

ISAIAH 5

All Poetry

(This chapter begins with a song modeled after a folk song sung at harvest time.)

Verse 1

Now I will sing for my well-beloved,
A song of my beloved touching his vineyard.

My beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill (nation):

Verse 2

(And) He fenced it, and gathered out the stones (impediments) thereof,
(And) He planted it with the choicest vine (choicest people),
(And) He built a tower (guard tower - with a prophet) in the midst of it,
(And) He also made a winepress (church) therein.

(And) He looked that it should bring forth grapes,
(And) It brought forth wild grapes.

("wild grapes" - Fruit that doesn't mature, rots before it ripens, drops off before it grows)

Verse 3

And now:

O inhabitants of Jerusalem, (please) judge, I pray you, betwixt
me and my vineyard!
(and) Men of Judah, (please) judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my
vineyard! (Like in a court hearing)

Verse 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?

Verse 5

And now go to, I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard:

I will take away the hedge thereof (Outer Protection) and it shall be
eaten up. (burned up)
I will break down the wall thereof, (Inner-Stronger Protection) and it
shall be trodden down. (trampled like with horses in war)

Verse 6

(And) **I will lay it waste:**

(But) It shall not be pruned nor be digged. (no labor performed for it)
There shall come up briars and thorns. (wicked men, false prophets and enemies)
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. (revelation)

Verse 7
(and) The vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel,
The men of Judah his pleasant plant.

(and) He looked for judgment but behold, oppression,
He looked for righteousness but behold, a cry.

Verse 8 **WOE, unto them:**

That join house to house,
That lay field to field 'till there be no place that they be placed
alone in the midst of the earth. (land)

(Until they are restricted to living in the center of large cities – Like in Babylon)

Verse 9 **The Lord of Hosts** (spoke this in my hearing):

Of a truth, many houses shall be desolate,
Even great and fair houses shall be without inhabitant.

Verse 10 (Yea) Ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath (about 6 Gallons),
(and) The seed of an homer (6 bushels) shall yield an ephah (A tenth of an homer).

Pulpit Commentary

Verse 10. - **Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath.** The greed of adding field to field will be punished by the curse of barrenness, which God will send upon the land. Dr. Kay-calculates that ten acres (Roman) of vineyard ought to yield upon the average five hundred baths (or four thousand gallons) instead of one bath (eight gallons). **An homer... an ephah.** The "ephah" was the tenth-part of a "homer" (Ezekiel 45:11). Corn lands should return only one-tenth part of the seed sown in them.

Verse 11 **WOE, unto them:**

That rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink,
That continue until night (at parties) 'till wine inflame them!

Verse 12 (and) (There is) the harp,
(and) (There is) the viol (lyre),
(There is) the tabret (drum),
(and) (There is) the pipe (flute),
(and) (There is) the wine,

But they regard not the work of the Lord,
Neither consider (they) the operation of his hands.

Verse 13 **Therefore my people** (covenant people) **are gone into captivity;**
(because) **they have no knowledge** (they don't know why):

(and) Their honourable men are famished (die of famine),
(and) Their multitude [is] dried up (perishes) with thirst.

Verse 14

Therefore:

Hell (Sheol) hath enlarged herself,
Hell (Sheol) hath opened her mouth without measure (is ravenous).

(Hell – “Sheol” the Underworld - is a place of darkness to which all the **dead** go, both the **righteous** and the **unrighteous**, regardless of the moral choices made in life, a place of stillness and darkness cut off from life and from God.)

Into (Sheol) shall descend:

(And) Their glory (glorious – elite people),
(and) Their multitude (multitudes).

(and) Their pomp (boisterous ones),
(and) He that rejoiceth (revelers).

Verse 15 (And) The mean man (mankind) shall be brought down, (shall be brought low)
(and) The mighty man shall be humbled, (shall debase himself)
(and) The eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. (their eyes shall be downcast)

Verse 16 (But) The Lord of Hosts shall be exalted in judgment,
(and) God, that is holy, shall be sanctified in righteousness.

