

Isaiah 3-5 Notes

Precept study on Isaiah Part 1, Lesson 2

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October 10, 2010

Review: Isaiah 1-2

- **When?**
Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah. Wealthy, but people corrupt.
- **Geopolitical?**
Judah pressured by Assyria, Israel, Aram, Egypt. Babylon subject to Assyria, but rising.
- **Themes?**
 - God calls the people's sin to account: rebellion, bloodshed, injustice, idolatry, **refuse and rebel**
 - Result of sin: desolation, devoured by the sword, crushed, humbled, discard idols to dirt/caves, selves to dirt/caves
 - God calls the people to repentance: cease evil, seek justice, **consent and obey**
 - Result of repentance: made white, washed, redeemed with justice, Zion established, nations come
- **Segue to chapter 3.** 2:22: Stop regarding man ... why should he be esteemed?

Isaiah 3: Judgment on Leadership

- **3:1 For ...**
Connects to 2:22: Stop regarding man ... why should he be esteemed?
- **3:1-7 Removal of ... ?**
leaders, support (food and water)
- **3:8-12 People's actions?**
people in rebellion, open sin, leaders have led them astray
- **3:11-12 Woe - postpone this until Chapter 5**
- **3:13-15 What is the indictment?**
LORD contends: people have devoured the vineyard (the nation, see Isaiah 5:1-7). Oppressing the poor.
- **3:16-4:1 After leaders removed, who is left? What is the women's sin?**
The women, and they too are sinful: seductive eyes, pride.
- **What does the LORD remove from the women? Replacing with what?**
- **3:25-4:1 Who is left?**
Few men; women in mourning and deserted.
- **Judea Capta coin**
- **Overall Themes?**
Leaders have led the people astray, grinding the faces of the poor. So the LORD contends (lawsuit) they are taken away, leaving women and children to rule and oppress them. Then even the women will be humbled and enslaved.

Outline:

- 3:1-5: leadership removed
- 3:6-7: leader scramble
- 3:8-12: people's rebellion, leaders have led them astray. The first 2 woes (see below).
- 3:10: it will go well for the righteous
- 3:13-15: leaders oppress the people
- 3:16-4:1: beauty/pride of women taken away, enslaved

Key verse: **3:11: Woe to the wicked, ... for what he deserves will be done to him.**

Isaiah 4: the Branch of the LORD

- **The Branch. Read Jeremiah 23:5-6:**

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ’The LORD our righteousness.’ ”

- **Who is the Branch of the LORD?**

- **4:2-6 What is happening? When will this happen?**

Survivors washed, bloodshed purged by judgment and burning. LORD will protect them. Has not yet happened.

- **How does a spirit of judgment and burning purify us?**

We will see more in Isaiah 6. see also 2:1-3.

- **Is all pride bad? All adornment?**

No. 4:2 the fruit of the earth (Son of Man?) will be the pride and adornment of Israel.

Outline:

- 2: the Branch of the LORD
- 2: fruit of the earth will be the pride and adornment of Israel (contrast with 3:16-4:1, the women’s adornment)
- 3: the holy remnant
- 4: filth washed away, bloodshed purged, by judgment and burning
- 5-6: the LORD will be their shelter

Cross-references for the Branch of the LORD

- Isaiah 11:1-2: Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- Jeremiah 23:5-6: see above.
- Jeremiah 33:14-16: “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.”
- Zechariah 3:8
- Zechariah 6:12

Isaiah 5

Outline:

- 1-2 the song of the vineyard
- 3-7 the song, applied to Israel: judgement
- 8-12 woes
- 13-15 exile
- 16-17 the LORD exalted
- 18-23 woes
- 24-25 judgement
- 26-30 calling the distant nation

The Song of the Vineyard (5:1-7 and 3:13-15):

3:13-15 Preface

- 3:13-14: the LORD brings a lawsuit
- 3:14-15: you have devoured the vineyard and plundered the poor

5:1-2 the LORD prepares his vineyard

- 5:1: the LORD is well-beloved
- 5:1: fertile hill

Exodus 3:8: So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

- 5:2: removed its stones

Exodus 33:2: I will send an angel before you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.

