

Isaiah 5 - The Vineyard with wild grapes

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Isaiah awakens from his vision (ch 2-4) of the future with a song of the current condition of the nation. The song is a sorrowful parable of a vineyard with wild grapes.

I. The Saviour's Care

v 1-2

v1 *my well beloved* = our Lord Jesus Christ
his vineyard hx: nation Israel Ps 80:1, 9-15 Mt 21:33-46
 spir: the church John 15:1-8

v2 Begins with God's provision and protection,
 but ends with thankless stubbornness = *wild grapes*.

II. The saints Corruption

v 3-7

v 3-4 These verses show that man has "free will" because it was not God's will to produce *wild grapes*. Therefore *judge, I pray you...* (all ye calvinists).

v 5-6 God's hand of protection is removed and nature's provision is withheld.

hx: *no rain upon it* (v 6) - resulted in Negev Desert which covers 55% of Israel.

spir : *rain* = God's word (55:10-11)

v 7 Wild grapes are unfaithful: they live *unrighteously* and *oppress* each other.

III. The sure Consequences - six woes

v 8-23

The prophet cries aloud that sin results in sure and certain woes!

hx: These have all been experienced in Israel's history.

spir: These warnings have practical application in our lives today.

doctr: This behaviour of sin and woe will be repeated and intensified in the tribulation.

v 8-10 *Woe ! #1* The sins of covetousness, selfishness and greed
 result in loss and barrenness.

v 11-17 *Woe ! #2* The sins of drunkenness (v11) and revelry (v12) i.e. the local bar
 These are godless endeavors - *they regard not the work of the Lord*
 e.g. He's the Creator, He put a spirit and soul in their body

The result of such godlessness is *captivity* (v13) in this life and *hell* (v14) in the afterlife. Verses 14-15 reveal that this wickedness is pervasive throughout the land. The 'up and out' crowd is godless at the philharmonic indulging in fine wine, champagne and caviar while the 'down and outs' are swilling beer with shots and pretzels at the saloon. Jesus said : **Both shall fall into the ditch**, Matt 15:14 and Proverbs 22:2.

Isa 5

- v 18-19 *Woe ! #3* God's portrayal of religious ceremony: *iniquity, vanity, sin.* v18
The folly of demanding that God act as a "genie". v19
- v 20 *Woe ! #4* This is the logical aftermath of woes 1-3; everything is 'upside down'.
God's word has been corrupted, changed and perverted everywhere. This
awful and fatal sin is practiced in both the spiritual ("religious") realm and the
social ("political") arena. 2 Cor 2:17 Ps 94:20
- v 21 *Woe ! #5* The repulsive sins of pride, conceit and Pharisaical self-righteousness.
Pr 26:12 Isa 65:5 Luke 18:11-12
- v 22-23 *Woe ! #6* Alcohol perverts ones judgment and breeds *spiritual wickedness in
high places* resulting in social injustice. Pro 31:4-5 Eccl 3:16
This angers *the Judge of all the earth.*

IV. The sorry Conclusion

v 24-30

The chapter closes showing the primary reason for God's punishment of his people: *because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel,* v24.

Israel had *light* (i.e. God's word) and light brings responsibility.
They committed the double sin of both ignoring (Hosea 8:12) and changing (v20) God's word. Consequently, the Lord brought double judgment, Jeremiah 16:18.
They suffered the spanking hand of toil within the land (v25) and the troublesome 'spanking' invading hordes of enemy armies from without (v26-30).
As Shakespeare wrote : "double, double toil and trouble". [He oft borrowed from the Bible]