

ISAIAH – Chapter 5

Verses 1-7 The worthless vineyard.

A common picture when describing Israel. Isa. 3:14; Ps. 80:8-18; Jer. 2:21, 12:10; Hosea 10:1

Verses 1-2 God's care for His vineyard. Heb. 6:7

God planted a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He removed the stones (no small job).

He planted only the best vines.

He built a watchtower (a stone structure from which to guard the vineyard).

He made a winepress with anticipation and waited.

It produced only worthless grapes. Heb. 6:8

Verses 3-4 God asks those who are the vineyard, two questions:

Was it His fault that things turned out the way they did?

Why did His vineyard produce worthless grapes?

Verses 5-6 There is but one thing left for God to do – burn it. Heb.6:8

Three actions will be forthcoming from God:

1) He will remove the protective hedge/wall surrounding it.

a) wild animals will consume it.

b) all who surround it will trample it down.

2) He will turn it into wasteland.

Without pruning and hoeing, briars and thorns will overrun the hill.

3) He will stop the rains from falling on it.

Without God's protection Judah will be ruined. Note: John 15:1-11

Verse 7 The vineyard is identified.

Make no mistake – Israel and Judah are not right! Ezk. 18:25, 29

1) He looked for justice – bloodshed. Isa. 1:21, 3:14-15

2) For righteousness – a cry of distress. Isa. 1:23

- Verses 8-30 Woe, Woe, Woe to those who...
- Vs. 8 Woe to those who accumulate real estate, acquiring it until they own it all.
Micah 2:1; Lev. 25:13-17, 23-31
- Vs. 9 In my ears the Lord of hosts has sworn...
- Vs. 10 Ten acres of vineyard will yield a bath (6 gallons).

A homar of seed (normally yields many bushels).

Will yield an ephah of grain (1/12 of the seed sown).
- Vs. 11 Woe to those who start drinking early in the morning and end their evenings sipping wine (note verse 22 – must have been a real problem).
- Vs. 12 Their banquets are filled with music and void of any remembrance of the work of their God's hands!
- Vs. 13 Therefore
- 1) Their abandonment of God will result in His abandonment of them – they don't know of Him, He doesn't remember them either.
 - 2) Their greatest men will die of hunger.
 - 3) The drunkards will die of thirst.
- Vs. 14 Therefore – again refers back to verses 8-12

Sheol will accommodate the need. Rev. 6:8

Jerusalem's finest will descend into it.
- Vs. 15 No matter what position the Israelite had occupied in their pre-judgment life they will be humbled by the judgment which God will bring down upon them.
- Vs. 16 In the very act of "bringing low" his people, the God of Israel will be exalted and show Himself Holy in Righteousness.
- Vs. 17 Where there was once wealth and recognition, animals will return to graze.

- Vs. 18-19 Woe to those who:
- 1) Are waiting for God to save their nation. They wanted to see God act (let Him hasten His work).
 - 2) Seeing no connection with their expectation and the effect their lifestyle had on God's willingness to proceed, God does not proceed as "planned" when spiritual change is needed on the part of His people.

Vs. 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil:

Darkness of light.

Bitter for sweet.

Vs. 21 Who needs God when I have Me!

Vs. 22-23 Woe to those who:

- 1) Are heroes in drinking.
- 2) Justify the wicked for a bribe.
- 3) Take away the rights of the right.

Vs. 24 Therefore as ... for they have

Rejected and despised the Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel.

Vs. 25 On this account (reasons given above):

- 1) God's anger burns.
- 2) He has stretched out His hand...struck them down.
- 3) Their corpses lay like garbage in the middle of the streets.

With all this, He is not finished. Further judgments are yet to fall.

Vs. 26-30 When the time comes for the judgment to fall, it will be as if God had raised a banner as a signal for war.

God's armies will seem to come from the ends of the earth.

Their speed and ferociousness will completely devastate Judah.

The light will go out.