

## THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

### Chapter 5 Lesson 2

**Chapter's Subject: Parable of the Vineyard Isa. 5**

**Main Point: Moral Vineyard Isa. 5:1-7**

**Today's Study: Moral Vineyard Part 2 Isa. 5:5-7**

1. Formal Findings (Divine Verdict) Vv. 5-6
2. Frustrated Expectations v. 7

**Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.**

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Brief Review of Isa. 5 Outline

1. Three main divisions
  - (a) Moral Vineyard Isa. 5:1-7
  - (b) Missing the Mark Isa. 5:8-23
  - (c) Miserable Consequences Isa. 5:24-30
2. In our first lesson we discussed Part A, of Isa. 5:1-7, covering verses 1-4.
  - (a) Favorable Conditions Vv. 1-2
  - (b) Fruits were Disappointing v. 2
  - (c) Facing God's Grand Jury v. 3
  - (d) Facts of God's Provision v. 4
3. Today we will discuss the remaining three verses in the first main point (Isa. 5:1-7)
  - (e) Formal Finding (Divine Verdict) Vv. 5-6
  - (f) Frustrated Expectations v. 7

#### B. Summary of Previous Lesson

*The following were discussed:*

1. God, the Husbandman, the beloved (Isa. 5:1) spared nothing in order to ensure that His vineyard (the nation of Israel ... Isa. 5:7) had everything necessary to produce the very best fruits.
2. On the contrary, they produced useless fruits (Isa. 5:2), referred to as "wild gapes" (Isa. 5:2). "Wild gapes" speaks of the "corrupt nature," and the corrupt nature produces sinful acts. A listing of some of Israel's sins and their consequences are seen in Isa. 5:8-23, and the judgments for their sins are predicted in Isa. 5:24-30.
3. Beloved, all sins will be judged unless confessed and cleansed and there is the need of maintaining a life of righteousness and true holiness (Acts 17:30; 1 Peter 1:13-21; Heb. 12:4; Eph. 4:24).
4. Both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) continued in their sinful ways despite all that God had in place to guide them and to help them amend their ways and as a result of their continued sinful way of life they were

eventually taken into captivity (a) The Northern Kingdom in 722BC, conquered by the Assyrians and (b) the Southern Kingdom in 586 by Babylon.

**C. A Quote from Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible**

“See what variety of methods the great God takes to awaken sinners to repentance by convincing them of sin, and showing them their misery and danger by reason of it. To this purport he speaks sometimes in plain terms and sometimes in parables, sometimes in prose and sometimes in verse, as here. ‘We have tried to reason with you (Chap. 1:18); now let us put your case in a poem, inscribed to the honor of my well beloved.’ God the Father dictates it to the honor of Christ his well beloved Son, whom he has constituted Lord of the vineyard. The prophet sings it to the honor of Christ too, for he is well beloved. The Old Testament prophets were friends of the bridegroom. Christ is God’s beloved and Savior. Whatever is said or sung of the church must be intended to his praise, even that which (like this) tends to our shame. This parable was put into a song that it might be more moving and affecting, might be more easily learned and exactly remembered, and the better transmitted to posterity; and it is an exposition of the song of Moses (Deut. 32), showing that what he then foretold was now fulfilled. Jerome says, Christ the well beloved did in effect sing this mournful song when he beheld Jerusalem and wept over it (Luke 19:41), and had reference to it in the parable of the vineyard (Matt. 21:33, etc.),... ..”

**D. The Facts of Sin Must Not Be Ignored! (Briefly noted)**

It is disheartening to see how much emphasis is placed on twisting, thwarting, tearing down, etc. the Word of God and in so many situations it is done in the interest of having a large congregation, maintaining popularity among men, pursuing financial wealth, etc. God forbid that we go back to the time when preachers struck fear in the hearts of people for them to commit themselves to God.

Today we have compromised the truth of God’s Word so much that so many ignore the facts of sin and as a result many are perishing! We do not need to scare others to seek God and His righteousness but lovingly share the facts of His mercy and grace freely poured out to all who will accept. However, everyone must also accept the fact that if anyone continues to live in rebellion against God’s Word and His will there will be an awful price to pay. This fact is clearly seen in Isaiah 5 and is very much applicable today; **sin has its pay-day!!!** This is also a reality that even in the midst of corruption and apostasy there is hope for those who remain faithful to God; however continued disobedience comes with grievous consequences!!! The consequences of sin have been presented by Jeremiah in his “Lamentation” for Israel; below is a brief quote in reference to the Book of Lamentations.

**E. Lamentation for Jerusalem**

“Lamentations describes the funeral of a city. It is a tearstained portrait of the once proud Jerusalem, now reduced to rubble by the invading Babylonian hordes. In a five-

poem dirge (*“dirge”: a poem or hymn of mourning*) Jeremiah exposes his emotions. A death has occurred Jerusalem lies barren.”

***In addition to the above, I will include:***

*(Keep in mind that Lamentation was written by Jeremiah).*

Jeremiah grieves deeply because of the destruction of his nation. But in the middle of the book, in the depths of his grief, there shines a ray of hope. God’s compassion is ever present. His faithfulness is great. Jeremiah realizes that it is only the Lord’s mercy that has prevented total annihilation. **The Book of Lamentations shows us the serious consequences of sin and how we can still have hope in the midst of tragedy because God is able to turn it around for good.** We see the timeless importance of prayer and confession of sin. We will all face tragedy in our lives; but in the midst of our afflictions, there is hope in God!

Although Lamentations begins with a **lament** (Lam. 1:1-2) it fittingly ends on a note of repentance and hope of restoration! (Lam. 5:15-22) (*“lament”: a passionate expression of grief or sorrow; synonyms for “lament”...wail, moan, sob, weeping, crying, etc.*)

**Isa. 5:5-7 Life Application Study Bible**

“Now let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will tear down its hedges and let it be destroyed. I will break down its walls and let animals trample it. I will make it a wild place where the vines are not pruned and the ground is not hoed, a place overgrown with briars and thorns. I will command the clouds to drop no rain on it. The nation of Israel is the vineyard of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. The people of Judah are his pleasant garden. He expected to find righteousness, but instead he heard cries of violence.”

**Discussed in previous lesson: (Isa. 5:1-4)**

- A. Favorable Conditions Vv. 1-2**
- B. Fruits were Disappointing v. 2**
- C. Facing God’s Grand Jury v. 3**
- D. Facts of God’s Provisions v. 4**

**TODAY’S STUDY** (*First point*)

- E. Formal Findings (Divine Verdict) Isa. 5:5-6**

**NOTE:**

The vine is useless if it does not produce and will be destroyed; such was the norm for unproductive vineyards (See Ezek. 15:1-8). The protective shields for the vineyard would be removed and all the forces that were made for death and destruction (including plunderers and weeds, referring to foreign armies in view of the larger context) would overrun the place, making it a waste (see Jer. 4:23-31).

The consequences are intrinsic to the deed, not newly introduced by God (go back to Israel's early days, for example Deut. 28; they knew there would be awful consequences for their sinful way of life). **At the same time, God remains the beloved of Israel. This destruction is not final, but a refining fire through which Israel must pass to enable a positive future.**

*These two verses (Isa. 5:5-6) will include much discussion; that means detailed information. My prayer is that you will be blessed and well informed and God glorified!!!*  
**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!**

### 1. Decision

"And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard." (Isa. 5:5a KJV)

(a) The song (Isa. 5) darkens as the Owner's anger becomes apparent.

(1) The love song (Isa. 5:1) is really about their continued sinful ways and impending judgment pronounced on them.

(2) **The Husbandman's decisions are final, fair, indisputable and irreversible.**

(b) This is **His vineyard**; He has the right and the authority to do what He desires.

(c) Oh! Beloved, we are His, He lives in us, and our lifestyle must be consistent with our testimony and His Word!! (1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 14:8).

