



There's poison in the vine – April 22, 2015
(or .. Burn baby burn)

14 years, the grape vine in my garden has produced small, bitter and worthless grapes and for 14 years I have watered and mulched and fertilized the vine hoping that the wild grape vine would produce

eatable grapes.

Poison Oak has for years grown up and intermingled with the wild grape vine. For untold years I have cut down the invading poison oak and have gotten splattered with the oils from the poison oak.

This year it was different. I began the yearly weed whacking of the poison oak among the grape vine and hoped for a change of grape quality. That hope and change desire of the grape vine turned to disgust and revulsion of both plants. A thought arose in my mind: *“cut them down and burn them”* and *“why waste the ground with this worthless vine.”*

I didn't wake up in the morning with plans to burn down the vine; the thought came to mind and I acted. The ground was wet from some drizzle and dried out cedar limbs provided the inferno to sustain the heat to kill the wild grape vine and poison oak.



The fire started with a small flame but soon engulfed the entire stack.



Such will be at the end when all the earth will be destroyed by fire and all the works therein burnt up.

This anticipated fire is going to be so devastating, so complete, so astonishing that there will be a stunned silence in heaven for a half hour.

1 day = 1000 years so 30 minutes in heaven would be about 21 years on earth.

What type of knowledge of impending destruction will cause the 4 living creatures in Rev 4:8 to stop praising the Lord? One should ponder this and reflect on how not to be cast into the fire.

RSV Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and **day and night they never cease to sing**, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

RSV Luke 3:9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that **does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**"

RSV Amos 2:9 "Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and who was as strong as the oaks; **I destroyed his fruit above, and his roots beneath.**

RSV Obadiah 1:18 **The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor to the house of Esau; for the Lord has spoken.**

RSV 2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come ... and **the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.**

RSV Revelation 8:1 **WHEN THE Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**

RSV 2 Peter 3:8 ... with the Lord **one day is as a thousand years...**

The following day tells the tale of success. The seeds and plant were burned down but in the process I was yet again hit with the poison oak juice.

Not everyone fighting the physical/spiritual warfare will make it through unscathed. There are always casualties in the battle the young, the strong and the old but there will be a remnant that is purified by fire and have their names written in the lamb's book of life.

RSV Isaiah 2:10-11

10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord, and from the glory of his majesty.

11 The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the pride of men shall be humbled; and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

RSV Luke 13:6-9

6 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?'

8 And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure.

9 And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

RSV Mark 11:12-14

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry.

13 And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

RSV Mark 11:20-21

20 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.

21 And Peter remembered and said to him, "Master, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered."

Are you a fruitless fig tree?