

**Please read the Missionary Report  
from the Kingdom of Eswatini Field below**

8

Sabbath, February 21, 2026

## The Vine

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:1-2.*

"Can we conceive of a more intimate relation than this implies? The fibers of the branch are identical with those of the vine. The communication of life, strength, and nourishment from the trunk to the branches is unobstructed and constant. The root sends its nourishment through the branches." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 334.

SUNDAY

### 1. How was Israel's prosperity described?

**EZEKIEL 19:10-11** *Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters. <sup>11</sup>And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them that bare rule, and her stature was exalted among the thick branches, and she appeared in her height with the multitude of her branches.*

"It was Christ that had brought Israel as a goodly vine out of Egypt. Psalm 80:8. His own hand had cast out the heathen before it. He had planted it 'in a very fruitful hill.' His guardian care had hedged it about. His servants had been sent to nurture it." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 19.

MONDAY

### 2. What happened to it?

**EZEKIEL 19:12-14** *But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them. <sup>13</sup>And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty ground. <sup>14</sup>And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.*

"'What could have been done more to My vineyard,' He exclaims, 'that I have not done in it?' Isaiah 5:1-4. Though when He looked that it should bring forth grapes, it brought forth wild grapes, yet with a still yearning hope of fruitfulness He came in person to His vineyard, if haply it might be saved from destruction. He digged about His vine; He pruned and cherished it. He was unwearied in His efforts to save this vine of His own planting." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 19.

### 3. However, what single vine prospered?

**EZEKIEL 17:5-6** *He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree. <sup>6</sup>And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him, and the roots thereof were under him: so it became a vine, and brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs.*

**JEREMIAH 24:4-7** *Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, <sup>5</sup>Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. <sup>6</sup>For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. <sup>7</sup>And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*

"The time was rapidly approaching when Jerusalem was to be utterly destroyed and the inhabitants of the land carried captive to Babylon, there to learn the lessons they had refused to learn under circumstances more favorable." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 405.

WEDNESDAY

### 4. What change occurred?

**EZEKIEL 17:7-10, 15** *There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation. <sup>8</sup>It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine. <sup>9</sup>Say thou, Thus saith the Lord God; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof. <sup>10</sup>Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind toucheth it? it shall wither in the furrows where it grew.... <sup>15</sup>But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?*

"Those times of change, so fraught with peril to the Israelitish nation, were marked with many messages from Heaven through Jeremiah. Thus the Lord gave the children of Judah ample opportunity of freeing themselves from entangling alliances with Egypt, and of avoiding controversy with the rulers of Babylon. As the threatened danger came closer, he taught the people by means of a series of acted parables, hoping thus to arouse them to a sense of their obligation to God, and also to encourage them to maintain friendly relations with the Babylonian government." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 423.

THURSDAY

### 5. How did the Lord describe the wood of the vine?

**EZEKIEL 15:1-5** *And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest? <sup>3</sup>Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon? <sup>4</sup>Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is burned. Is it meet for any work? <sup>5</sup>Behold, when it was whole, it was meet for no work: how much less shall it be meet yet for any work, when the fire hath devoured it, and it is burned?*

**PSALMS 8:4-5; 103:14** *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? <sup>5</sup>For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.... <sup>103:14</sup>For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

“For every class of temptations there is a remedy. We are not left to ourselves to fight the battle against self and our sinful natures in our own finite strength. Jesus is a mighty helper, a never-failing support.... The mind must be restrained, and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures, and upon noble, elevating themes. Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory, to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations.... When Satan would lead the mind to dwell upon earthly and sensual things, he is most effectually resisted with ‘It is written.’” –*Review and Herald*, April 8, 1884.

FRIDAY

## 6. What did the description symbolize?

**EZEKIEL 15:6** *Therefore thus saith the Lord God; As the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

**MATTHEW 13:30** *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

“The parable of the wheat and the tares shows the mystery of the divine and the satanic agencies working in direct opposition, in vital conflict. The conflict continues till the close of this earth’s history. The incorruptible seed is the living Word of God, which works in the personal sanctification of the receivers, elevating them by bringing them into the participation of the divine nature.” –*Christ Triumphant*, p. 236.

