

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 220 – A Song Through Hasten His Work (Isaiah 5:1-19)

1. What lesson(s) are taught in the song of the vineyard?

Israel and Judah are the vineyard that was planted and tended to, but do not bring forth good fruit: *“(1) Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: (2) And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. (3) And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. (4) What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? (5) And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: (6) And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. (7) For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry” (Isaiah 5:1-7).*

- God built up Israel in a way to protect them so they could be fruitful (**II Samuel 7:10**, **I Chronicles 17:9**, and **Psalms 44:1-3**).
- He did all He could to reach them (**II Chronicles 36:14-16** and **Ezekiel 24:13**).
- When they failed, God took away the hedge and they were not safe (**Joshua 7:1-12**, **Judges 2:11-15**, **Psalms 74:1-10**, and **Psalms 80:8-18**).
- This process will continue throughout Israel’s history up to Christ (**Matthew 23:37** and **Luke 20:9-18**).
- God wanted fair judgment in Israel (**Exodus 22:22-27**), but it was not there (**Jeremiah 5:28**).
- Instead of righteousness, there was outcry (cf. **Proverbs 21:13**).

2. Was it a good thing for those in Israel to hoard lands and houses?

No: *“(8) Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth! (9) In mine ears said the LORD of hosts, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant. (10) Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah” (Isaiah 5:8-10).*

- **Proverbs 22:28**, **Proverbs 23:10**, **Jeremiah 22:13-17**, **Micah 2:1-2**, **Habakkuk 2:9-12**, and **Matthew 23:14**.
- Because of this, God did not allow them to prosper (**Haggai 1:9-11**).

3. How does the Lord view those who seek alcohol, partying, and not His work?

Woe unto them: *"(11) Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! (12) And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands"* (Isaiah 5:11-12).

- **Proverbs 23:29-35, Isaiah 5:22, Isaiah 28:1, Isaiah 28:7-8, Luke 21:34, and I Peter 4:1-5.**

4. Why did God's people go into captivity?

Lack of knowledge and men to lead them: *"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst"* (Isaiah 5:13).

- Israel WAS God's people (Isaiah 45:4). Of course, now all people can be God's people (Galatians 3:26-29).
- Ignorance was their downfall (Hosea 4:1-6, Matthew 22:29, Ephesians 4:18, and Ephesians 5:17).

5. Did/does Hell [Sheol] welcome those whom are full of self-glory?

Yes: *"Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it"* (Isaiah 5:14).

- **Proverbs 27:20.**
- More on what pride brings in the next two verses...

6. Who is humbled and who is exalted when the Lord issues His judgments?

The mighty and lofty are humbled while the Lord is exalted: *"(15) And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: (16) But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness"* (Isaiah 5:15-16).

- Pride leads to destruction (**Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 18:12, Proverbs 29:23, and Isaiah 2:11-12**).
- The high shall be brought low (**Matthew 23:12**).
- God's judgment establishes His might (**Ezekiel 6:1-7**).

7. When God's judgment prevailed upon the earth, what happened with the ruins of those who had become fat with abundance?

Strangers ate off of their wastelands: *"Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat"* (Isaiah 5:17).

- **Isaiah 1:7** and **Lamentations 5:1-2**.

8. Was it wise for Israel to essentially provoke God by carrying on with their open sins and tempting Him to judge them?

No, God said woe unto them: *"(18) Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: (19) That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it"* (Isaiah 5:18-19)!

- There was a time where Israel just didn't care (**Jeremiah 5:31** and **Jeremiah 23:10**).
- This set up consequences (**Isaiah 28:14-17**).
- They actually doubted God would do anything (**Jeremiah 5:12-13** and **Jeremiah 17:15**).
- How stupid are a people who want to see God's judgment (**Amos 5:18-19** and **Hebrews 10:27-31**)?