

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 221 – Woe For Calling Evil Good Through A Roaring Day (Isaiah 5:20-30)

1. Is it right to confuse evil and good, or darkness and light, or bitter and sweet?

No: *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20)!*

- **Malachi 2:17, Malachi 3:15, and Romans 1:18-32.**
- Sin is bitter (**Jeremiah 2:19** and **Acts 8:23**).
- Darkness and light do work together (**Acts 26:18** and **Ephesians 5:8**).

2. Is God pleased with those who are wise and prudent in their own sight?

No: *“Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight” (Isaiah 5:21)!*

- **Job 32:8-9, Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 23:4, Proverbs 26:12, Romans 11:25, and Romans 12:16.**

3. Do people who drink alcohol use righteous judgment?

No: *“(22) Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: (23) Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him” (Isaiah 5:22-23)!*

- Woe to those who consume alcohol (**Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Proverbs 23:29-35, Isaiah 5:11, Hosea 4:11, Luke 21:33-34, I Thessalonians 5:7-8, and I Peter 4:1-5**).
- Alcohol perverts judgment (**Proverbs 31:4-5**; cf. **I Peter 4:7; 5:8**).
- Not good to justify the wicked for any reason (**Proverbs 17:15**).
- Taking brides and perverting judgment is sinful (**Deuteronomy 16:19, II Chronicles 19:7, and Proverbs 17:23**).

4. Could those in Israel expect a good outcome for despising the word of God?

No: *“Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 5:24).*

- **I Samuel 15:23, II Kings 17:14-18, Isaiah 47:5-14 and Malachi 4:1.**
- Nor can we today (**John 12:48** and **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

5. Is the anger of God appealing?

No: *“Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still” (Isaiah 5:25).*

- **Deuteronomy 31:17, Deuteronomy 32:17-22, Psalms 106:40, Ezekiel 5:5-14, Nahum 1:3, Ephesians 5:6, and Hebrews 10:26-31.**
- Thankfully, His anger does not always last (**Micah 7:18**). Though, the consequences of sins will not pass if unrepented of (**Matthew 25:46**).

6. Did God use other nations to bring about judgment on the erring?

Yes, He brought them as roaring lions and seas upon the erring: *“(26) And he will lift up an ensign [a flag] to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly: (27) None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken: (28) Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind: (29) Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it. (30) And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof” (Isaiah 5:26-30).*

- God used heathens to punish His disobedient people (**Isaiah 10:5-11** and **Jeremiah 25:1-9**).
- Those whom God called to punish Israel came with speed (**Lamentations 4:16-19**).
- Yet, if those nations that God sent abused His people or misused the power given them, God would come back on them (**Isaiah 10:12-19** and **Jeremiah 51:27-58**).