SABBATH

## 7. What is the central core of faith and fruitfulness?

**JOHN 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

“The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is grafted into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Sav-

our the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. This union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 675.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY**

"The pen of inspiration, true to its task, tells us of the sins that overcame Noah, Lot, Moses, Abraham, David, and Solomon, and that even Elijah's strong spirit sank under temptation during his fearful trial. Jonah's disobedience and Israel's idolatry are faithfully recorded. Peter's denial of Christ, the sharp contention of Paul and Barnabas, the failings and infirmities of the prophets and apostles, are all laid bare by the Holy Ghost, who lifts the veil from the human heart. There before us lie the lives of the believers, with all their faults and follies, which are intended as a lesson to all the generations following them. If they had been without foible they would have been more than human, and our sinful natures would despair of ever reaching such a point of excellence. But seeing where they struggled and fell, where they took heart again and conquered through the grace of God, we are encouraged, and led to press over the obstacles that degenerate nature places in our way." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 12.

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## MISSIONARY REPORT FROM THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI FIELD

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**To be read on Sabbath, February 21, 2026**

**The Special Sabbath School Offering  
will be gathered on Sabbath, February 28, 2026**

**B**rotherly greetings from the tiny, beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini, the Switzerland of Africa. "And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8.

The Kingdom of Eswatini, also known by its former official name, the Kingdom of Swaziland, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. It is bordered by Mozambique to the northeast and South Africa to the north, west, south, and southeast. At no more than 200 kilometers (120 miles) from north to south and 130 kilometers (81 miles) from east to west, Eswatini is one of the smallest countries in Africa; nevertheless, its climate and topography are diverse, ranging from a cool, mountainous high plain to a hot, dry, low grassland.

The population is 1,242,822 (in 2024), primarily ethnic Swazis. There are also immigrants from other African countries and Asia. Ninety percent of the population is Christian, and 20 percent of it is Catholic. Two percent is Muslim, and 20 percent professes other religions. The prevalent language is Swazi (*siswati* in native form). The Swazi Kingdom was established in the mid-18th century under the leadership of Ngwane III. The country and the Swazi take their names from Mswati II, the 19th-century king under whose rule the country was expanded and unified; its boundaries were drawn up in 1881 in the midst of the Scramble for Africa. After the Second Boer War, the Kingdom, under the name of Swaziland, was a British high commission territory from 1903 until it regained its independence on September 6, 1968. Hence, English is the official language. In April 2018, the official name was changed from Kingdom of Swaziland to Kingdom of Eswatini, mirroring the name commonly used in Swazi.

The Advent message is said to have reached the country around 1924. However, the Reformation message came in the early 1960's, with Eswatini becoming part of the Transvaal Union Conference, which was comprised of South Africa, Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia), Zambia, and Tanzania. The first missionaries who worked in Eswatini included Pastors Sigmund Gutknecht, Simon Schmidt, and others. The work grew; and in 1994 Eswatini was organized as a Field under the South African Union, until it became a mission field under the General Conference around 2006. The current membership in Eswatini is 150 members, most of them being young people. There are churches in each of the four regions, but Manzini has the most members.

With their limited resources, the members constructed a church building in Manzini. However, there is a need to build the headquarters of the Field, including a mission house for the minister, the office of the Field, rooms for some small business projects, and a mini-health center. The biggest challenge is that most of the believers are unemployed youth; very few members are employed. The small amount of income has been barely enough to support the workers and missionary activities. Even though it is small, the Field is self-sustaining. We therefore appeal to God's people all over the world to help us realize our dream of building a Field headquarters to be a light for the work in Eswatini and the world through people who come and visit the small Kingdom.

"The need for a meeting house where there is a newly formed company of believers, has been presented before me in a panoramic view. I saw workmen building humble houses of worship. Those newly come to the faith were helping with willing hands, and those who had means were assisting with their means. In the basement of the church, above ground, a schoolroom was prepared for the children, and a teacher was sent there to take charge.

"The numbers in the school were not large, but it was a happy beginning. I heard the songs of children and of parents: 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.' 'Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.' Psalms 127:1; 146:1-2." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 435.

May the Lord bless your gift abundantly so that through your sacrifice we can spread the gospel while the doors are still open and hasten the glad day of the coming of our Lord and Saviour to take us home. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7.

–*Leaders of the Kingdom of Eswatini Field*