

THE HEDGE

A Biblical Study at the Reformed Bible Church of Southern California

December 16, 2012

"Hast thou not made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands..." - Job 1:10



"He hath hedged me about that I cannot get out..." - Lam. 3:7

I. Is there one kind of hedge mentioned in the Bible, or more than one?

One - The Hedge of Thorns

A. Hosea 2:1-7 - "...therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall (lit. wall her in), that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but shall not overtake them..."

Give examples of the paths leading to "the lovers" (1 John 2:15-16).

Does this imply that God creates this hedge of thorns around His elect that only lets them follow so far after spiritual adultery, much like the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)?

B. Prov. 15:19 - "The way of the slothful (man is) as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain (lit. exalted)."

Could the slothful be snared in this hedge? Was the man slothful who buried his one talent in the parable of the talents? (Matt. 25:14-30)

II. From what is the hedge built?

A. Affliction - Lam. 3:1-8 - "...He hath builded (lit. built) against me and compassed (lit. put around) me with gall (lit. bitterness) and travel (lit. hardship). He hath hedged me (lit. walled me in) about that I cannot get out..." Does this compare with Hosea 2:6? Is the affliction and protection created by the hedge seen as one and the same? (Ez. 34:25, 28; Ez. 28:24-26)

B. Job 19:6-10 - "Know that God hath overthrown me and hath compassed me with his net...He hath fenced (lit. walled off) up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths. He hath stripped me of my glory..." Why does one have to be stripped of his glory? (Ps. 49:16-17; Is. 48:10-11; Is. 42:8)

III. Where is the hedge placed?

A. Surrounding the Righteous - Job 1:9-10 - "...Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land..." This hedge is one that cannot be seen; at what point in a person's life does he/she become aware of it? With what is this hedge often confused in modern day Christian worship?

B. Surrounding the Soul - Does Job 10:11 imply that the physical body is a picture for the hedge surrounding the soul? Does this concept blend with other texts? (Luke 11:34; 1 Cor. 6:20)

C. Surrounding the Vineyard - Mark 12:1-11 "A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it..."

IV. What happened to the hedge set about the vineyard of Israel?

A. Foolish prophets "daubed it with untempered mortar"... Ezekiel 13:1-16; What will happen to these prophets? Ecc. 10:8 (Gap -(H6566) a break, lit or fig, same gap as in Ezekiel 13:5)

B. God has "broken down her hedges" - Ps. 80:8-16; He has taken "away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down..." Isaiah 5:1-7

V. Once the hedge surrounding the vineyard was removed, what followed?

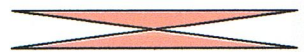
A. Vineyard was given to others - Mark 12:9

B. The hedge (G5418 - partition; middle wall) was removed - Eph. 2:14, 19-22 What was built in its place?

C. Is there still a hedge around the vineyard of the Israel of God (Ro. 9:6-8; Gal. 6:16)? What is it?

DEFINITIONS

- HEDGE - (H7753 - Suwk) to entwine; shut in (for protection or restraint)
- HEDGE - (G5418 - Phrazo) a fence, or enclosing barrier: hedge, partition



"Among all my experiences of God's gracious dealings with me, I have constantly observed this, that He hath never suffered me long to sit loose from Him, but by one affliction or other hath made me look home, and search what was amiss..."

*To My Dear Children
By Anne Bradstreet 1612-1672*

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh (lit. causes a gap in the wall) an hedge, a serpent shall (lit. may) bite him." - Ecclesiastes 10:8

