

## Their Root Shall Be As Rotteness

Isaiah 5:8 – 24

+++++

~ No nation of the past, in the entirety of recorded world history, had such an advantage and opportunity for strength, prosperity, and for influencing the world for the good of the Lord Jesus Christ as the nation Israel had; and, yet, they totally and completely failed God. God compared Israel with a vineyard, and He made every provision possible to ensure their success – but all they brought forth were failures. God had placed them in fertile soil, carefully cultivated them, irrigated the garden, taken all the weeds out, He built a wall and a hedge of protection around them – and He did anything and everything that could possibly be done to make this vineyard grow. Well, the problem wasn't with God; the problem was with the hearts of the children of Israel.

So, God has made it abundantly clear in these first five chapters of Isaiah that He wanted the entire world to know that He was – and is – judging Israel as a nation. God's judgment is always – *ALWAYS* – just and righteous, too, by the way; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, agree with it, accept it, like it – or not. All you and I have to do is examine our own personal lives today and, if we are honest and sincere with ourselves, we will recognize that whatever sickness, disease, illness, problem or calamity that has come to us or our family – God is righteous and just for allowing it to happen. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, there have been many times in my own life when I felt God was being completely unfair with me, not taking care of me properly, and not dealing with me correctly according to His Word.

It's easy to begin feeling sorry for ourselves when that happens, and develop an erroneous, spiritually paranoid psychological complex of persecution. I've done it. As it turns out: it was me who was wrong all along. If you are reading this report, I am sure you can look back in your life and have many regrets. I *KNOW* this Book of Isaiah so far is a woefully bitter pill to swallow — with many adverse side effects — and it is easy to simply reject it — and many people do reject Christ today. Frankly, I don't

think I ever see a quote from Isaiah around this forum on which I teach that is in context and helpful — even after chapter forty. Well, that doesn't change the fact of truth one whit; all it does is further alienate us from God. I thank Him that I can look back on those dark and unpleasantly bleak past days of my life — and I still have them occasionally — but I can now see that He was accomplishing His Own plan and purpose in my life. I also thank God that I can praise Him and the Lord Jesus Christ as a result.

In our last report, we began to examine the parable and Hebrew song of Jehovah's Vineyard and the six "woes" He pronounced upon them in that day. We are unmistakably talking about Israel — and that means all twelve tribes; although Isaiah was prophesying particularly to Judah and Jerusalem in this book of the Bible. In this report, we're going to learn that the sin tragedy of our present hour is not only the same personal indictments as they were against Israel — although Israel certainly does reject Christ today as the True and Living God today — but that every nation of the world is flagrantly guilty of each and every sin and transgression that ancient Israel was guilty of....

***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!***

~ Israel was a great agricultural nation in the day in which we are studying. The first "woe" Isaiah proclaims is that they were building huge corporations and complexes; entities which squeezed out the small operator and the little man, so that a few greedy individuals accumulated more and more wealth - simply for the sake of hoarding - with absolutely no notion of being helpful or responsible to anyone else. That is the sin of covetousness and, my friend, God hates it. This one particular sin *ALONE* will cause the Lord to judge harshly and quickly. Covetousness is rank idolatry; and these people were given over completely to it. Anything we give ourself to is our idol; and it is also our religion! The atheist today doesn't think they are religious; but their minds are utterly consumed with proving that God — Whom they do not believe exists in the first place — doesn't exist! One cannot be any more hopelessly confused than that. Atheism *is* their religion. Most idols today have the face of American hundred dollar bills. That's the picture Isaiah is painting for us here.

To add insult to injury, the nation Israel was no longer observing the Sabbatic Year; and, as a result, the richness of the soil in the land was being depleted. The reason for the Sabbath Year was to allow the land to remain fallow and restore and maintain its fertility. Of course, in that day, that year of lost revenue was unacceptable to the greedy and wicked man. Today, men do the same thing. We live in a world that is being depleted of resources as quickly as they can steal it. With the population explosion continuing the way it is, the earth will one day simply run out of arable crop land. That end result is inevitable at some future point. I don't know when it will happen – but I do know that it *will* happen! That's a judgment of God, my beloved....

***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.***

***11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflames 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.***

~ Drunkenness and never-ending pleasure on a national scale is the order of the day in which we live, too, friends – there's no denying that. Interestingly, but wholly unfortunate, is that many so-called Christians do those things in the Name of the Lord; and call those things His will. The rock and roll concerts that pass as "*worship*" and "*praise*" are an abomination to God – I don't care what you say or how much you disagree – it just so happens to be *Y-O-U* who is wrong — not God. When the lost world cannot differentiate you from their like-minded ilk, then you aren't worshiping or praising God; no, you're perpetuating your own pride and propagating your own pleasure – plain and simple. Further, if the world loves you for what you do in the world, then you are not a child of God; because that would

literally be impossible. The church has reached gross immorality today; you might want to just write that down.

Moreover, the number of alcoholics and drug addicts in this world is a statistic that is unavailable. My personal estimation is one in three – and that is conservative. One in two is probably more accurate. The real number is so extensive that, if known, it would scare the living daylight out of us. If we knew the number of life-changing decisions that our world leaders make at late night parties, while under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and further influenced by prostitution of every conceivable type, our world system of government would utterly collapse. That's no exaggeration, friends – that's what's real. That's what is happening as I type this report and you read it. This is not the rambling of some peanut-fundamental conservative Bible-thumping Gospel teacher; no, these are undeniable, irrefutable facts. To deny them as such, and label yourself learned, sophisticated, and cultural is to reveal your abject *idiocy*; and exposes a life of unreality. Insistence upon ignorance, when confronted with truth, is a cancerous tumor that eats away the vital organs of any nation that catches the disease....