- 5:2: choice vine

Deut 14:2: For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

- 5:2 built a tower

Prov 18:10: The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.

- 5:2 hewed out a wine vat, expected good grapes, but got worthless ones.

5:3-7 the LORD contends with His vineyard

- 5:5 hedge removed:
Psalm 34:7: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.
Ezekiel 10:18: Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.
Ezekiel 11:23: The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.
- 5:5 wall broken
2 Kings 25:10: So all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.
- 5:6 laid waste, briars and thorns, no rain
- 5:7 vineyard = Israel, instead of justice and righteousness, bloodshed and cry of distress (see 5:30)

Mark 12:1-12 Jesus' parable of the Vineyard

- 1 And He began to speak to them in parables: "A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT, AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.
- 2 At the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.
- 3 They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. 5 And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some and killing others.
- 6 He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!' 8 They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.
- 9 What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others.

The eight woes (3:8-12 and 5:11-30):

3:8-9: Woe to those who wear their sin on their faces!

- 3:8: speech and actions against the LORD
- 3:9: ⇒ brought evil on themselves

3:11-12: Woe to the wicked!

- 3:12: your guides lead you astray
- 3:12: ⇒ oppressed by women and children

5:8-10: Woe to those to add house to house!

- 5:8: add house to house, until you live alone
- 5:9-10: ⇒ houses will be desolate: *exile*

5:11-17: Woe to those who pursue strong drink!

- 5:11-12: drunken banquets, but ignoring the deeds of the LORD
- 5:13: lack of knowledge ⇒ exile
- 5:13: drunkenness ⇒ hunger and thirst
- 5:12,14: drunken banquets ⇒ Sheol will open its mouth, splendor descend into it.
- 5:15: eyes of proud ⇒ abased.

BUT:

- 5:16: LORD will be exalted
- 5:17: after wealthy go into exile (v13), ⇒ lambs will graze and strangers will eat

5:18-19: Woe to those who drag iniquity!

- 5:18: Woe to those who drag iniquity (contrast with James 1:14), and who say “Let the LORD hasten His work.”
- 5:29: ⇒ carried off into exile: *dragged away by the distant nation*

5:20: Woe to those who call ...!

- 5:20: evil/good, light/dark, bitter/sweet.
- ⇒ (see 5:24-30)

5:21: Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes!

- 5:21: self-made wisdom
- ⇒ 5:13: My people go into exile for lack of knowledge

5:22-23: Woe to the heroes at drinking wine!

- 5:22: drunken heroes
- 5:23: accepting bribes, justifying the wicked
- ⇒ exile and thirst (5:13)
- ⇒ (see 5:24-30)

5:24-25: First judgement of the 8 woes: consumed by the LORD

- 5:24: they rejected the law / despised the word of the Holy One of Israel
- 5:24: ⇒ consumed by fire, root will rot
- 5:25: ⇒ their corpses lay in the street
- 5:25: ⇒ LORD's anger not yet satisfied (see 2nd judgement, below).

5:26-30: Second judgement of the 8 woes: the distant nation

- 5:26: ⇒ the LORD calls the distant nation
- 5:27-28: ⇒ distant nation ready for war
- 5:29-30: ⇒ like a lion, carrying off its prey (see 5:18-19: drag sin like a cart).
- 5:30b: ⇒ darkness and distress (see 5:7: He looked for righteousness but heard cries of distress),
- 5:30b ⇒ light is darkened (see 5:20: they call light/dark, dark/light)

Application

- How does what we see going on in the book of Isaiah relate to what we see going on among God's people in the church today?

- How do we reconcile God's anger with Isaiahs beloved?

God's judgement on sin enables our repentance, by washing and purifying us.

- How has your study of Isaiah challenged or convicted you? In what areas of your life do you want to walk in the light of the Lord? In what ways do you want to grow and change as a result of what you have studied?

Do not esteem men.

Praise Him when (even when) He removes something from my life, and prunes me. Allow His trials to do their work. Even Isaiah struggled with sin.

- Isaiah 5:12 says the people do not pay attention to the deeds of the Lord, nor do they consider the work of His hands. What are the deeds of the Lord in your life? What works of His hands can you praise Him for?

- Let's praise Him for the works of his hands.

SONG: God of Wonders