### 2. Distinguished Status Lost

"... I will take away the hedge thereof ..." (Isa. 5:5b KJV)

(a) Israel would lose their distinguished status as a peculiar people.

(b) Adam, before The Fall, was at a place of eminence, he was the embodiment of all purity and goodness; he was the peak of God's creation and enjoyed the presence of God. Sin robbed Adam of his distinguished status, accompanied with other grave consequences.

(c) No matter how man dresses up sin and gives it nice names, sin is still sin and it degrades (Prov. 14:34); it robs, brings down, destroy individuals, families, churches, communities, etc. (Ezek. 20:23-32, NB v. 31; 2 Peter 2, NB v. 22).

(d) How many distinguished and great leaders, preachers, politicians, business men and women, etc. have lost their place of distinction because of some sort of vice?

(1) It is amazing to observe that throughout history so many have been deceived because of their education, financial wealth, people centered popularity, etc. These things have blinded their eyes, not realizing that such things are only temporal.

(2) Too often so many allow things to motivate them to a godless, derogatory lifestyle or in some cases living under the pretense of being righteous only to have regrets too in the end.

(3) Observe David's lamentation for **King Saul** and Jonathan (See 2 Sam. 1:17-27, NB Vv. 19, 27).

- **2 Sam. 1:19 Amplified Bible**  
“Your glory, O Israel, is slain upon your high places, How have the mighty fallen!”
  - The way King Saul’s life ended was disastrous and devastating (Read 1 Sam. 13, NB Vv.11-14, 28-30).
  - **The hedge and wall were removed (1 Sam. 15, NB Vv. 13-29) but King Saul never genuinely sought forgiveness and restoration.**
- (4) Oh, Beloved! Sin will rob, strip and leave you top die (Luke 10:25-37).
- Sin is deceptive  
**Prov. 20:17 NKJV**  
“Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, But afterwards his mouth will be filled with gravel.”
  - To sow evil means reaping evil: **Gal. 6:7-8**; 1 John 2:15-17, NB v. 16; Rom. 8:8.
3. **Devoured**  
“... and it shall be eaten up ...” (Isa.5:5c KJV)
- (a) “It shall be eaten up.” In essence, with the hedge and wall removed the vineyard will soon be eaten up and become a bare ground.
  - (b) They rebelled against God’s law, adapted to the sinful ways of the heathen nations, living as they lived and would be consumed and scattered among these nations.
  - (c) The Prodigal Boy (Luke 15:11-32) saw his glory, wealth, Jewish status, and all else eaten up, devoured and there was no one to help him in his moment of most dire need. As a result this Jewish Youngman tended swine, lived among them and ate like them.
  - (d) Sin and slothfulness will produce emptiness, a lack of, “**a want**” (Deut. 28:48; Prov. 6:11; 19:15; 20:4). This we have witnessed happening to Israel, for example in the Book of Judges, this will be briefly note in our next pointer.
4. **Defense Removed**  
“... and beak down the walls thereof ...” Isa. 5:5d KJV
- (a) Seemingly, the vineyard had **double protection**.
    - (1) The hedge noted above was a fence of thorns; believed to grow so thick that nothing could pass through it.
    - (2) The wall was made of stones. If an animal was able to go over the wall it would not be able to go through the hedge!
  - (b) **There is divine protection for every genuine child of God!**  
*No details...NOTE a few pointers:*
    - (1) Because Satan comes to steal and destroy (John 10:10), God places a **wall and hedge** around His people to shield them from Satan’s attacks (example see Job 1, NB v. 10).

- The “wall and hedge” are like a spiritual “wall of fire” surrounding the faithful so that Satan cannot harm them (See Zech. 2:5).
  - All believers who faithfully endeavor to love God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit have a right to ask God to place this wall of protection around them and their families.
- (2) Satan cannot attack us unless allowed and if so God is still in control (Rom. 8:28; Psa. 34:19, 20; Isa. 43:2; etc.). Satan was allowed to afflict Job but God was still in control and we saw how it ended (Job 42)
- (3) See also Psa. 34:7; 91:4; 125:2; Luke 21:18.
- (c) By removing the hedge and breaking down the wall (Isa. 5:5) the owner will make the vineyard accessible to anyone who wants to enter. **The vineyard will be totally defenseless. Oh! How important it is to stay in the will of God!!**
- (d) As seen in Isa. 5, God would withdraw His protection from the Israelites and leave them exposed to the wrath of their enemies. Again, details are not possible ... NOTE a few pointers:
- (1) Read carefully the Book of Judges. In this book we have an account of Israel’s frequent apostasy, provoking divine chastening, but not without God’s mercy!
- (2) Their apostasy resulted in servitude and great difficulties, etc. ... one example see Judges chapter 6
- They (the Israelites) sought refuge in dens, caves and the mountains.
  - The Midianites came only at the time of harvest to steal what they grew ... no sustenance for Israel.
  - All their produce and livestock were stolen, bringing their hard work to defeat and frustration.
  - Etc.
- (3) **Their habitual sinning removed the hedge and exposed them to the onslaughts of the enemy!**
- (e) Sin is not only a reproach but it removes God’s presence, protection, etc. and leads to complete ruin. There are many examples... today we note two briefly:
- (1) **Samson:** stripped of the presence of God and was exposed to the wrath of his enemies (Judges 16, NB v. 20).
- (2) **The Jewish Nation:** despite having the Ark of God with the intention of securing victory over the Philistines, they (Israel) were slaughtered by the enemy who took the Ark of God in their possession (1 Sam. 4, NB Vv.4-8, 10-11).
- (f) See also the main study, “The Righteous Pursues Holiness,” Chapter 3, Lesson 1, where we discussed the awful consequences of disobedience.

## 5. Downtrodden

“... and it shall be trodden down.” Isa. 5:5e

- (a) As we saw above, because of their continued sinning against God (rebellion against God’s holy Law), God’s protection was removed (both the wall and the hedge).
- (b) With the removal of God’s protection they (the vineyard/Israel ... Isa. 5:7) would be an easy prey to their enemies, who were waiting for the opportunity to do them mischief, and now will tread them down and trample them.
- (c) Review carefully the Jewish history and you will observe that it was God who fought their battles. This fact was clearly stated by David when he faced Goliath (1 Sam. 17, NB v. 47; see also 2 Chron. 20:29; etc.). However, without God’s protection they became vulnerable to their enemies.
- (d) **Defenseless people are in jeopardy to the enemy and subject to defeat and destruction.**
  - (1) Israel had just conquered the mighty and well fortified Jericho (Jos. 6), but they were defeated by an inferior army because the presence of God did not go with them into battle (Josh. 7).
  - (2) The Old Testament shows various periods in the history of the Israelites when they lived like weak and beggarly elements, unable to adequately defend themselves and were exposed to the wrath of their enemies because of their continued apostasy (seen for example in the Historical and Prophetic Books). **They lived under the oppression of the enemy when they forsook God ... the enemy trampled , triumphed over, tyrannized and took their crops, etc. because the wall and hedge were removed!!!**
- (e) Oh! Beloved, how we need to treasure, watch over, guard and maintain our relationship with God, by living according to His will!! (Eph. 6:6; Rom. 12:1). **How very important is it for us to remain in His presence, and He abides in us and for us to maintain our distinction as genuine children of God!!**

### **Matt. 5:13 Amplified Bible**

“But if salt has lost its taste (its strength, its quality) how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.”

