

## Hebrews 6:7-12 (NIV)

### Two Lands and their Crops

As some of you have noticed these verses are to be interpreted in light of the proceeding three verses. We have intentionally reversed the order and will discuss verses 7-12 first.

(For previous studies in this series, see [Luke 8:11-15](#)  
Hyperlink)

#### Hebrews 6:

- 7 Land [fertile land/believers that persevere in the faith] that drinks in the [heavenly] rain [spiritual privileges] often falling on it and that produces a crop [fruit] useful [productive] to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God (Emphasis and interpretation added).
- 8 But [when/if] land that produces thorns and thistles [it] is worthless [disapproved of, unproductive—no fruits of righteousness] and is in danger [near] of being cursed. In the end it will be burned (Emphasis and interpretation added).

Some theologians exert, “To think of hell here [re. Burning] is to betray inattention to the imagery employed by the author [of Hebrews]. The burning of a field to destroy the rank growth it had produced was a practice known in ancient times. Its aim was not the destruction of the field itself (which, of course, the fire could not effect), but the destruction of the unwanted produce of the field. Thereafter the field might be serviceable for cultivation” (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Hebrews).

In spite of cultivation the land refuses to produce a good crop, the rain is withdrawn, and the land is left to bear thorns and thistles. Bruce states that, “Such people are compared to land which, in spite of all the care expended in its cultivation, refuses to produce a good crop” (F.F. Bruce, New International Commentary of the New Testament, Hebrews, 1964)

#### **Corresponding Scripture passages:**

These passages pertain to land, cultivation, and burning of thorns and thistles. They are mentioned here for deeper thought—not necessarily to build a doctrinal interpretation of the above verses. For further study and accurate understanding, read verses around these selections in you copy of Holy Scripture.

Psalm 65: 9. Said of God: “You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. 10. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. 11. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. 12. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. 13. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.”

Hebrews 10:26. "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27. but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28. Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Isaiah 9:19 "By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched and the people will be fuel for the fire."

Isaiah 10:17 "The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars."

Luke 13:6 "Then he [Jesus] told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 8. "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

John 15:6 " If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a consuming fire."

Genesis 3:17 "To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Isaiah 5:1 "I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. 2. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. 3. "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? 5. Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. 6. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briars and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it."

"Hermas, a popular second century Christian writer stated, "Even as good vineyards when they are neglected become unfruitful because of thorns and various kinds of

weeds, so men who have believed and fall into the many preoccupations [secular business, moneymaking, pagan friendships, etc.], wander from a right mind and have absolutely no understanding of righteousness” (Shepherd of Hermas, “Commands” x.1).

Reprobate (GK. Rejected) land would not respond to cultivation. It was allowed to lie untended and to become derelict.

2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?”

Land #1 -- Rain -----Useful Crop ----- Blessing

Land #2 -- Worthless Thorns and Thistles -- Danger of Curse -- Burned

### Hebrews 6:

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them (Emphasis added) (cf. 1 Peter 1:17,22).

11 We want each of you to show this same diligence [endurance, perseverance, patience] to the very end, in order to make your hope sure [assurance of what is hoped for] (Emphasis and interpretation added).

12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised (Emphasis added).

1 Peter 1:9 6 “You greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9. for you are receiving the goal [end] of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

1Peter 5:4 “When the Chief Shepherd [Christ] appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

## What’s Your Next Step?

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