

Title: *“The Apologetics of Isaiah Chapter Five”*

Sub-Title: *“The Apologetics of the Parable”*

Introduction: The study of the book of Isaiah has as its subject, the Lord Jesus Christ, as seen in Isaiah's theme verse: *Isaiah: 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

Introduction: As we look at Isaiah chapter five it will be instructive to first consider some background information relative to this chapter of Isaiah.

- First, who is the audience of whom Isaiah is writing to? Isaiah is writing to the Hebrews at Jerusalem and Judah. Remember, they were referred to by God as Hebrews prior to the fall of Babylon in B.C. 587. After that point God referred to them as the Jewish people.

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- What is the culture of Isaiah's audience? These people are predominately Jewish. Their livelihood was mainly agrarian. They were farmers.
- When did this take place? B.C. 760.
- What is the theme of the book of Isaiah? Jesus Christ.
- What is the major message or warning that Isaiah was delivering to the Hebrews from God? Judgment. The DOL is coming and the judgement will be severe.
- Is the passage of Isaiah chapter five using a metaphor, or giving a real account? The way to know if it is a metaphor is whether the passage gives personal names, places, or other specific criteria or not.

- For example, in Luke 16:19-31 gave several specifics which would lead Luke's audience to conclude that the account of the rich man and Lazerus was not a metaphor but rather an actual account.
- In Isaiah chapter five begins as a parable, not an actual event. The purpose of parables is it is a teaching tool. Stories capture people's attention. Stories ignite people's imagination. Stories drive home spiritual concepts. People can identify and see themselves in a story. The narrative however quickly changes as Isaiah begins to describe the anger of the Lord. Isaiah begins with a description of a vineyard.

I. What?: Vineyard: (the subject of the parable)

A. Vss. 1-2. "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: 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.”

- 1.) If Christ is the theme of the book of Isaiah and then the vineyard are God's people.
- 2.) God gave His people life, and provision. God gave His people a Saviour, Jesus Christ, to save them from their sins.
- 3.) God did all of this for His people, and His sole desire was that His people would be fruitful.
- 4.) First, remember that Old Testament believers were saved the same as we are today. In the Old Testament they looked forward to the cross. Today believers look back to the cross. Simply placing one's faith in the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a.) If Jesus Christ is the theme of Isaiah and the audience are God's people, therefore God must be talking to you too.
- b.) If God made provision to save the Hebrews from their sins, and they need saving, ought not we today need to take advantage of God's saving provision?
- c.) Since the message of the vineyard is actually about the Hebrews producing spiritual fruit, ought not Christians to be producing spiritual fruit too?

II. Who?: The Hebrews: (and Christians today)

A. **Vs. 3** “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.”

1. The center of God's focus is the world.
2. The world is God's vineyard.
3. That divine focus is the people of the world.
 - a.) **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
 - b.) **John 10:10** "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
- 1.) World population in B.C. 760 was: 141,731,629.

2.) World population as of April 28th 2019 was: 7,700,331,151.

3.) The world population has increased 5,400%

B. Vs. 4. The vineyard problem “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?”

1. The vineyard was not fruitful.

2. The vineyard requires gardeners.

3. The vineyard fruit was poisonous not eatable.

a.) Adam Clarke's description, “Poisonous berries, not merely useless, unprofitable grapes, such as wild grapes; but grapes offensive to the smell, noxious, poisonous. By the force and intent of

the allegory, to good grapes ought to be opposed fruit of a dangerous and pernicious quality; as, in the explication of it, to judgment is opposed tyranny, and to righteousness, oppression.”¹

b.) Clarke stated, “Their vine is from the vine of Sodom, And the fields of Gomorrah: Their grapes are grapes of gall; Their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, And the cruel venom of aspicks.”²

1.) If the Hebrews were accountable to be fruitful for the Lord, ought not every believer to be accountable and fruitful for the Lord?

¹ Adam Clarke, *Clarke's Commentary*, Vol. IV – Isaiah to Malachi (New York: Abington Press, 1826), 43.

² *Ibid.*, 44.

- 2.) If we are Christians but the fruit of our vineyard is rotting on the vine, what will we really have to show for all that the Lord has done for us?
- 3.) If the vineyard needs a gardener, than the world needs every believer to be involved in the Lord's harvest.

III. Warning: Hell-eternal separation from God

A. **Vss. 14-15** “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. And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled:”

1. The parable has ended and the lesson of the story is now the focus.
2. Pride is many times the difference between believe and unbelief.
3. Every human is hard wired for justice, but true justice comes from the Lord.
4. Everyone thinks they have more time on this earth, but only God decides the number of your days.
5. True wisdom is heeding God's warning, and becoming a child of His.
 - a.) If the promised Messiah come as prophesied; If Christ died alone on a cross as prophesied; If He showed Himself to thousands of people during

His forty day, post resurrection ministry; Since He has preserved His Word, the Bible for thousands of years, are you willing to bet against the reality of an eternal Hell?

- b.) Since believers know that Christ is coming back again soon; since believers know that the need of the gospel is exploding with the world population; since believers know that the Lord's desire is for a world of people to know Him; since believers know that the gospel is the answer that the world is looking for; since believers know that the only thing that will last forever is the fruit that is produced through our lives;

c.) Therefore Christians must have an urgency about sharing the gospel; Therefore Christians must have a burden for a lost world that is without Christ; Therefore Christians must respond to the world that is seeking answers; Therefore Christians must make sure that their lives are fruitful for the Lord.

B. Vs. 16 “But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.”

1. The Lord is the ultimate justice in the world.
2. The Lord will be glorified whether people go to heaven or hell. He would rather we all go to heaven to be sure.

3. The Lord is holy and Christians set their lives apart to live for the Lord.
4. The Lord is righteous as we should seek to be righteous in our Christian lives.
 - a.) The Lord's judgment is certain, therefore Christians must be circumspect to live according to the Word of God.
 - b.) The Lord is Holy, therefore Christians ought to live holy. This is to say, that we should be set apart from this world. We should be in the world, but not poisoned by the things of the world.

Applications:

1. Download Knight's Notes on: Excellent Way.tv.
2. Read Isaiah chapter six before we get together again.
3. ***Memorize 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!"
4. Study and discuss Isaiah chapter five with family and friends. Email me any questions that you have relative to Isaiah chapter four.
5. Share our ministry website on you social media.
6. Subscribe and share on our YouTube channel.

Where we began:

- We discussed the difference between a metaphor and an actual account.
- We discussed further background of the book of Isaiah, and of the Hebrew people.
- We discussed the lesson of the vineyard, and the importance of being involved in the Lord's work.
- We also took a serious look at the ultimate reality of eternal life and death. The importance of sharing the gospel was emphasized.

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Next time:

- Further background and the Apologetics of Isaiah chapter six.
- We'll see the death of a king.
- The Trinity seen in the book of Isaiah.
- The calling of God on Isaiah's life and your life.