

**Sunday — April 23, 2023**

**A Well-Watered Garden**

**1. Judean Hills**

**2. Terraced Farms**

**Isaiah 5: 1 & 2 (NLT)**

*Now I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:*

*My beloved had a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill. <sup>2</sup> He plowed the land, cleared its stones and planted it with the best vines. In the middle he built a watchtower and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks. Then he waited for a harvest of sweet grapes...*

**Isaiah 5: 7 (NLT)**

*The nation of Israel is the vineyard of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. The people of Judah are his pleasant garden. He expected a crop of justice, but instead he found oppression. He expected to find righteousness, but instead he heard cries of violence.*

**Isaiah 58:**

*What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me. <sup>5</sup> You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?*

*<sup>6</sup> "No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free and remove the chains that bind people. <sup>7</sup> Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. <sup>9</sup> "Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! <sup>10</sup> Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.*

*<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. <sup>12</sup> Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.*