## 6. Desolation

“I will lay it waste ...” Isa. 5:6a KJV

### (a) “Lay it waste”

#### (1) “Waste”

- As used in the Hebrew text, “waste” means “desolation.”
- Several usages are seen in the KJV Dictionary

- Destitute or deprive of inhabitants ... example see Jer. 9, NB v.11.
  - Laid waste, in ruinous condition, neglected and destroyed. As desolate altars, desolate towers; example see Ezek 6:4, 6, 14; Zeph. 3:6.
  - Solitary; without a companion; afflicted; example see 2 Sam. 1, NB v. 20
  - Deserted of God, deprived of comfort ; example see Psa. 143, NB v.4
  - Etc.
- (2) In general usage “lay waste” means: to cause extensive destruction, ravaged, ruined, completely destroyed, etc.
- We have seen in situations where hurricanes or other natural disasters have laid waste an entire seashore, cities, small countries, etc.
  - In regards to the ravages of wars, armies have destroyed cities, lives, etc.
- (b) Throughout history, we have seen mighty men who felt highly exalted, secured, etc. by their accomplishments but eventually crumbled and others will experience the same,; we must remember, human endeavors without God is vain (Psa. 127:1-2; Isa. 55:2; John 6:27).
- (1) Asap in Psa. 73, acknowledged that he was envious at the prosperity, etc. of the wicked until he saw how they would end (NB Vv. 13-17).
- (2) The wicked may flourish like a fruitful, flourishing tree but they will be **laid to waste**.
- **Nebuchadnezzar**, in his exalted state and moment of self-glory and pride was struck by God and for a period he lived like an animal (Dan. 4, NB Vv. 28-33). **Laid to waste** until he humbled himself in the sight of the True and Living God!!
  - **Mighty Babylon**, the great empire was also **wasted** (see Isa. Chaps. 13 and 47, note 47:15).
  - **The Medes and Persians**, who conquered the Babylonian empire, also **crumbled** in 323 BC (some scholars say 320BC ... but the fact remains it was also **wasted**).
  - Among other great empires was the **Roman Empire**, which was world renowned, mighty, conquering and powerful, spreading fear in the lives of many but they too **crumbled**. (**Laid to waste** ... 476 AD)
  - Throughout history, we have had some heartless, cruel, callous and merciless, etc. dictators who reign havoc and cruelty upon the human race:
    - Adolf Hitler, Robert Mugabe, Kim Jong II, Idi Amin Dada, Valdimir Lennin, etc. but they had an end... **laid to waste**



- Today many of these characters are still in power and are just as callous as those mentioned above, in fact we have the Muslims Jihad groups that seem to have no touch of humanity in them, but just as others before who have been wasted, their time will come because God is still in control, no matter how we see the current situation from a human perspective ... they too will be laid waste!!
  - We have witnessed great cooperation crumbled, wasted, because of greed, corruption, dishonesty, etc. for example... Enron Cooperation; etc.
  - The Great Walls of China, **crumbled, wasted away!!**
  - The godless tyrant, **USSR**, that mercilessly persecuted, tyrannized its people **crumbled, wasted away** and other similar nations today will also be wasted away.
  - The United States of America, the world's great super, glory in its status but at the same time morality is at an all-time low and the decline continues downward at full speed as it continues to reject the Word of God upon which it was built! Our beloved country is like the Prodigal Son who drifted farther and farther away from home taking the pathway that led to desperation, desolation, disaster, degradation and doom ... the Prodigal Son was laid to waste until he repented and was restored. America is on a downward spiral and it's only solution is to remember, repent and return or it will be laid to waste (Rev. 2:1-7)
  - It is time to return to the good old way of righteousness and true holiness (Jer. 6:16; Eph. 4:24). There is healing for the world crises and the consequences of continued sinning but it must be done God's way (2 Chron. 7:12-22, NB v. 14).
- (c) **Whether the facts of sins are acknowledged or not, the truth is, sin results in desolation.**
- (1) Because of their continued sinful way of life and refusal to amend their ways, Israel (both kingdoms) was taken into captivity; it was not only prophesied but fulfilled!
- See Isa. 1:8; 5:6; 24:12; Jer. 2:15; 9:11; 19:8; Ezek. 20:26; Zech. 7:8-14; Amos 7:9; Matt. 23:37-38; etc.
  - The "desolation," "**laid to waste**" of Jerusalem was done by the Romans.
    - See Matt. 23: 37-38; Luke 13:34-35; 19:41-44.
    - Jesus' prediction was fulfilled 40 years later, (AD 70) when the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and hundreds of thousands of Jews killed.

- (2) The nations that inflicted the Israelites were also **laid to waste**, for example see Isa. 1:9; 15:11; Jer. 25:12; 48:9; 49:17; Ezek. 25:13; 30:14; etc.
- (3) Desolation is also applicable to the wicked (those who cling to unrighteousness).
- (d) God made it clear according to our text, Isa. 5:6a, that He would “lay His vineyard (Israel ...Isa. 5:7) waste
- (a) This was noted above ... see also Micah 3:4, 12, when Jerusalem was ploughed as a field.
- (b) Far too many have belittled the Word of God but His Word will come to pass ... sin will be judged, at the same time I must note God is not willing that anyone should perish **but we all have a will and need to make our choice** (2 Peter 3, NB Vv. 9-14; Isa. 55:6-13; also Josh. 24, NB Vv. 14-16)

## 7. Deteriorate

“... it shall not be pruned nor digged; ...” Isa. 5:6bKJV

### (a) Definitions

#### (1) “Pruned” ..., “to trim”

- The process by which dead or unwanted parts of woody plants are removed.
- For those who are acquainted with home gardening or farming knows the importance of pruning.
  - Those dried or dying limbs are a source of hindrance and distraction; therefore, removing them is the best alternative.
  - My father had certain types of orange trees engrafted with a better quality orange plant. Whenever the old limbs sprouted they would be removed for the benefit of maintaining the quality fruit intended.
  - We had a variety of plants on our property (including where our home was built); some were flowering trees, fruit trees, shrubs, etc. and pruning was necessary to maintain beauty, elegance, and healthy/productive plants.

#### (2) “Digged” (KJV) ... “dug” (NKJV) ... “hoed” LASB

- This means to dig up the soil with a spade or hoe or to turn the soil with a spade or hoe; today there are a variety of tools used manually and mechanically for such a task.
- There are times when plants are dug around, fertilized, mulched, or as may be necessary at the time of service, to produce growth and healthy fruits.

### (b) Deteriorate

- (1) We have witnessed situations where conditions took turn for the worse in so many areas of life. This we have seen among individuals, families, churches, businesses, etc. and not only a decline but continue to

degenerate, and to such an awful state that it is heartrending, bringing hurt, embarrassment, chaos, etc.

- (2) The Israelites would experience such an awful state because of their rebellion against God. Indeed sin is like termites that eat away and finally leads to ruin.
- (3) This degenerate condition of the Jewish nation was not a negative reflection on God.
  - God is a caring Husbandman who never neglects His vineyard but watches over it with infinite care.
  - See Matt. 6:32; Luke 12:7; 1 Peter 5:7; etc.
  - **Psa. 115:12-13 NKJV**  
 “The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the Lord, Both small and great.”

(c) **Dedication and Care Rejected!**

- (1) Keep in mind that everything possible was done for the vineyard (Israel ... Northern and Southern Kingdoms) they both produced bad fruits (wild grapes) (Isa. 5:1-2).
- (2) Therefore, there was no need to till the soil and fertilize it because the vineyard (Israelites) would only continue to produce fruits that were of no value ... useless fruits!
- (3) Israel did reap the awful consequences of their continued sinning, which is rebellion against God’s laws. (1 Sam. 15:23; Prov. 17:11; Psa. 107:17-18).

(d) Disappointing/Disastrous

- (1) A vineyard in which so much had been invested: time, energy, diligence, the best land and finest products, etc. will now be left to grow wild!!
- (2) As we continue to look at the different aspects of this “Divine Verdict” (“Formal Findings”), we come face to face with the fact that the grand and glorious Jewish nation faded away because of their refusal to live up to their moral obligations; choosing rather to live in disobedience and rebellion to the will of God.
- (3) Such downward trend is applicable to any people who refuse to walk (live) in obedience to the Word, will and ways of God.

