

## The Privileges Conferred on the Jewish Nation

**Isa. 5:2** And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

**Isa. 5:3** And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

**I. The Privileges conferred on the Jewish nation (Isa 5:2-3).** It would be vain and useless to attempt, as some have done, to find in the privileges of the Jews an exact counterpart to the various items here specified concerning this “vineyard.”

For example, Jerome regards the fencing of the vineyard as symbolical of the protection of the Jews by the angels; the gathering out of the stones, the removal of the idols; the tower, the temple erected in Jerusalem; the wine-press, the altar [583]

To seek thus for minute analogies is at once to destroy the oratorical force and the simplicity of the parable. Rather let us lay hold of its leading truths.

The prophet desired to remind the Jews that they had received extraordinary privileges from God; consequently he employed figures calculated to impress his hearers with that truth; and he does not fail to specify every particular which those acquainted with a vineyard would expect, if it were one from which a copious supply of choice fruit might be reasonably expected.

1. *The choice which God made of the Jews as a nation* was the first and fundamental privilege which He conferred upon them.

2. Having chosen them, God revealed Himself to them as clearly as was then possible through the symbolism of *the Mosaic Law*.

Through its statutes and ceremonies were shadowed forth the great truths of His holiness, His mercy, His sanctifying grace, and the Sacrifice which in the fulness of time was to be offered for the sin of the world (Rom 3:1-2).

**Rom. 3:1** What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

**Rom. 3:2** Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

3. In addition to the Law, God gave to His people the inestimable help of *Prophetical Teaching*, to assist them to understand its meaning, and to stimulate them to keep it with full purpose of heart.

**(The Preacher's Complete Homiletical Commentary)**