

## A Trek Through Isaiah 05 - 4:2 - 5:30

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### 4:2-6 Zion restored

- Conclusion of the second part of the author's preface: what God's people were, and what they would be
- In that day. A day of both judgment & salvation.
- HENRY: just when it appears that all is hopeless, hope

The Messiah will appear

4:2 In that day the Branch of Yahweh will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the honor of those of Israel who escape.

- Branch of the Lord.
  - Messianic title. Divine ancestry.
  - Earliest usage. Occurs later in Is 11:1, Jer 33:15, Zech 6:12-13
- beautiful and glorious.
  - To believers.
- fruit of the earth.
  - The Messiah. Refers to His human origin.
    - Is 53:2 For he grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground;
    - Some say this is the good fruit produced by God in the righteous remnant of Israel.
- The pride and the honor.
  - In the Messiah as their Savior
    - 1 Cor 1:31 ... LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."
  - Or in the good fruit produced in them.
    - As from God.
    - As David Ps 16:2-3 Oh my soul you have said to Yahweh, "You are my Lord. I have no good apart from you." 3 With regard to the saints who are in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my desire.

A remnant will remain in Zion

4:3 It will be that he who remains in Zion and is left in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is written down for life in Jerusalem.

- Remains...is left
  - Those left in Jerusalem & Judah after the Tribulation.
- Called holy.
  - Accounted righteous. Through faith
- Written.
  - Elected.
  - Rev 21:27 And nothing defiled, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The city will be cleansed

4:4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and rinsed away the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning,

- Daughters of Zion.
  - The women personifying the spirit of the city.
- Filth (internal) ... Bloodshed (external)
  - Contrast the reality with the beauty that the women of Jerusalem thought they had.
    - Proverbs 30:12 There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.
  - Yahweh will give them real beauty
- Spirit of judgment & burning.
  - Spirit of judgment: conviction of sin
  - Spirit of burning: quickening to life.
  - Action of the HS.
    - Jn 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

Yahweh will dwell with His people

4:5-6 then Yahweh will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her convocation a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. And there will be a booth to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and a hiding place from the storm and the rain.

- Then
  - Once the filth is washed away.
- Create
  - Heb 1254 Bara to create. Divine creation. As in Gen 1:1.
- a cloud by day, even smoke and the brightness of a flaming fire by night
  - The presence of the LORD with His people. As in the Exodus Ex13:21-22
- A canopy
  - Covering for the marriage ceremony.
  - Symbolizing an intimate relationship
- A booth
  - Symbolizing protection
  - day/night...heat/storm and rain. At all times and in all circumstances
  - Psalm 121:5, 8 Yahweh is your keeper; Yahweh is your shade on your right hand....  
Yahweh will keep you from all evil; He will keep your soul. Yahweh will keep your going out and your coming in From now until forever.

5:1-30 Grace exhausted.

- Third part of the author's preface
- 5:1-7 The Vineyard of the LORD. A parable describing Judah's present condition.
- 5:8-24 The Stink-Fruit Harvest. Description of the harvest and its consequences.
- 5:25-30 Judgment has begun

5:1-7 The Vineyard of the Lord

- A parable
- To cause self-examination.
  - As 2 Sam 12:1-7 Nathan's story to David after he had gone in to Bathsheba
- based on Moses' song Dt 32.

## The story

5:1-2 Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it And also hewed out a wine vat in it; Then He hoped for it to produce good grapes, But it produced only worthless ones.

- Complete preparation
  - Planted on a very fertile hill.
  - Dug out & cleared of stones.
  - Planted w choice vines.
  - Permanent watchtower & wine vat.
- Expectation: good grapes
- Result: worthless fruit
  - Heb: stinking things
  - Dt 32:32 "For their vine is from the vine of Sodom, And from the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of poison, Their clusters, bitter.

## Call to judge

5:3-4 "So now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Please judge between Me and My vineyard. "What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I hoped for it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones?

- Were the preparations complete?
- Was the harvest as expected?
- Judean farmers would sympathize with the owner.

## Outcome

5:5-6 "So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge, and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall, and it will become trampled ground. "I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned or hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also command the clouds to rain no rain on it."

- Hedge removed > consumed.
- Wall broken down > trampled.
- Lay it waste, not be pruned or hoed > briars and thorns
- No rain > withered and dead

## Application

5:7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts is the house of Israel And the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He hoped for justice, but behold, bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.

- Making the application clear
- Vineyard is the people of Israel. Planting is Judah.
- Preparation was Yahweh's law and His dealings with them.
- Expectation was justice & righteousness.
- Result was bloodshed & outcry (of the oppressed).
- HENRY: God gave them an excellent law and expected to see excellent results in their lives, but the result was quite the opposite.

## 5:8-24 The Stink-Fruit Harvest

- Description of the stink-fruit harvest and its consequences
- Woes and consequences
- Woe. Anger and lament

Woes dealing with misuse of material things.

Woe to those who accumulate property.

5:8-10 Woe to those who add house to house...

- Behavior
  - Endless desire.
  - Willingness to push others aside to fulfill their lust, wanting to monopolize the whole earth for their benefit.
  - As Alexander who wept that there were not more worlds to conquer.
  - Ex 5:21 tenth commandment: 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'
- Consequences match the sin
  - Empty houses
  - Barren land

Woe to those who feast and party and have no regard for the LORD.