**And such reality is heartrending:**

- To see where there was enthusiasm, gladness, divine glow wer replaced with half-heartedness, anguish, joylessness, and darkness.
- To see the well established, record-setting (Businesses, churches, etc.) with a seemingly great future reduced to nothing and **wasted away**.
- To see the self-confident, zealous, pace-setter, go-getter, reduced to insecurity, indifference, lack of concern, trailing behind, and eventually become quitters.

- To see the high and lofty, elated with pride, now wallow in the dust and dirt of shame and public disgrace.
- Definitely, while righteousness exalts, sin is a reproach to anyone (Prov. 14:34). Oh! May we daily, crave and pursue to be more and more like Jesus Christ!!

## 8. Depravity

“... but there shall come up briars and thorns ...” Isa. 5:6c KJV

(a) What we are looking at here (Isa. 5:6c) is the result of a life without God.

(1) **If we are not walking in the light (righteousness), we are walking in darkness (sin); if we are not producing fruits of righteousness we will produce fruits of unrighteousness. (Matt. 7:15-23, NB Vv. 16-18).**

(2) A life without God is a life under the control of the tyranny of sin (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10).

(3) Sin consists of the acts of transgression and impurity of nature (1 John 3:4; Matt. 5:27-30).

(4) When one does not obey the command of God transgression occurs (Gen. 3, NB Vv. 6-13; Josh. 7, NB v. 1; James 4:17)

(5) Scripture uniformly traces voluntary transgression to its root cause in human nature (Psa. 51, NB v. 5; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21).

(6) Sinful acts are the fruits of a depraved nature (Prov. 4:23; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 1:24)

(b) **Sin ruins!! No matter how pleasurable it is to the flesh!!**

(1) This has been clearly demonstrated in Isa. 5. (*These facts were noted before... the emphasis is necessary*)

- As you continue reading the chapter (Isa. 5) you will observe a brief listing of sins highlighted (Vv. 8-23) and the awful consequences as a result of these sins (Vv.24-30).
- This great nation (Jewish) would be **laid waste** because of their apostasy.

(2) The most outstanding example of the disaster of sin is The Fall (Gen. 3).

- Remember Adam before The Fall was the embodiment of all purity and goodness.
- Before The Fall, they (Adam and Eve) lived in paradise, a place of splendor, abundance, etc. They also enjoyed personal fellowship with God and had everything needed at their disposal, including dominion over the earth.
- Sin changed Adam’s moral status and everything else in his life! His status quo was diminished and the intimate relationship they had with God was removed.
- Read prayerfully and carefully Gen. 3.

(c) “... **but there shall come up briars and thorns ...**” Isa. 5:6c

The Owner (Husbandman) is not content to only remove the vineyard's defense (Isa. 5:5); He will take active steps to turn it into a wasteland. He will leave it untended so that **briers and thorns** overwhelmed it.

(d) **"Briers and thorns" (Isa. 5"6c) are the products of sin and the curse of sin (Gen. 3:18).**

(1) "Briers and thorns" ... the annoyance, frustrating experience and oppression, etc. are what the enemy will inflict on us.

- See Ezek. 28:24 (actually the text in Ezek 28:20-26, points to judgment on the nation of Zidon, who was as "briers and thorns" in the life of the Israelites. As noted, several times before the Israelites were exposed to persecution by several nations and other perils because of their continued rebellion against the will of God.
- I have also noted before that the facts of oppression and persecution by foreign forces against Israel are evident in the Historical and Prophetic Books.

(2) The **irony** of the matter of Israel being persecuted by foreign forces is:

- Israel wanted to be like other nations (1 Sam. 8:1-5, 19-20).
- Israel adapted to and lived out the sinful practices of other nations (for example see Judges 10:6-14; 1 Kings 18:18; 2 Kings 17:18; etc.).
- These godless nations, who they adored and adapted their evil practices, would eventually be like thorns in their (Israel's) flesh (Isa. 5:6c)
- Israel was not without warning!! (Deut. 28:15-68; etc.)

(3) **This we have learnt in the study of this song (Isa. 5)**

- "Briers and thorns" are products (results) and curse of sin (Gen. 3:18).
- "Wild gapes" (Isa. 5:2) speaks of the corrupt nature and the corrupt (depraved) nature produces sinful acts (example se Isa. 5:8-23).

(4) **We should also remember that sinful acts do come with consequences.**

- As noted several times before, sin results in a ruined condition (Gen. 3:18; Isa. 5:6; etc.)
- It is a situation where all former glory has been lost and conditions are now in a ruined state!
- Look again at Isa. 5:6 and note once more three things that would be done to the vineyard (Israel).
  - It (the vineyard ... Israel) would not be pruned or cultivated ... It would **"Deteriorate"** (*discussed above*)
  - God (The Husbandman) would allow the vineyard (Israel) to grow briers and thorns ... **"Depravity"** or a depraved condition. (*currently being discussed*)
  - He (God the Husbandman) would stop the rain from watering it ... **"Drought"** *Our next pointer for discussion.*
- **Prov. 14:34 Amplified Bible** (*Referred to several times*)

“Uprightness and right standing with God (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation) elevate a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

- (e) **When we do not resist temptation, forsake sin . . . :**
- (1) . . . when errors and corruptions and vice go unchecked . . .
  - (2) . . . when no one speaks out against sin, nor rebuke given or restraint placed upon them . . .
  - (3) . . . when the vineyard is not pruned, it is not dressed, not cultivated, then it will be like the man who is void of understanding which is overgrown with thorns!
- (f) ***This is not the closing of this lesson but I am moved to reach out to someone, anyone who may never have committed your life to Jesus Christ, or you may have drifted from the way of righteousness or you may be active in a local church or just attend church services but not living up to God’s standard for His people, which is holiness of life. My appeal is for you to make it right with God while there is time!***

***A few Scripture that quickly came to mind:***

- (1) *Seek God while there is time (Isa. 55:6; 2 Cor. 6:2)*
- (2) *Acknowledge and confess Christ (Rom. 10:8-13)*
- (3) *Heed the exhortation to reverence God, it’s the only way to avoid the awful consequences of sin (Prov. 1:1-33; Isa. 1:18-20)*
- (4) *Do not wear out the free offer of salvation (Isa. 55:1; John 3:16); do not wait until it’s too late (Prov. 1:20-33; Rom. 1:18-32, NB Vv. 18-19, 28).*
- (5) *Three simple steps: “Believe,” “Receive,” “Become,” (John 1:12)*
- (6) *All these involve the act of “repentance”(Acts 17:30; Luke 1:3) be broken and contrite (Psa. 51, NB v. 17)*
- (7) *Live **daily**, loving God entirely, sincerely, that is with your ALL and your neighbor as yourself (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31)*

**9. Drought**

“... I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.” Isa. 5:6d KJV

- (a) Earlier we saw that briars and thorns are products and curse of sin. We should also be aware that drought leads to barrenness.
- (1) Drought can have serious health, social, economic and political impact with far reaching effects.
    - One major factor of drought is that there is too little water to support food crops which leads to famine and hunger. This situation is experienced because “barrenness” sets in!!
    - In Scripture we have seen that in some situations barrenness can be the result of sin.
      - **Gen. 4:12 NKJV**

“When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you.” (*God to murderous Cain*)

- See also Lev. 26:20; Deut. 11:17; Isa. 5:10; Hosea 8:7; Hab. 3:17 Hag. 1:6; 2:16.

(2) Matthew Henry comments on Isa. 5:6d ... “**Nor rain**” as follows:

“That which completes its woe is that the dew of heaven shall be withheld; he that has the key of the clouds will commend them that they rain no rain upon it, and that alone is sufficient to run it into a desert.”