***13 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.***

***14 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.***

~ Now, against my better judgment, I am going to insert this brief theological side-note commentary on "hell." "Hell" is a word that should never have been translated from Hebrew into English; just as "baptism" and "Abba" were never translated into English. In the Old Testament, "hell" is always translated as "Sheol" – and, in the New Testament, "hell" is always translated as "Hades." These do not mean what we think of them as meaning today. See, the lost soul will ultimately be cast into the "lake of fire" — into eternal damnation and torment — chained in the blackness of darkness forever — as their eternal destination is referred to in the Books

of Jude and Revelation. Most people correlate this as “hell.” Well, the root Hebrew word for “Sheol” literally means “to ask” or “to demand.”

In Proverbs chapter thirty verse sixteen, we read, “...there are several things that cry, ‘not enough, not enough.’” So, hell – or Sheol – is never satisfied. Death is always demanding more. Death and the grave can never get enough – and those are also acceptable translations. When one stands graveside at a funeral, the question in the back of anyone’s mind is, “where did they go?” Job sighed this question out by saying, “... man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost...” – where is he? That is the question everyone will ask someday. In Hebrew, “hell” does not have the designation of a locality, nor the direction of going down. In the course of time, it became recognized and accepted symbolism that God was above; so, the opposite would, of course, be below. Jesus said, *“thou Capernaum which art exalted to Heaven, you shall be cast down to Hades.”*

Ever since those words, “hell” has always been associated with “down” or “below.” Frankly, I don’t believe it means descent into the heart of the earth – although it could mean that; I feel it means that soul will be brought down. Naturally, there are always strong moral ideologies associated with the orientation of direction. “Up” always has a moral connotation and “down” always infers an immoral progression. Those axioms cannot be escaped at all in today’s vernacular. What Isaiah means here is that the nation Israel would be brought down; and that’s exactly what happened. They went down into captivity in Babylon because of idolatry, disobeying the Sabbatic Year, drunkenness, and unbridled pleasure. Lo, all of our pomp of today is one with Nineveh and Tyre of yesterday, as Kipling once said....

***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.***

***17 Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat.***

**18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:**

~ This third “woe” is condemnation against a lying nation given over wholly to sinning openly in and against the public without shame. They were committing abominable acts and dragging them down the highways and bi-ways as they did them. Today, the lying homosexual and lesbian pervert march down the street and proclaim their “pride” without a conscience. What they are really doing is challenging God to do something about their sins! They are attempting to destroy God’s standard of right and wrong by substituting man’s values; which are contradicted by God’s moral standard. This also plays out in heterosexual co-habitation as men and women tell of living together unmarried; and they generally give the reason as “being honest.” They accuse the moral man of being a hypocrite for even mentioning their sin. Well, not only are they dishonest and hypocritical, but they’re liars; because they know in their hearts that what they are doing is wrong.

Interestingly, no penalty is mentioned here. The very silence of God should be terrifying. The penalty for these types of people is too severe and horrible to reveal. The Babylonian captivity was frightening and unspeakable when it was happening; and those who sin against God without impunity will receive the harshest possible wrath from God Almighty. In Psalm one hundred thirty-seven, the prayer against Babylon was that another enemy would take the Babylonian children and dash the heads of *their* little ones against the stones. It just doesn’t get any worse than that. That was the judgment that came upon this people. Now, God is a God of love; however, when you turn your back on Him, and He gives you up – as He did to the sexually perverted crowd in Romans chapter one – judgment follows. You can shut your eyes to this truth if you want to – but history illustrates it myriad times – denying it won’t change a thing....

**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!**

***20 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!***

***21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and proud in their own sight!***

***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!***

~ Our day of pride stems from a people that are totally backwards and confused. Most of you know that men today say right is wrong and wrong is right – and they actually believe their lies. They honestly do not recognize their hatred, hypocrisy and prejudice. Well, my friends, wrong is wrong from the moment it happens until the crack of doom; and all the angels in Heaven working overtime could never diminish what's wrong by a fraction of a hair. The modern teaching today that says truth is subjective is an idiot's proclamation, and the shackles of fools. Jesus quoted Isaiah, saying, ***“a bruised reed shall God not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench; till He send forth justice unto victory.”*** Certain sins bring about their own judgment, in and of themselves. Drunkenness is one, sexual perversion is another. These sins destroy the life of a perpetrator; they destroy their own home, and their own body — they destroy it all on their own. Their calamity is self-inflicted. The smoking flax will burst into flames all by itself! A bruised reed is going to die anyways. The sin you commit today is the sin that will destroy you tomorrow – I **PROMISE** you that, my beloved....

***24 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.***

~ Paul tells us the wages of sin is death. Those living in open rebellion to God **WILL** experience His wrath – just as sure as the sun is shining right

now. That applies in *this* life — and for all eternity, too, by the way. In spite of God’s disappointment with the nation Israel, and with our sin and rejection of His Son Christ Jesus today, He was still loving and gracious enough to send His Son into this world as a sacrifice; that we might have a new life in Him. The Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself the wrath of God for us on the cross! If you reject that – you’re a fool. I thank God that this truth is becoming real to more and more people around the world in our Spiritual Safari. Frankly, it means everything to me today ~

++++++