

John 16

I am the true vine.
Abide in me, keep my commandments.
Bring forth fruit.
Then you will ask what ye will, and God will give it you.
That ye might bring forth more fruit.

Those that don't bear fruit, in the old degenerate vine, will be destroyed.
But those that bear fruit, that remain in the true vine, they will receive the Spirit.

They will still undergo persecution.
Just because they won't be cut off and wither and be gathered and burned, doesn't mean that they won't have trouble.
But what they have been seeking is not just the physical kingdom. They've believed a message of grace and truth, and spiritual cleansing.
And if they go back, and stop following him, go back to the physical kingdom, the strange vine, they'll be destroyed.
But if they continue in his word, abide in him, they will still suffer the hatred and persecution of this world. But they'll receive the end of their faith. They'll receive that thing that they've believed on. They'll receive the spiritual cleansing. They'll be born again. They'll ask what they will, and God will do that unto them, that they might bring forth more fruit, and that he might be glorified.

Verse 1

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

He is trying to prepare them for the fact that they are going to experience opposition and persecution.
But he doesn't want that to offend them. To sway their resolve. To cause them to leave the faith.
He wants them to stand firm when it comes, knowing that it is expected that they will be persecuted just as he was.

Verse 2

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

They are going to be thrown out of the Jewish religion.
And they will even be killed, and those that kill them will be doing so in the name of that religion, thinking that they are doing it in service to God.

Verse 3

John 16:3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

But they aren't doing it in service to God.
They're doing it because they've not known him. Not the Father nor the Son.

Verse 4

John 16:4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

He's telling them this now, because he is about to leave, and he won't be present here to reassure them.

But they will remember, that he told them these things, and they will know that he knew what was coming for them when he left.

And that he promised to send the Comforter, that they might be able to do the work his Father has for them to do.

Verse 5

John 16:5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

So even after all this they still don't understand where he is going, and they are afraid to ask him.

Verse 6

John 16:6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

And despite him telling them not to let their heart be troubled, their hearts are sorrowful, because of what he has told them is about to happen.

Verse 7

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

But he's told them before, that they would rejoice that he was going to the Father, because his Father is greater than him.

They should rejoice for his sake.

But it is also expedient for them.

Because if he doesn't go away, they won't receive the Comforter he's told them of.

But if he goes, then he will send him unto them.

In other words, having the Spirit of God inside of them is far better than having the physical presence of the Son of God.

And they can't have both at the same time right now.

He has to leave, so that he can send the Spirit.

And so it is best for them, it is expedient, that he goes.

Verse 8

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

And it is also expedient for the world.

So it is in his best interest to go, and it is also expedient for them, and for the world. Because the Spirit will testify, and reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Verse 9

John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

So he isn't coming to reprove them of sin. He is coming to free them from sin. But those that believe not on him, the world, he will reprove of sin. He will reprove them for the sin and darkness and condemnation that they are in.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be **reproved**.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Verse 10

John 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

You'd think the Spirit would reprove the world of sin, but of righteousness?

But even when the Spirit testifies of righteousness, it has nothing but reproof for the world.

The Spirit speaks to the world only in reproof. Not commending.

Not just reproofing it of sin, but reproofing it of all things.

He reproofs not just the world's sin, but the world's righteousness.

When the Son was in the world, he was a light, he showed the righteousness of God.

But now he is going to his Father, and they will see him no more.

So the Spirit will testify as to what is righteous, and reprove the world of it.

Because the world's standard of righteousness, the righteousness of religion, is not the righteousness of God.

And they will no longer be able to see Jesus representing that, but the Spirit will reprove them of it.

Verse 11

John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Just as the world needs to be reprov'd of righteousness, they need to be reprov'd of judgment.
They don't understand judgment, the judgment of God.
They have their own standard. Just as for righteousness.
But he will testify, and reprove them of judgment.
Because the prince of this world is judged.
The world better get acquainted with judgment.
Because that is what is coming for this world.
They are in condemnation.
And the prince of this world is judged. He will have been judged already.
That is what Jesus told them before that he is about to do.

John 12:31 Now is the **judgment** of this world: now shall the **prince of this world** be cast out.
32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

The prince of this world already will have been judged and condemned and cast out.
And that is what is coming for the rest of the world too.
And so the Spirit will reprove them of judgment.

He said that he came not to judge the world.
But there is one that is about to be judged. The prince of this world.

And who is that?

We know that the Bible refers to Satan as the "god of this world":

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god **of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Satan is the god of this world, and tries to keep the world in darkness. Tries to block out the light of the glorious gospel of Christ.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness **of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

So there is a god of this world, and spiritual principalities, spiritual princes, rulers of the darkness of this world.

But Paul said that we still wrestle against them.
That the god of this world still blinds men's minds.
And so how can that be, if the prince of this world was cast out and judged when Christ was lifted up?

Who is that prince of this world?

Paul speaks of the princes of this world:

1 Corinthians 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom **of this world**, nor of the **princes of this world**, that come to nought:

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the **princes of this world** knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

So the princes of this world are earthly rulers, earthly men, who crucified Christ. Because they didn't know the wisdom of God.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit **of the world**, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

So as Jesus has been telling them here, it is through the Spirit of God that we have wisdom, which those of this world, the princes of this world, of the spirit of this world, could not understand.

And so who is that prince of this world that Jesus was speaking of here?

One who knew not the wisdom of God, and would crucify the Lord of glory.

One who had the spirit of this world, of the god of this world.

One who Jesus said would be judged and cast out when he was lifted up.

One who Jesus said was about to come, and having nothing in him.