**Note: God in a way of righteous judgment denies his grace to those that have long received it in vain. The sum of all that those would not bring forth good fruit should bring forth none.**

“The curse of barrenness is the punishment of the sin of barrenness (Mark 11:14) . . . It is no loss to God to lay his vineyard waste; for he can, when he pleases, turn a wilderness into a fruitful field; and when he does thus dismantle a vineyard, it is but as he did by the garden of Eden, which, when man sinned forfeited his place in it, and soon leveled with common soil.”

(b) Drought Experienced by Israel.

(1) There were periods of drought that were experienced by Israel because of their sins

(2) See Deut. 11:17; 28:23-24; 1 Kings 8:35; Psa. 68:6; Isa. 1:30; 5:6 (*You may read he chapter of each reference for better understanding*).

(c) **SPIRITUAL DROUGHT!**

There have been periods when there was no open vision, no divine revelation from God. These periods of **spiritual drought**, were a reality because there existed an extreme scarcity for the revelation of God. In the midst of Israel’s perverseness Elijah prophesied that there would be no rain (literal rain) and it came to pass but he was providentially provided for by God (1 Kings 17). Here we see Israel experiencing a period of literal and spiritual drought.

The Israelites also experienced what is referred to as the “Four Hundred Silent Years” or the “Intertestamental” period. It was a period where God revealed nothing new to Israel. This period was between Malachi (the last Old Testament prophet) and the coming of John the Baptist and eventually Jesus Christ. Think of it 400 years and there was no prophetic word from God.

Below, I am presenting an **outline of 1 Sam. 3:1-2**, which will help to illustrate the awful result of not living in obedience to the known will of God (Read 1 Sam. Chaps. 3 and 4). **It is such an unfortunate thing to see man’s unwillingness to sincerely abide by the Word of God knowing the end results of such choice.** One quick example is found in the Book of Jeremiah.

God, through His servant Jeremiah, issued a divine call to Israel to return to the way of righteousness but they bluntly refuse to obey (Jer. 6:16).

I have noted three things in **1 Sam. 3:1-2**, on which you can continue to build. As we look at this brief outline I want you to keep in mind that during a famine, **a period of drought**; the basics, the essentials of life are either in short supply or not available.

### OUTLINE 1 Sam. 3:1-2

#### (1) Destitution, Spiritual 1 Sam. 3:1b

**KJV:** "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days."

**Amplified Bible:** "The Word of the Lord was rare and precious in those days."

- The prophetic word was a scarce commodity; there was a dire need to hear from God.
- **It was this rarity of prophecy that made genuine communication from God so precious.**
- No one was there with whom the people could consult and from whom they might learn the will of God.
- See also 2 Chron. 15:3; Psa. 74:9; Lam. 2:9; Ezek. 7:26; Amos 8:11
- You may also consider Luke 15:14; Eph. 2:12; 1 Tim. 6:5; Rev. 3:17

#### (2) Darkness, Spiritual 1 Sam 3:1c

**KJV:** "... there was no open vision."

**NKJV:** "... there was no widespread revelation."

**Amplified Bible:** "... there was no frequent or widely spread vision."

- Visions were not common or frequent. It just wasn't happening!
- **There was no acknowledged prophet to speak the Word of the Lord!**
- **This was most likely the result of the impurity that prevailed in the Tabernacle. God had removed the spirit of prophecy until a faithful priest was raised up!! (1 Sam. 2:35).**
- See Micah 3:6; Matt. 6:23; John 1:5; 3:19; Rom. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:4

#### (3) Dimness of Vision 1 Sam. 3:2b

**KJV:** "... and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see."

**NKJV:** "... and when his eyes begun to grow so dim that he could not see."

**Amplified Bible:** "... whose eyesight had dimmed so that he could not see."

- We will avoid details and debates in regards to specifics as it relates to this quote. Scholars do disagree on several issues, however at this time we are focusing on the: "dimness of vision"



- Eli's physical conditions deteriorated and Samuel was a source of great help to him in the Temple.
- The **dimness of vision** is not limited to his physical eyes but his mind set and that the Holy Spirit, who enabled him as a prophet to minister as God led, was departing from him. The departure of the Holy Spirit was a result of Eli's pretended ignorance at the sins of his sons, and at this particular time the prophecy (1 Sam. 3:4-14) came not to him but directly to Samuel. Unfortunately, his response to his sons open sins was more a passive cooperation and helped led to this sad state (1 Sam. 2:12-17, 22-36, NB Vv. 22-25, 29).

*Allow me to briefly expand on the above with one other pointer:*

**(4) Defeat/Destruction and Doom**

Read 1 Samuel 4 and observe the disaster experienced by Israel because they were void of the presence of God. They were lacking that which was essential, and as a result they became dried out, brittle, vulnerable and easily consumed by the enemy.

They tried forcing God to act on their behalf (1 Sam. 4:3-5) **but there was still no rain!!** No time of refreshing, reinvigorating, etc. which would make them ready to face and defeat the invading enemy. Not only Israel's army was defeated (including the death of Eli's sons ... prophesied in 1 Sam. 2:4), but the Ark of God was captured by the Philistines. There was also the death of Eli who, upon receiving the sad news, fell off a stool and broke his neck (1 Sam. 4:12-18). Eli's daughter-in-law also died due to child birth and the child was named "Ichabod" (1 Sam. 4:19-22).

**(5) Spiritual Drought do Lead to Disaster!!**

- The account found in 1 Sam. 4 is a grim reminder of the danger of spiritual drought which actually is experienced in the removing of God's protection, His care, etc. (Isa. 5:5-6).

- Oh may the **"Latter Rain"** fall on us!!

**You may know the song:**

Restore the joy, remove the pain, dry tear-stained eyes, send the latter rain

If you don't come, all hope is lost, to them that trust in the cross

The power's strong, please hear our song, send the latter rain

The Omen we seek is not in vain

Our spirit grows weak, increase our faith

Our body's weak, and we will fail

If you don't send the latter rain

Rain on me, there'll be a shower of blessings

Rain on me, there'll be a shower of blessings  
 Our body's weak, and we'll fail  
 If you don't send the latter rain.

- There is no need for anyone to live a dried up, dying spiritual life!! God is ready to help anyone in need, whether it's you or someone you know!! Jesus Christ offers help to the obedient! Those who will fly come to Him the Fountain of Life!!
  - **John 7:37-38 NKJV**  
 "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
  - Note again Isa. 5:6d  
 "I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it."
    - The message God is communicating is: "I will deprive you of all your blessings
    - Indeed, Beloved, the love of God is unconditional but His blessings are conditional. For example see Deut. 28:1-14, Note carefully Vv. 1, 2, 9, and 13.
  - How very important it is to "take heed" (1 Cor. 10:12), daily, discipline ourselves (1 Cor. 9:27) and daily present ourselves to God, holy and acceptable (Rom. 12:1-2).

#### F. Frustrated Expectations Isa. 5:7

***The Husbandman's expectations were frustrated!!***

#### **NOTE**

Isaiah 5:7 details the elements of the parable: you (both Israel and Judah) are the vineyard! The issue for God becomes clear: an absence of justice toward the disadvantaged members of Israel's society and a vacuum of righteousness that neglects the Word and deed of God in their treatment of others.

Israel's injustice is particularized (itemized, listed, etc.). The "bloodshed" refers to the abusive practices that bleed the poor to death. The "cry" of their anguish is totally neglected. These actions are "wild grapes" (detailed I Isa. 5:8-23). Notably, these texts link the abuse of the neighbor to the neglect of God's Word and deed (Isa. 5:12, 24).

