

# Me And My Vineyard

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #3 – Chapter Five

August 31, 2016 – Wednesday

## I. INTRODUCTION, 5:1

### A. The Parable, Or Song

1. Here we have a song, or a parable, sung by Isaiah as it would be from the lips of God himself in relation to his people, Israel and Judah.
2. Israel is typified by a Vineyard.

### B. Israel, A Very Fruitful Hill

1. The land of Israel was given to God's chosen people, and that land, which has its primary part in Jerusalem, is a very fruitful land.
2. The word *fruitful* can also be translated literally as "in a horn, or son of oil" (Gill)
3. Israel has been seen by some as a horn, since it is longer than it is wide, and it is higher than any land around, in other words, in the shape of a horn.
4. It was indeed a fruitful hill, since it was the land of olive oil and a land flowing with milk and honey, as was observed early on by the spies who went to spy out the land.

## II. GOD'S PRODUCTION OF HIS VINEYARD, 5:2-3

### A. The Blessings Upon Israel, The Vineyard, 2

1. God fenced it. He surrounded it with his good laws, his commandments, which were meant to keep Israel in good order in order to receive the high blessings of God.
2. God gathered stones in it. He took up the stones that were a hindrance for growing the good plants in order to produce a wonderful crop of grapes. These are the heathen who dwell all around Canaan. God took them out by his miraculous hand and instructed Israel to kill all of them so that they would be his special, blessed people.
3. God planted the vineyard. Psalms 80:8 *Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.*
4. God planted the vineyard with the "choicest vine." These are the children of Abraham through which God has preserved a seed to be blessed above all the people of the world. He planted Abraham's seed as one would plant a vine in a good vineyard.
5. God built a tower in the vineyard. This tower is the temple of God, which was built through the wisdom of Solomon given to him by God. This tower was for watching over the inhabitants of Israel and to judge them in all areas of life. This is the beautiful temple that was later enhanced in beauty by King Herod and was admired by everyone who saw it, even though by that time it had lost its meaning and its worth.
6. God looked upon the vineyard that it might bring forth grapes, or fruit, spiritual fruit, honored truth both civil and spiritual. He watched that the people would obey his laws and protect themselves from the influence of the heathen who lived close by.
7. But the Vineyard brought forth "wild grapes," grapes that were corrupted, corrupted in action and judgment and in expectation of blessings from God.
8. The decision, now, is that Israel must make a judgment as to whether to serve God or mammon, God or men.

### B. The Decision They Must Make, 3

1. They must judge "betwixt" or between "me and my vineyard." Will they serve God,

obey his laws, and receive the blessings of God, or will they serve themselves (the vineyard) and make their own laws and suffer the consequences of human government and the worshiping of idols as the heathen do?

2. It is the same decision that we must make in our own lives. Shall we obey God or men?
3. The world wants everyone to obey man, but God demands that we obey him.

### III. GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS VINEYARD, 5:4

#### A. What Could Have Been Done More?

1. God has supplied everything that was needed for Israel to bring forth good, luscious grapes in fencing it, taking out the stones, planting it with the choicest vine, building a tower in it to watch out for the land, and a winepress to enjoy the fruit of the crops.
2. God has also done spiritually in the world by his death, burial, and resurrection all that he could do. Nothing more can be done to bring salvation to believers. It was all done in the life and death of Christ. What more could he do?
3. But "those that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom. 8:8).
4. Our salvation rests wholly, completely in God and his grace.