5:11-12 Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! And their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not look upon the deeds of Yahweh, Nor do they see the work of His hands.

- Behavior: drunkenness, partying
- Result: spiritual dullness. Do not look upon...do not see: do not see that the deeds and works are from Yahweh.
- CALVIN: like beasts who care only for their bellies. They do not consider for what end God made them.

## Consequences

### Exile and hunger

5:13 Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; And their honorable men are famished, And their multitude is parched with thirst.

- Consequences match the sin
  - Go into exile. Taken away from the land.
  - Famished...parched. Hunger and thirst.
- HENRY:
  - They have no knowledge because they will have none.
  - They feel the lack because they abused what they had.
- Joel 1:5 Awake, drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth.

### Consumed

5:14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without limit; And Jerusalem's majesty, her multitude, her rumbling, and the exultant within her, descend into it.

- Those who consumed are themselves consumed
  - Ps 49:20 Man in his honor, but who does not understand, Is like the animals that perish.

### Humbled

5:15-17 So the common man will be bowed down and the man of importance will be made low, The eyes of the lofty also will be made low. But Yahweh of hosts will be lofty in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness. Then the lambs will graze as in their pasture, And sojourners will eat in the waste places of the wealthy.

- Proud men will be humbled
- Yahweh will be exalted
  - His holiness revealed in (1) justice and (2) righteousness.
  - Ps 89:13-14 You have a mighty arm; Your hand is strong, Your right hand is exalted. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.
- There will be flocks and nomads among the ruins.
  - A picture of desolation

Woes dealing with moral & spiritual issues.

Woe to those who are bound to iniquity and taunt the LORD.

5:18-19 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of worthlessness, And sin as if with cart ropes, Who say, "Let Him hurry, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near And come to pass, that we may know it!"

- Increasing bondage to sin.
  - Cords...ropes: harnessed as a beast of burden.
  - Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities will capture him who is the wicked one, And with the cords of his sin he will be held fast.
- Not believing God and waiting patiently, rather testing Him.
  - Sarcastic.
- As false teachers in 2 Pet 3:3-4 ...mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.

5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

- Ethics replaced by expediency. Presuming to declare right and wrong
- Refusing to be subject to God's word
- CALVIN: ridiculing both God's words and His deeds. Dependence on God's words is a sign of true faith.
- Core LGBT assertion: All sexual expression is good.

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes

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

- Not heeding Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear Yahweh and turn away from evil.
- Thinking oneself wise is the opposite of fearing Yahweh.

Woe to those who are strong in partying and weak in justice.

5:22-23 Woe to those who are mighty men in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink, Who declare the wicked righteous for a bribe, And remove the righteous standing of the ones who are righteous!

- Justice completely perverted
- Note the connection between strong drink and injustice.
  - Pr 31:4-5 ...<It is not> for rulers to desire strong drink, Lest he drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

## Consequences

### Consumption and rot

5:24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble And dry grass collapses into the flame, So their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust; For they have rejected the law of Yahweh of hosts And the word of the Holy One of Israel they have spurned.

- Consequence:
  - As stubble & chaff in a fire.
  - As rotting of a plant
- Reason
  - Rejected God's law.
  - Spurned His word.
  - Note the focus on God's word.

### 5:25-30 Judgment has begun

#### Judah has been struck down

5:25 On this account, the anger of Yahweh has burned against His people, And He has stretched out His hand against them and struck them down. And the mountains trembled, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned back, But His hand is still stretched out.

- the anger of Yahweh has burned against His people. Judgment has already begun.
- His hand is still stretched out. He is still angry. The thought is that throughout Israel's history they sinned, God brought judgment but they did not repent. Now He will bring an irresistible judgment.

#### Destruction is coming

5:26-28 He will also lift up a standard to the distant nations, And will whistle for it from the ends of the earth; And behold, it will come with speed swiftly. No one in it is weary or stumbles, None slumbers or sleeps; Nor is the belt at its waist undone, Nor its sandal strap broken. Its arrows are sharp and all its bows are bent; The hoofs of its horses seem like flint and its chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

- Yahweh is the Lord of history. He uses nations to accomplish His purpose.
- He will call nations to execute judgment on His people.
- They will come speedily. As the mockers in 5:19 asked.
- They will be irresistible.



There is only distress and darkness

5:29-30 Its roaring is like a lioness, and it roars like young lions; It growls and seizes the prey And carries it off with no one to deliver it. And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea. If one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness and distress; Even the light is darkened by its clouds.

- Irresistible predator
  - Lions in their prime catch their prey and carry it off. There is no deliverer.
  - roaring HENRY: Those who would not hear the warnings of the prophets will not be able to shut their ears to the roar of their enemies.
- Irresistible storm
  - As mariners on a stormy sea
  - They look to the land, where there should be refuge, but the light of the land is hidden by clouds.
  - Everywhere is darkness and distress.

The section ends with a vision of upcoming judgment, hopelessness, despair for God's people.

#### Application

- Is 4:5-6 pictures Yahweh dwelling with His people under a marriage canopy (newlyweds). What thoughts does that image invoke?
- Jn 15:8 says "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. But Isaiah describes the fruit produced by God's people as worthless stink-fruit."
  - How do we reconcile these two statements?
  - How can we bear good fruit rather than worthless fruit?
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#### References

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