#### **BRIEF REVIEW OF POINTERS USED FOR ISAIAH 6:5-6 ... Captions only.**

##### **1. Decision v. 5a**

"And now go to, I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard ..." (KJV)

2. **Distinguish Status Lost v. 5b**  
“... I will take away the hedge thereof ...: (KJV)
3. **Devoured v. 5c**  
“... and it shall be eaten up ...” (KJV)
4. **Defense Removed v. 5d**  
“... and break down the walls thereof ...” (KJV)
5. **Downtrodden v. 5e**  
“... and it shall be trodden down ...” (KJV)
6. **Desolation v. 6a**  
“... I will lay it waste ...” (KJV)
7. **Deteriorate v. 6b**  
“...it shall not be pruned ...” (KJV)
8. **Depravity v. 6c**  
“... but there shall come up briars and thorns ...” (KJV)
9. **Drought v. 6d**  
“... I will also command the clouds that they rain no more rain upon it.” (KJV)

### **Isa. 5:7 Amplified Bible**

“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant planting [the plant of His delight]. And He looked for justice, but behold, [He saw] oppression and bloodshed; [He looked for righteousness (for uprightness and right standing with God), but behold, [He heard] a cry [of oppression and distress]!”

### **1. The Parable (Isa. 5:1-7) Explained Isa. 5:7**

#### **(a) The People**

- (1) The vineyard is the house of Israel (both the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom).
  - God had treated the Jews as a husbandman does his vineyard.
    - They were the object of His attention and received His faithful and unceasing care.
    - He considered nothing too good, too valuable for His vineyard. He saw no sacrifice too great and so He willingly, lovingly, passionately gave His very best.
    - Above all other nations they received His undivided attention, without wavering . . . they were His and that was special, very special!!
  - Judah was “His pleasant plant” (Isa. 5:7)
    - They were His pleasant planting when He first planted them.
    - They were plants of delight in whom He delighted.
    - Judah is in reference to the Southern Kingdom consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (see 1 Kings 12:16-19 and 20-24; etc.)

- **In essence the entire nation of Israel was God’s delight!!**  
**Deut. 10:15 Amplified Bible** (*Read the chapter for context*)  
 “Yet the Lord had a delight in loving your fathers, and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.”
  - As a reminder after King Solomon’s reign the nation of Israel was divided in two kingdoms (a) The Northern Kingdom or Israel with ten tribes and (b) The Southern Kingdom or Judah with two tribes (c) See 1 Kings 12 and relating chapters for details.
  - In general, the Israelites were God’s “pleasant plants” or the people of His pleasure.
    - They were the plant in which He decided to prosper and give them the very best.
    - The plants with whom He dealt graciously with and from them expected suitable returns.
  - They were carefully selected; they were a chosen people!
    - Just as a husbandman carefully selects the very best vine for his vineyard, God carefully chose the Israelites (Isa. 5:2: “... and planted it with the choicest vine” Amplified Bible).
    - God made the Israelites His top priority, giving them chief attention; they were the apple of His eyes (See Moses song in Deut. 32, NB v. 10).

(2) **The Israelites were the people of God, who, like the Church, was chosen to proclaim the message of the One True and Ever Living God!!**

- Note the following general references as relating to “God’s people.”
  - A Peculiar Treasure (Ex. 19:5)
  - Chosen by Jehovah (Deut. 14:2)
  - Exalted above All Nations (Deut. 26:19; 1 Sam. 12:22; Psa. 29:11)
  - Guided Like a Flock (Psa. 78:52; 100:3)
  - Characterized by Zeal (Titus 2:14)
  - The Law Written upon Their Hearts (Heb. 8:10; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 2:13).
- The Church consists of chosen people.
  - Those who have sought God by repenting of their sins (2 Cor. 7:10).
  - This is not unconditional election, not limited atonement, nor irresistible grace as advocated by some.
    - Salvation is not limited but for the: whosoever will.” It is experienced by those who willingly trust and commit their lives to Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; etc.)
    - Salvation is not irresistible; God has given to all a free will; some will accept and some will reject, the choice is for each person to make (Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; John 3:36; etc.).

- The Church consists of those who have believed, received and become the “children of God.”
- They have believed in their hearts and confessed Jesus Christ the resurrected Lord (Rom. 10:10).
- This life changing experience is an encounter with Jesus Christ Himself (Acts 9, NB Vv. 1-6); it is an experience based exclusively of faith in Jesus Christ man’s ONLY Savior (Acts 4:12; etc.).
- The Church is specially chosen (1 Peter 2:9-10) and we have a mandate from our Lord and Savior (Matt. 28:19-20; etc.)

**(b) The Products**

- (1) As we saw in Isa. 5:2 the vineyard “brought forth wild grapes.”
  - Isa. 5:8-23 highlights six sins that characterized the Jewish nation (noted before).
  - It is not that Israel did not produce fruits, they did!! The problem is that the fruits they produced were “**bad fruits**” ...“wild grapes”: they were small, hard, bitter and as noted before were referred to as “stinking fruits.”
- (2) **God’s expectations of the Jews (Isa. 5:7)**
  - He looked for judgment (justice) and righteousness.
  - He expected His people to be honest in all their dealing.
  - He expected the magistrates to sincerely administer justice.
- (3) They were a people that had excellent laws and rules of justice given to them (Deut. 4:8).
- (4) **What they (Israel) produced?(Briefly noted)**
  - Instead of judgment (justice) there was cruelty of the oppressors.
  - Instead of righteousness there was the cry of the oppressed.
  - Everything was characterized by commotion and confusion and not by fairness and upright standards.
- (5) **What do we see happening in today’s world? (Also briefly noted)**
  - We hear of equality and justice for all but instead we see discrimination, injustice, profiling, etc.
  - We preach love, kindness, compassion, etc. but we see hate, bitterness, callousness, etc.
  - We stress the importance of unity, fraternity, working together, etc but we see wars and strife, clamor and contentions, discord and cliques, etc.
- (6) **Sad! Sad! Reality!!**
  - It is sad and devastating for a people when wickedness has usurped the place of judgment (Ecc. 3:16).
  - It is sad with a soul when instead of the grapes of humility, meekness, patience, love, and contempt of the world, which God looks for, are replaced with “wild grapes”:

- Wild grapes of pride.
- Wild grapes of the passion of evil.
- Wild grapes of discontent.
- Wild grapes of malice.
- Wild grapes of contempt of God.
- Very sad indeed, when instead of the grapes of praying and praising, we see the wild grapes of cursing and swearing, which are an offense to God.

### (c) The Paschal Lamb

#### (1) God's best!

- It is just amazing, actually disheartening to see **God pouring out His very best for the Israelites** and to see how unthankful they were by their rebellion in pursuit of unrighteousness.
- Similarly, **for the world, God gave Jesus Christ, God's very best**, through whom we are privileged to experience the mercy and grace of God along with all the benefits of salvation.

Despite such priceless gift offered by God, there are so many who have rejected the free offer of salvation, others have returned to their old sinful ways, or some live a mediocre form of righteousness which is outright hypocrisy.

#### (2) THE PASCHAL LAMB (Briefly noted)

- The Paschal Lamb is also referred to as the Passover Lamb.
  - Judaism/Christianity
    - In Judaism they use the term "Korban Pesach"
    - In Christianity we say: "Lamb of God."
  - No discussion possible at this time; but as it relates to the Jews (Israelites) in reference to the Paschal Lamb see Ex. 12 and other related references.
- In closing this pointer, I will list briefly, some facts in regards to "The Lamb of God" our Savior!!
  - Jesus Christ was/is the promised Redeemer (Gen. 3:15; Matt.1:21)
  - John the Baptist identified Christ as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29, 36)
  - **Jesus Christ the Passover Lamb**
    - 1 Cor. 5:7** (You may want to read the chapter for context)
      - **NKJV:** "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us."

- **Amplified Bible:** “Purge (clean out) the old leaven that you may be a fresh (new) dough, still uncontaminated [as you are], for Christ our Passover [Lamb], has been sacrificed.
- **See also Isa.** 53:7; 1 Peter 1:19; Rev. 7:9; 15:3; 21:22.
- **He was rejected**
  - He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” John 1:11.
  - See also Matt. 8:34; Mark 6:3; Luke 4:28-29; 23:18.
- Instead of receiving Christ the Passover Lamb, our Redeemer, the Anointed One, they say “Away with Him crucify Him!” (Matt. 27, NB Vv.20-25).
- See Matt. 21:3-46 ... The Parable of the Vineyard.

