

## Ezekiel 15 – Parable of the Vine Tree

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VV1-8

What is the question God is posing to Ezekiel?

How can the wood of a vine tree be used?

Would you make furniture with it?

Will it hold up as a hook of any kind? Why or why not?

What can the wood of the vine tree be used for?

What is the message to Jerusalem in the parable of the vine tree?

What is the message to that final Gentile world power?

Is God for those who are not good for any purpose?

What will God do to those who are not good for any purpose?

What will be the reason for their destruction? Will it be because they were of no use? Like the healthy-looking fig tree Jesus came upon when He was hungry, to discover that it bore no fruit? Mark 11:12-14

LESSON: The parable of the vine tree shows God as the Teacher that He is - explaining difficult concepts in an easy to understand picture. The vine tree is unlike any other tree – it cannot be used for furniture due to the nature of its wood, nor can it be trusted to be a hook on the wall that can hold bags. It amazes me to realize that God had created something that has no use at all, other than kindling. This reminds me of our study of Jesus's messages to the churches in Rev 1-3; while 5 of the 7 churches had their issues (Jesus pointing out their good and bad points), the church of the Laodiceans in Rev 3:14 wasn't really doing much at all, ministry-wise, they were neither hot nor cold – and yet, they were *still* considered among the *community* of churches.

Likewise, God had created the vine tree, and it didn't have to be useful for anything, which of course made it perfect fuel for the fire. Jerusalem had been created for something great, but their choosing to descend into idolatry and trespassing their vow to God Almighty made them un-usable. Therefore, God likens them to the vine tree, with a similar fate – fuel for the fire.