

Signs of National Decay

Isaiah 3

The signs should not be ignored

A. God's Pending Judgments for Israel

(Isaiah 3:1-9, 12, 14-15)

1. Famine (3:1)

2. Character and true leadership missing (3:2-3)

3. Immature leadership substituted (3:4-9)

a. Childish (v 4)

b. Causes oppression (v 5)

c. Looks for superficial help (v 6)

d. No one takes responsibility (v 7)

e. Results in spiritual ruin (vv 8-9, 12)

4. Generational sin is the root cause (3:14-15)

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B. God's Judgment Is Just (Isaiah 3:10-11, 13)

1. Righteous rewarded well (3:10)

2. Unrighteous rewarded their own evil (3:11)

3. A choice given (3:13)

Proverbs 21:30

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C. Spiritual Decay Identified (Isaiah 3:16-26)

1. Pride the cause (3:16)

Ezekiel 16:15-18, Proverbs 16:5, Proverbs 21:4

2. Pride stripped away (3:17-24)

Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 21:17

3. Sin exacts a higher price than expected (3:25-26)

The Wild Vine

Isaiah 4-5

Wild is not God's will and brings judgment.

I. Conditions During and After the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 4:1-6)

A. A Simile Of Babylonian Captivity (4:1)

Isaiah 4:1

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

B. The Day of the Lord (4:2)

Isaiah 4:2

In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

I. Conditions During and After the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 4:1-6)

C. The Remnant Saved (4:3)

Isaiah 4:3

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

Matthew 24:13

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

I. Conditions During and After the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 4:1-6)

D. Sin Purged (4:4)

Isaiah 4:4

When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

Zechariah 13:1

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

I. Conditions During and After the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 4:1-6)

E. God Dwells In The Kingdom (4:5-6)

Isaiah 4:5-6

5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.

6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

II. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)

A. The Owner of the Vineyard (5:1)

Isaiah 5:1

Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

B. His Care of the Vineyard (5:2)

Isaiah 5:2

And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

II. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)

C. The Question of the Vineyard (5:3)

Who is Just?

Isaiah 5:3

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

D. The Mercy Shown the Vineyard (5:4)

Isaiah 5:4

What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

II. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)

E. The Judgment on the Vineyard (5:5-6)

Isaiah 5:5-6

5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

II. The Song of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)

F. The Meaning of the Vineyard (5:7)

Isaiah 5:7

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

A. Covetousness (5:8-10)

1. Identified (v 8)

Isaiah 5:8

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!

2. Judged by poverty (vv 9-10)

Isaiah 5:9-10

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.

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

B. Drunkenness (5:11-17)

1. Identified (vv 11-12)

Isaiah 5:11-12

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

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

B. Drunkenness (5:11-17) - continued

2. Judged by captivity and death (vv 13-17)

Isaiah 5:13-17

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.

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

B. Drunkenness (5:11-17) - continued

2. Judged by captivity and death (vv 13-17)

Isaiah 5:13-17 - continued

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.

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

C. No Conscience (5:18-19)

1. Identified (v 18)

Isaiah 5:18

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

2. Judged (19)

Isaiah 5:19

**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!**

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

D. No Moral Standards (5:20)

Isaiah 5:20

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!

E. Pride (5:21)

Isaiah 5:21

Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

III. Six Sins Judged in Israel (Isaiah 5:8-23)

F. No Justice (5:22-23)

Isaiah 5:22-23

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!

IV. Accumulated Judgment Decreed (Isaiah 5:24-30)

A. Total and complete (5:24)

Isaiah 5:24

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.

Matthew 12:20

A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

IV. Accumulated Judgment Decreed (Isaiah 5:24-30)

B. No escape (5:25)

Isaiah 5:25

Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

IV. Accumulated Judgment Decreed (Isaiah 5:24-30)

C. Instruments of judgment awful (5:26-29)

Isaiah 5:26-29

26 And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

27 None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:

IV. Accumulated Judgment Decreed (Isaiah 5:24-30)

C. Instruments of judgment awful (5:26-29)

Isaiah 5:26-29 - continued

28 Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:

29 Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.

IV. Accumulated Judgment Decreed (Isaiah 5:24-30)

D. Agony of Judgment (5:30)

Isaiah 5:30

And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

What Kind Of Vines Are We?