They worship.

That is where the chapter was always headed.

From:

Serpent.

To vineyard.

From:

Judgment.

To peace.

From:

Exile.

To gathering.

From:

Scattering.

To worship.

Therefore:

Do not fear Leviathan more than you trust God.

Make peace with the Lord.

Put down deep roots.

Bear fruit.

Let God tear down every idol.

Trust His discipline.

Believe He can gather what has been scattered.

And remember:

The God who defeats the dragon is also the God who waters the vineyard.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are greater than every power of:

Chaos.

Evil.

Darkness.

Satan.

Rebellion.

Thank You that no enemy is equal to You.

When evil looks powerful:

Remind us of Your great and strong sword.

When fear rises:

Remind us that You reign.

Father, thank You for watching over Your vineyard.

Thank You that You:

Water.

Guard.

Keep.

Protect.

Night and day.

Help us rest in Your faithful care.

Father, thank You for inviting sinners to:

Make peace with You.

Thank You for Jesus Christ.

Thank You that through Him we can be:

Reconciled.

Forgiven.

Restored.

Help us take:

Deep roots.

Make our lives:

Blossom.

Produce fruit.

Use us to bless:

Others.

Father, when You discipline us:

Give us humility to listen.

Show us the idols that must come down.

Help us destroy every false altar in our hearts.

Keep us from rebuilding what You have called us to abandon.

Father, thank You that You gather Your people:

One by one.
Bring home:
The wandering.
The scattered.
The discouraged.
The distant.
Call them back to Yourself.
And when the great trumpet sounds:
May we be among those gathered to worship You.
Let every restoration in our lives end where Isaiah 27 ends:
In worship.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Key Verse

"I, the Lord, watch over it; I water it continually. I guard it night and day, so no one may harm it." — Isaiah 27:3

Central Truth

The Lord will ultimately defeat every force of evil, lovingly guard and restore His vineyard, call sinners to make peace with Him, purge His people from idolatry, cause Israel to take root and bear fruit, gather the scattered one by one, and bring them back to worship Him in Zion.

Isaiah 27 in One Sentence

Isaiah declares that the Lord will slay the serpent-like power of evil, restore and continually guard His vineyard, invite people to make peace with Him, purge Israel's idolatry through discipline, bring proud strongholds to desolation, gather His scattered people one by one, and call them home by the great trumpet to worship Him in Jerusalem.