#### NOTE

In this final main point (for Isa. 5:1-7) I have entitled it “Frustrated Expectations.” We have already discussed the first sub-point: “The Parable”. In this first sub-point we have discussed: (a) **The People ...** who happens to be the Israelites (Isa. 5:7). (b) **The Product ...** which refers to what was produced; the lifestyle of this chosen people. The frustrating results of “wild gapes” (Isa. 5:4) speaks of the corrupt nature which produces sinful acts (Isa. 5:8-23) and finally we briefly looked at (c) **The Paschal Lamb ...** this is referring to Jesus Christ both symbolic (Ex. 12; etc.) as well as the fulfilled promise of the Redeemer (John 1:1-4; Col. 1:21-29); who unfortunately was rejected by His own as well as by the Gentile world (John 1:10-11; 3:19; etc.).

In this second and final sub-point we will be discussing “The Problem.”

#### 2. PROBLEM!!

- (a) This matter of “**frustration**” is clearly seen in our text (Isa. 5:1-7) and in the context (Isa. 5:1-30). Despite all that was done by the Husbandman; the vineyard (Israel) produced useless fruits, “wild gapes.” The result would be what any husbandman would do in such a situation and his is clearly seen in the context of this passage. This was not an obliteration of Israel but a disciplinary measure taken for their good!!
- (b) God’s frustration with man’s rebellion has been clearly expressed throughout Scriptures. Today, this fact of God’s frustration to man’s continued sinning has been watered down, twisted, etc. Irrespective of the reasons and neglects of the facts we do need to maintain focus on the undiluted Word of God. **God is love and He loves everyone but He also hates sin; the awful consequences of sin and the urgent need to rescue man from eternal damnation was so important that God sent His only begotten Son to be a ransom for us!!**
- (c) **FRUSTRATED!**
  - (1) General usage of “frustrate.”

- To be frustrated is to experience a feeling of distress and annoyance. It can also be realized when something is prevented from progressing, succeeding or being fulfilled.
  - We are all acquainted with what it means to be frustrated and this can be realized in various ways. One example: it is a frustrating, discouraging, annoying experience for any parent when a child hinders his or her progress because of bad choice (s).
  - It should also be remembered that God's ways are not our ways; He is not man, neither does He lie nor have a reason to repent the way man repents (Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29).
- (2) Divine repentance is not a result of evil done; rather changes in relationship to God issues in change in God's dealings with man.
- When man turns away from God to a life of sin, God will change the relationship of fellowship to a relationship of judgmental rebuke.
  - On the other hand when man turns away from sin to God, He establishes a new relationship.

*I will briefly note a few examples of God's regrets in regards to man. The first example, I will include a brief discussion and the other two listed with limited or no comments.*

(d) **God's Frustration Expressed in Scriptures** (A few examples)

- (1) He was frustrated with the antediluvian world (**See Gen. 6, NB Vv. 5-7**)
- God does not change as regards to His nature, however, the fact that the Lord repents presents the truth that God, in consistency with His Immutability, assumes a changed position in response to changed man (*noted above*)  
*("immutability": God is unchanging in character, will or covenant promises)*
  - **God regrets that He ever made man (Gen. 6:6)**
    - The Hebrew word for "grieved" or "repented" means to pant, groan, lament or grieve because of the misery of others or oneself.
    - In this situation (Gen. 6:6), God grieved over man; He regretted that He made man.
  - The reasons for God's regrets (*unfortunately we can only briefly mention these reasons*)
    - Because man was bringing sin into the universe, as a result increasing misery, pain, destruction, etc. ... these are some of the consequences of sin.
    - He grieved because man's atrocities were cutting the very heart of God. It was grieving Him just like a disobedient child cuts and grieve the hearts of his/her parents.



- Then there is the fact of God's holiness and wrath against sin. Absolutely, God is love and reached out to us despite the fact that we were sinners (I John 4; Rom. 5:5-10). There is also the fact of God's Justice that many have overlooked and this is also observed in Rom. 5:5-10, note verse 9. For those who reject God's love will experience His wrath (John 3:36, etc)
- Finally, God grieved because man was condemning himself and separating himself from God; definitely sin separates man from God and exposes him to doom and eternal destruction.

- (2) God was frustrated with Israel's sensual reveling, open shameful and abominable conduct, idolatry, etc. (see Ex. 32, NB Vv. 8-10).
- (3) God was frustrated with making Saul King of Israel. (See 1 Sam. 13, NB Vv. 10-11, 13-15).
- (4) Israel indeed was a rebellious, stiff-necked people but God had the sovereign right to discipline them until they conformed to His will. See Jer. 18, NB Vv. 5-8.  
Read Jeremiah chapter 18: note the rebellion in their hearts, lived out in their practical lives. Can you see why they went into captivity? Oh! That we all would sincerely take heed and live in obedience to His perfect will?

### 3. Present Yourself Before God!

*If God should come today are you ready? How would you stand in regards to your approval rating **with Him**? Note, I am not referring to your pastor, nor your spouse, children, friends, etc., they may be impressed but they are limited to what they see, and some folks are really subtle! **How would you stand before Him who is omniscient?***

(a) **Matt. 25:21 (KJV)**

"His lord said unto him, Well done, **thou good and faithful servant**: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: **enter into the joy of the Lord.**" (See also v. 23)

(b) Or will it be?

**Matt. 25:26-28 (KJV)**

"His lord answered and said unto him. **Thou wicked and slothful servant**: thou knewest that I reaped where I sowed not, and gathered where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury (*interest*). **Take therefore the talent from him and give it unto him which hath ten talents.**"

- (c) *While we do not undervalue the importance of "good works" there are some who seemingly have worked tirelessly, doing wonders, **but they lacked sincerity, purity of life, covering their evil deeds and looking impressive in***

*the eyes of men. These individuals were productive but they produced “wild grapes,” that which has no commercial value nor were fit for consumption.*

**Matt. 7:21-23 (KJV)**

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful things? **And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**”

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

### 1. Reality Check

- (a) Some important factors to be honest about:
  - (1) Are we producing fruits? If not why? How can you become fruitful?
  - (2) If we are producing fruits, are they good fruits? (*Fruits of souls; fruits of righteousness; fruit of the Spirit*).
- (b) While service is commendable and necessary as we have seen in Luke 10:38-42; Martha was providing needed service. There is that which must receive priority as nothing must take the place of God in our lives.
  - (1) Our lives need to be exemplary; it's by our love for each other that men will glorify God (John 13:31-35). In general we must be examples of what it means to be genuine children of God (1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7)
  - (2) Our practical lives are essentially important because a tree is known by its fruit (Matt. 7:15-20; 12:33).
  - (3) We must avoid been approved **only** by what people see and we must genuinely live holy lives which is acceptable in God's sight (Rom. 12:1-2). Remember, **“Character is what you are in the dark.”**
  - (4) Etc.
- (c) Obviously, this listing could go on but what is important is for us, with the enabling of God, live distinctive lives (Matt. 5:1-16; etc.). The Church is a called out community and we must by all means do not adapt the way of the world; David tried to return the Ark the Philistines way and failed (See 1 Chron. Chapters 13, 15 and 16).The distinction **MUST** be maintained (2 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:11; etc.)

### 2. A summarized presentation on Isa. 5:1-7

#### ***Partial quote from Lectionary Studies***

“A vine is good for fruit, or it is good for nothing, Ezek. 15:2-5. Israel was good for nothing. Even Jesus applied the image of the fruitless vineyard in the parable of the Tenants, Matt. 21:33-46. The church of Jesus day, the religious crew, the Pharisees, rejected their Lord (‘the stone’) and so therefore the kingdom of God will be given to a people who will produce fruit!