#### B. God Looked For Israel To Bring Forth Fruit

1. It was only reasonable for God to expect some fruit from his vineyard.
2. Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
3. Mark 4:20 *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*
4. John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
5. Romans 7:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

### IV. GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE, 5:5-6

- A. He will take away the hedge – The laws that God gave them to protect them against the sin of idolatry and moral decay will be taken away.
  1. Psalms 80:12 *Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?*
  2. Without the teaching of the laws of God, the heathen can easily come in and pluck up the good things that God has benefitted Israel with.
- B. He will break down the wall – This is God's Providential protection by which he has protected Israel against all their enemies and has done many miracles in Israel's behalf.
- C. He will lay the vineyard waste – Psalms 80:13 *The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.* There will be no pruning to cultivate and make the vine to grow healthy.
- D. He will keep the clouds from raining on it – This could very well be the messages of the prophets as they warned Israel time and time again of their sins. They will be stopped from prophesying to Israel. There was a period of nearly 400 years when Israel had no prophets. Then John the Baptist came on the scene as "more than a prophets." Matthew 11:9 *But*

*what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.*

#### V. GOD'S PRODUCT OF WILD GRAPES, 5:7

- A. He Looked For Judgment
  - 1. God has given them divine judgment, commandments and rules and practices that would keep the knowledge before their faces at all times.
  - 2. God was right to expect good judgment from Israel, but he did not find it. He found wrong and corrupted judgment.
- B. He Found Oppression And A Lack Of True Righteousness
  - 1. Instead of judgment, he found oppressions. The men of Israel began to make their own laws and rejected the counsel of God. Therefore, they had faulty judgment and a sinful moral character.
  - 2. Instead of righteousness, he found a cry. The poor were neglected, and prejudiced judgment was given to rich men at the neglect of the poor and the needy.
- C. This is not why he chose this vineyard and provided many good things for it. He desires a good crop, a fruitful harvest, but he did not reap righteousness from Israel but rather only human judgment and rejection of the truth of God.

#### VI. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF SIX WOES, 5:8-22

- A. Verse 8 – Woe to them that join house to house, buying up land against their first land to expand their territory until they have grown in land until they are alone with no neighbors close by. This is the sin of covetousness and is a very grievous sin. Israel, I think, thought that if they expanded their land and became expansionists that they would push the whole Gentile world away from them, and they could live alone under God's blessings.
- B. Verse 11 – Woe to them that rise up early to follow strong drink. It was shameful to drink alcohol in the morning. In Acts 2:15 we find: *For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.* But these men rose up early for the sole purpose of drinking all day and into the night.
- C. Verse 18 – Woe to them that draw iniquity with a chord, desiring sin so much that they lust after it and lasso it, looking for it and grabbing it quickly. This is the meaning of the word *wanton*.
- D. Verse 20 – Woe to them that call evil good and good evil. Romans 1:25 *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*
- E. Verse 21 – Woe to them that are wise in their own eyes. Proverbs 30:12 *There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.*
- F. Verse 22 – Woe to them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.
  - 1. Those who are "mighty to drink wine" are those who can drink a great portion of wine and still remain strong and are not greatly affected, or at least seemingly, by much wine.
  - 2. The men of strength are men who have riches and are able to provide much wine and strong drink for others.
  - 3. This is a great woe upon Israel and also for our own country and the world today.
- G. Someone has said that there are 22 blessings in the book of Psalms and 22 woes in the book of Isaiah.

## VII. THE PROSPECT OF A REMNANT LEFT

- A. Now with all that God has done for Israel and with all the sin and rejection that Israel has done toward God, notice that God always has a remnant people. Notice that the word *remnant* is used in Isaiah 12 times.
- B. A Remnant Will Be Kept From Destruction
  1. Isaiah 1:9 *Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.*
  2. Isaiah 10:20 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.*
- C. But the Lord's hand is still stretched out for judgment
  1. Isaiah 5:25 *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.*
  2. Isaiah 9:12 *The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*
  3. Isaiah 9:17 *Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*
  4. Isaiah 9:21 *Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*
  5. Isaiah 10:4 *Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*

## VIII. WHAT IS THE RESULT?

1. God's stretch-out hand is for impending judgment, so judgment came upon Israel
2. The next time God stretches out his hand, it is with judgment against Assyria and Babylon.
3. Isaiah 14:27 *For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?*
4. Because God will save his remnant from their captivity and turn back to them in love and compassion – Isaiah 37:31 *And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:*
5. Now we are also a remnant that are saved by grace – Romans 11:5 *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*
6. Read Romans 10:21