

Isaiah 65:8-16 +23

This is all related to Abraham's blessing.

Isaiah 65:1 - "I am (allowed myself to be) sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, to a nation that was not called by my name."

or "a nation that has not called upon thy Name."

R. Moses the priest, as Aben Ezra observes, interprets this of the nations of the world; and that the sense is, "even to the Gentiles that are not called by my name I am preached;"

Romans 10:19-21 - "I ask instead: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says: "I will make you jealous by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation without understanding." And Isaiah boldly says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me." But as for Israel he says: 'All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.'"

Isaiah 65:5 - "Which say, Stand by yourself, come not near to me; for I am holier than you."

The Pharisees would not suffer themselves to be touched by the common people, nor would they touch them. Maimonides (r) says, "if the Pharisees touched but the garments of the common people, they were defiled all one as if they had touched a profluous person, and were obliged to dip themselves all over"

Isaiah 65:8 - "Thus said the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one said, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all."

As when even a single cluster of grapes is spied on a vine-stem, the vine-pruners say one to another, "Destroy not that stem, but spare it," so will God refrain from destroying those stocks in his vineyard, which give even a small promise of bearing good fruit.

—Pulpit Commentary

Compare Abram pleading for Sodom - Genesis 18:23-33

Some wine is bad and bitter, and that vine should be pruned.

Song of Moses - talking about unfaithful Israel:

Deuteronomy 32:31-33 - "Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves judge this. For their vine is from the vine of Sodom, And from the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of poison, Their clusters, bitter. Their wine is the venom of serpents, And the deadly poison of cobras."