It is easy to see these words applied to faithless Israel, but what of the church? Paul the apostle reminds the Corinthians of the people within the wilderness: ‘God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.’ ‘So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall,’ 1 Cor. 10:1-13. We best take this warning to heart.

The last thing anyone would want of their church is that it might become a fruitless vine destined for destruction. This was Isaiah’s warning to Israel in his day. Jesus warned His fellow Jews of the same danger. So how do we assess the danger, a danger so real to all of us?

The children of Israel had abandoned right relationships, fellowship, etc. Paul identifies a similar situation in the Corinthian fellowship, 1 Cor. 8. **Love was absent from their fellowship, undermining their worship.**

Such sour fruits are evidence of a far greater problem. Jesus makes this point in Luke 13, Vv 1—9. In the Parable of the Fig Tree, Vv. 6-9, the fruitless fig tree is given one more chance to bear fruit worthy of its continued existence.”

### 3. Lamentations for Jerusalem ... a Comparative chart based on Lamentations

*Quote from Life Application Study Bible*

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Destruction of Jerusalem	Lamentations is a sad funeral song for the great capital city of the Jews. The Temple has been destroyed, the king gone, and the people are in exile. God had warned that he would destroy them if they abandoned him. Now, afterward, the people realize their condition and confessed their sin.	God’s warnings are justified. He does what he says he will do. His punishment for sin is certain. Only by confessing and renouncing our sin can we turn to him for deliverance? How much better to do so before his warnings are fulfilled.
God’s Mercy	God’s compassion was at work when the Israelites were experiencing the affliction of their Babylonian conquerors. Although the people had been unfaithful, God’s faithfulness was great. He used this affliction to bring his people back to him.	God will always be faithful to his people. His merciful, refining work is evident even in affliction. At those times, we must pray for forgiveness and then turn to him for deliverance.
Sin’s Consequences	God was angry at the prolonged rebellion by his people. Sin was the cause of their misery, and destruction was the result of their sin. The destruction of the	To continue in rebellion against God is to invite disaster. We must never trust our own leadership, resources, intelligence, or power more than God. If we do so we will

	nation shows the vanity of human glory and pride.	experience consequences similar to Jerusalem's.
Hope	God's mercy in sparing some of the people offers hope for better days. One day, the people will be restored to a true and fervent relationship with God.	Only God can deliver us from sin. Without him there is no comfort or hope for the future. Because of Christ's death for us and his promise to return, we have a bright hope for tomorrow.

The situation with Israel has so many lessons to be learnt; as seen in Isa. 5. We have not discussed the sins laid out in Isa. 5:8-23; neither have we discussed the awful consequences that they would experienced as seen in Isa. 5:24-30. This however has been obvious that they were not obliterated but allowed to suffer in order to help them.

We should also take heed and daily pursue righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; etc.). Where there is still transgression we need to go to God in repentance and be cleansed (2 Cor. 7:10; etc.). Let us remember the seven churches addressed in Rev. 2-3 and note in particular the path to restoration given to the Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) ... **Remember v. 5; Repent v.5; Return v. 5 or be Removed v. 5.**

**2 Tim. 2:15**

**KJV**

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

**Amplified Bible**

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

## Chapter 5 Lesson 2 Review Questions

1. Match the items on the left with their corresponding description on the right. *(All items were discussed in our lesson).*

ITEMS	CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTION	JUMBLED LIST
Well beloved (Isa. 1:1)		Products and curse of sin
Vineyard (Isa. 5:7)		Judah
Wild grapes (Isa. 5:2)		The nation of Israel
Biers and thorns (Isa. 5:6)		Israel
Northern Kingdom		The Husbandman
Southern Kingdom		Corrupt nature

2. The Israelites were taken into captivity because of their continued sinning. Give the time of their captivity and by which nation: (a) The Northern Kingdom (b) The Southern Kingdom.

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3. According to Matthew Henry (*commenting on Isa. 5:1-7, in his Commentary on the Whole Bible*); what reason and he gave why the Parable of the Vineyard (Isa. 5) was put into a song?

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4. Complete the following:  
“The Book of Lamentations shows us the (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
of sin and how we can still have (c) \_\_\_\_\_ in the (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
of (e) \_\_\_\_\_ because God is able to turn it (f) \_\_\_\_\_  
for good.”

5. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer:  
“The Book of Lamentations begins with a lament and finishes with a lament.”  
 *(“lament”: a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. Synonyms: wail, moan, weeping, etc.).*

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6. In essence, what message is the love song (Isa. 5) really communicating to Israel?

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7. Complete by choosing the correct answer:  
“The Husbandman’s decisions are final, fair \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

- (a) subject to change
- (b) indisputable and irreversible
- (c) questionable and complex
- (d) challenging and reversible

8. What was the **double protection** the vineyard (Isa. 5) had and what purpose each served?

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9. Briefly explain God’s divine protection for the believer; noting its significance.

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10. In regards to the protection of the vineyard (Isa. 5). (a) What would be the result of removing it? (b) Why was it removed?

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11. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

“Defenseless people are in \_\_\_\_\_ and subject to defeat and destruction.”

- (a) safe and secured position
- (b) a state of relaxation
- (c) jeopardy to the enemy
- (d) good position to overcome

12. In the statement: “I will lay it waste ...” (Isa. 5:6a); (a) in the Hebrew text what does “waste” means? (b) What message is conveyed in this statement?

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13. Match the statements on the left with the corresponding reference on the right. (All items are taken from our lesson).

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Human endeavors are futile without God		Matt. 23:37-38 Luke 13: 34-35 Luke 19:41-44
Nebuchadnezzar humbled by God		2 Chon. 7:12-22 NB v. 14
Asap's acknowledgment of the wicked prosperity and their fate.		Dan. 4, NB Vv. 28-33
God's condition for healing the land and nation		Psa. 73
Christ's prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem		Psa. 127:1-2

14. The vineyard (Isa. 5) would not be "pruned nor digged" (Isa. 5:6b). What is meant by this statement?

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15. Why was it unnecessary for the Husband to have the vineyard pruned or cultivated (digged) (Isa. 5:6b)?

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16. Discussing Isa. 5:6c, "... there shall come up briars and thorns; ..." what are something noted (in our lesson) in regards to "a life without God"?

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17. Complete the following: *(Comment made in our lesson on Isa. 5:6c)*

"The Owner (Husbandman) is not content to only (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the vineyard's (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 5:5); He will take (c) \_\_\_\_\_ steps to turn it into a (d) \_\_\_\_\_. He will leave it (e) \_\_\_\_\_ so that briars and thorns (f) \_\_\_\_\_ it."

18. A brief outline for 1 Sam. 3:1-2 was presented in our lesson; list the three main points along with a brief explanation.

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19. Give a brief account of 1 Sam. 4. (Highlighted in our lesson).

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20. What are the essential factors seen in Isa. 5:7?

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21. What similar message did the Israelites had to share as well as the Church?

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22. Complete the following:

"It is not that Israel did not (a) \_\_\_\_\_ fruits, they did! The (b) \_\_\_\_\_ is that the (c) \_\_\_\_\_ they produced were (d) ' \_\_\_\_\_ fruits' ... 'wild grapes': they were small, hard, (e) \_\_\_\_\_ and as noted before were referred to as '(f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_'."

23. Complete each of the following ... base on Isa. 5:7. Discussing what Israel produced.

- (a) Instead of judgment (justice) there was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Instead of righteousness there was the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Everything was characterized by commotion and confusion and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

24. In regards to the “Paschal Lamb” (a) how referred to by (1) Judaism? (2) Christianity?  
(b) Give at least two Scripture references identifying Jesus Christ as the “Lamb of God”  
... note with brief explanation.

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25. Briefly explain what it means by God “repenting” for example as in Gen. 6:6.

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**We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.**