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the **prince of this world** cometh, and hath nothing in me.

He was not clean, and had no part with him.

He was that disciple, who Christ said was a devil.

It said of Judas:

John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

And so he did. He came and betrayed Christ to be crucified, but was cast out, and judged, and fell headlong, and all his bowels gushed out.

And so he was the prince of this world, because in him, was the god of this world.

And he received judgement right there. And the rest of the world will receive the same fate.

And so when the Spirit comes, he will reprove the world of that judgement.

Verse 12

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

It is clear that they just can't understand right now.
But there are many things he has to say.

Verse 13

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

But the Spirit of truth, who he will send to testify, he will speak the word of the Son to them. He will hear the word of the Son, and speak it to them. Just as the Son has only spoken what he has heard of the Father, so the Spirit will only speak what he has heard of the Son. And he will guide them into all truth. As he said, he'll remind them of the things that he's already told them, and also tell them those things that they cannot bear now. He will tell them all things. Guide them into all truth.

And he will show them things to come. Christ has hinted about things to come, but they haven't understood, and he hasn't fully revealed it yet. But he will. The Spirit will reprove the world of judgment.

Verse 14

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Just as the Son has sought the Father's glory, so the Spirit will seek the Son's glory. Because just as the Son has received these things of the Father, so the Spirit will receive of the Son, and show it to them.

Verse 15

John 16:15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Spirit will glorify the Son, he will speak of the Son, because all things of God are the Son's. The Son is full of grace and truth, grace for grace. And so the Spirit can indeed reveal all things to them, from the Son. Because the Father has committed all things unto the Son.

Verse 16

John 16:16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

As he's told them many times, he is going to the Father.
So it is just a little while, and then they will see him no more.

But he now adds something. He now says that it will be a little while after that, and then they will see him.

Because he is going to the Father.

And when he goes to the Father, he has told them, then the Comforter, the Spirit of truth will come.

And he will manifest the Godhead to him.

He will take of his, and show it unto them.

And so a little while after he is gone, and they see him no more, they will receive the Spirit, and then they shall see him.

As they have never seen him before.

They will know him, as they have never known him before.

Not only the Son, but the Father.

As he said, the world will not see him. But they see him. And because he lives, they shall live also.

Verse 17-20

John 16:17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

18 They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

They will sorrow at his death, while the world rejoices.

But their sorrow will be turned to joy, when he rises again.

Verse 21-22

John 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Christ is about to be born again. He is about to take on a new life, in the resurrection. And they, his disciples, of Israel, the true vine, they are like a woman in travail. They are going to have sorrow. But when the child is delivered, when Christ is risen, they will forget the anguish, for joy. Their heart will rejoice when they see him again, and their joy no man taketh from them. Because no man can take his life. He's going to the Father, and sending them the Comforter, that their joy might be full.

Verse 23

John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

No man can take their joy from them, because their joy will not be bound up in his physical presence. They won't need to ask him anything, to have their joy fulfilled. They will be able to ask the Father in heaven. And whatsoever they ask the Father in his name, he will give it them. He will give them the Comforter.

Verse 24

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Let them ask for that grace, that knowledge, that truth, that Comforter. And when they ask the Father for it in his name, they will receive it. That their joy may be full. They will joy in the Holy Ghost, in the Spirit, and not in Christ's physical presence. And so their joy, no man can take from them.

Verse 25

John 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

So he's said some things here that aren't perfectly clear, that he knows they cannot fully comprehend. But the time will come when he won't speak to them in proverbs anymore. When they will clearly comprehend. When he'll show them plainly of the Father. When he will come to them, and abide with them forever. Even the Spirit of truth. So let them ask for that full knowledge, that full comprehension. Because in that day, when they ask, they will receive it.

Verse 26-27

John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

They asked now to see the Father. Remember how Philip asked, show us the Father and it sufficeth us.

And yet he hasn't given them full comprehension.

But at that day they will ask again, in his name. They will ask not him, but his Father.

And his Father will show himself to them. He will come and abide in them forever.

And Jesus isn't saying that his Father is going to do that, just because he is going to go to him and persuade him to. Because when he goes to him he will ask him.

But the Father himself loves them, because they have loved the Son, and believed him, believed that he came out from God.

And so without the Son's prompting, the Father himself loves them and will answer them, and direct the Son to send them the Comforter, the Spirit of truth.

That they might know the fulness of God, and have fulness of joy, all the fullness of grace and truth, grace for grace.

Verse 28

John 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

So he says it again very plainly. They've believed that he came from God. That's why the Father loves them.

Well, he came forth from the Father into the world, and now he's leaving the world, and returning to the Father.

Verse 29-30

John 16:29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

So they said, that sufficeth us.

Now we are sure that thou knowest all things, we don't need to ask you for anything else. That knowledge, that you know it all, is enough.

By this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

I thought they already believed that. I thought he just said that they believed that.

But now they hear his word again, and they believe it all over again.

And having heard that word, they believe that is enough. That that is all that they need to know.

But Jesus has told them that they are going to receive a fuller knowledge of God, that they might know all things, and that their joy might be full.

Verse 31-32

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

So they've just now professed belief once again, and yet as he told them one of them will deny him, and all of them will be scattered, and leave him alone.

But he won't be truly alone, because the Father is with him.

Verse 33

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

They are going to have trouble. In the world they are going to have tribulation.

But they have peace in his word.

Because he has overcome the world.

And so in his word they have hope.

A promise that they will not only see him again, but that they too will overcome the world.

That they too will be not of the world, just as he is not of the world.

That they will ask the Father, and receive the Spirit of truth, for the LORD is gracious.