Verse 17 (and) Then shall (the lord’s sheep) feed after their manner (in their pastures),
Then shall strangers (converts) eat (in the ruins of the affluent).

Verse 18 **Woe, unto them:**

(and) That draw iniquity with cords of vanity,
That sin as it were with a cart rope.
(Woe to those drawn to sin with vain attachments, hitched to transgression like a trailer.)

Verse 19 **Woe, unto them that say (think):**

(and) “Let him make speed and hasten his work that we may see it.”
“Let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come
that we may know it!” (Asking for a sign)

Verse 20 **Woe, unto them:**

(and) That call evil good,
That call good evil.

(and) That put darkness for light,
That put light for darkness.

- (and) That put bitter for sweet,
That put sweet for bitter.
- Verse 21 **Woe, unto them:**
- (and) That are wise in their own eyes,
That are prudent in their own sight!
- Verse 22 **Woe, unto them:**
- (and) That are mighty to drink wine,
That are mighty to mingle (at mixing) strong drink.
- Verse 23 **Woe, unto them:**
- (and) Which justify the wicked for reward, (which acquit the guilty for a bribe)
Which take away the righteousness of the righteous
from him! (deny justice to the innocent)
- Verse 24 (Therefore) As the fire devoureth the stubble,
(and) As the flame consumeth the chaff (dry weeds).
- (So) Their root (ancestors) shall be as rottenness,
(and) Their blossoms (children) shall go up as dust.
- (because) They have cast away the law of the Lord of Hosts,
(and) They despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
- Verse 25 **Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against his people!:**
- (and) He hath stretched forth his hand against them, and he hath
smitten them. (“Hand” - Assyrian King or other evil power)
- (and) The hills tremble, and their carcasses are torn in the midst of
the streets. (and their corpses lie like litter about the streets.)
- (but) *For all this his anger is not turned away,
His hand is stretched out still!* (The “hand” of judgment)
(See Isaiah 9-10 with this same expression repeated)
- Verse 26 (And) He will lift up an ensign to the nations from far,
(and) He will hiss unto them (summon enemies) from the end of the earth.

Verse 27 (and, behold) They shall come with speed swiftly.
None shall be weary nor stumble among them.

Neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed,
Nor the latchet of their shoes be broken. (no lack of control)

Verse 28 (and) Their arrows are sharp,
All their bows are bent. (strung and ready)

(and) Their horse's hoofs shall be counted like flint, (their warhorses)
(and) Their (chariot) wheels shall be like a whirlwind.

Verse 29 Their roaring shall be like a lion,
They shall roar like young lions. (aroused like young lions)

(yea) They shall roar and lay hold of the prey (Israel), and shall carry it
away safe (to devour it),
(and) None shall deliver it. (none comes to the rescue)

Verse 30 (And) **In that day:**

He shall roar against them (Israel),
He shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea!
(The evil servant, "the hand", shall roar against Israel - King of Assyria)

(and) Should one look unto the land,
Behold, darkness and sorrow. (distressing gloom)

(and) Should one look unto the heavens,
Behold, the light is darkened. (by an overhanging mist)

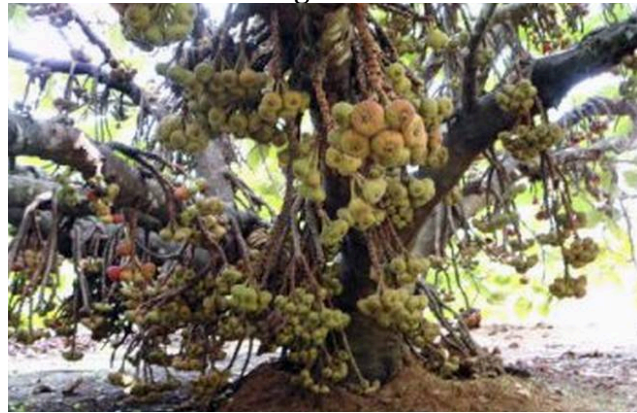
Cedars of Lebanon



Olive Trees



Fig Trees



Watch Tower - Vineyard



Grape Vines



Thorns & Bramble

