

## THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 13: 1-9.

1 There were present at that season, whichsoever one it was, that some people about Jesus told Him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had comingled with their sacrifices, for he had slain them exceedingly whilst they were in the Temple making offerings, which greatly upset the priests and the cleaning women. Not to mention the Galileans.

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? But the people demurred saying, We wist not. Put thee not words or thoughts or divers things into our mouths.

3 And He sayeth unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Nay: they were not greater sinners than ye, but, (and here cometh the teaching bit,) except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. And the people were super-disturbed at this and did mutter, and some followed Him no more. Especially if He did go near the Temple on a Saturday.

4 But Jesus, warming to His subject questioned them further, saying, Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, and giveth many others nasty scrapes and bruises, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem?

5 And each man looketh sideways at his neighbour, for this had been a bit of a wow! event, and they commonly thought that those who had perished had been deserving of death. And furthermore, it had been a rather pretty tower. And Jesus, seeing their glances sayeth, I tell you, Nay. Bad things happen to good people, for such treatment did ye meet out to the prophets: but I tell you, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. And besides, it was shoddy workmanship that caused this to come to pass. And many, on hearing the textual repetition in the narrative, did swear unto themselves never to go near the Pool of Siloam. Or near tall buildings.

6 He spake also this parable unto them; A certain man had a rather nice fig tree planted in his vineyard, which was an exceedingly silly place to plant it, for is not a vineyard a place for vines and not figs? But he did ignore this horticultural fact, and at the end of the first year he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Not a fig, and yet he gave one.

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Oi! I have come seeking fruit from my fig tree but there is none. Why is this? And the vinedresser rolled his eyes unto heaven saying, I am a dresser of vines and not an arborist. But let me stick a bit of mulch around the bottom and give it some goodness, and we'll see if that helps. And he went and did likewise. And the second year the man came seeking fruit on his fig tree but there was none, and he was quite cross. And yet a third year did he come seeking fruit on his fig tree and found none, and he sayeth with a loud cry unto the vinedresser, O for God's sake cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? I shall plant a gooseberry bush instead, for my wife maketh a good tart. (Let the reader understand.)

8 But the vinedresser answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it with my own preparation, which is rich indeed especially after the sabbath meal.

9 And thence if it bear fruit, well: and if not, well then after that thou shalt cut it down. And lo! Here Jesus stopped the parable. Suddenly. And the people questioned Him as to what was the result, but He kept silent and spoke no more to them that day. And the people were frustrated, especially Judas Iscariot who liketh a nice story with an happy ending. And he stored up this disappointment in his heart. And it was dark.