

ISAIAH 5 vs 1

¹ Now I will sing to My much-Beloved... a song of My Beloved touching His vineyard. / Over 100 times, vineyard is mentioned in the Scriptures. Eden was a vineyard in which Adam was placed to both **work** and **guard**... an assignment given to everyone in every generation. The parables of Jesus are best grasped by those of an agrarian society -- so they are common experiences still understood by 90% of the world today (though modern citizens with their plastic credit cards and plethora of entitlements might be disadvantaged to grasp their meaning). A vineyard was the chief place of learning, labor and reward.

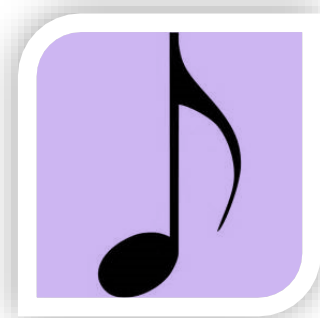


In the NT, the night He was betrayed, Jesus told us: *I Am the true Vine, My Father is the Chief worker of His vineyard...* who planted and now actively oversees its growth -- **John 15**; Notice Jesus is the True vine... so He is the True Conduit of life that connects what is growing in the vineyard... with life.

Now I will sing to My much-Beloved...
a song of My Beloved touching His vineyard.

I bet this love song is a joyous song... so let's sing along...

My much-Beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill:



² And **[1] He fenced it,**

and **[2] gathered out the stones thereof** / so He got to work immediately, He is a good caretaker of this vineyard, probably the finest in town,

and **[3] planted it with the choicest vine** / with the healthiest planting,

and **[4] built a tower in the midst of it,**

and **[5] also made a winepress therein** / so He did all this to watch over it, because He anticipated a bumper crop for an excellent harvest:

and He looked that it should bring forth grapes / so it seems that He did all He knew to do, right? Can you think of anything He forgot to do?

and it brought forth rotten grapes / just think about it; can you imagine? Sour grapes! I bet He was greatly disappointed. Wow! It is disappointing, isn't it? Almost like one of those sad country-western songs.

³ And now, you dwellers in **Jerusalem** and men of **Judah** / and the LORD says this capital and people – Judah and Benjamin, 2 southern tribes; most all of Israel was taken to Assyria; and since these people didn't learn any lessons from those 10 tribes; now the Lord is going to deal with this smaller group,

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you dwellers in **Jerusalem** and men of **Judah**

I ask you to judge between Me and **My vineyard**.

⁴ What more could I do to **My vineyard**, that I have not done?

When I expected it to produce grapes,

Why did it produce rotten grapes?

So, having thought about this worthless parcel of unproductive land... the LORD doesn't get all moody and sulky, rather He gets creative and says:

⁵ So now I will tell you what I will do to **My vineyard**:

I will remove its hedge / its protection will be gone,

and it will be consumed / it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,

and it will be trampled:

⁶ And I will lay it waste: it will not be pruned or hoed;

but briers and thorns will come up / weeds of every sort will take over:

I will also command the rainclouds **not** to rain upon it.

⁷ For **the vineyard** of the LORD of hosts is **the house of Israel** / said differently,

the fresh garden of the LORD almighty... is the house of Israel (remember: **isra = ruled + El = God**, the Lord is talking to: **those ruled by God**, who had become a faithless generation... who came from their father Jacob -- later named: Israel... but who got careless and carried away with their chosen status... so God needed to teach them a lesson or two... about privilege and natural life in a spiritual world... by having them carried away into Assyrian captivity (we read more about their carelessness in Hosea),

and the men of Judah his pleasant plant / God had great hopes for these people, but they didn't learn from their northern 10 brothers... so they now were getting ready for Babylon:

For He looked for justice, but behold... oppression / a scab; bloodshed;

for righteousness, but behold a cry of distress / the opposite of what He hoped to find was present.

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And **six** woes of judgment are pronounced...

⁸ **Woe / how terrible it will be**... **to those who join house to house, and who join field to field** / the LORD is talking about those who accumulate lots of dust collecting stuff for their spacious palatial dwellings... who surround themselves with acres upon acres... able to produce every variety imaginable.

So they had acquired a mindset and practice no different than any obese and insatiably gluttonous community; at the expense of the stranger, the widow, the poor and the fatherless among them – the typical 4 types of people who are still oppressed in society today.

In OT history, properties could be leased to others, yet they were permanently assigned to individual families, but it seems like some forgot...

till no place is left, and you alone live on the land! So they are no different than the global elites.

⁹ **The LORD of hosts declared in my hearing** / prophet Isaiah heard the LORD loud and clear,

Truly the great houses / their Beverly Hills... **will become desolate,**

even grand manors without occupants / imagine River Oaks or the Manhattan Plaza District... suddenly becoming a ghost town; all their effort, at the expense of others... expended to acquire stuff... will be rewarded with vacant occupancy.

¹⁰ **Yes, ten acres of vineyard will yield one bath** / equal to 8 gallons of wine, so very unproductive; 10 acres might be expected to produce 500 gallons,

and an homer of seed will yield an ephah / the yield will only 1/10th of what was expected; only a fraction of what would normally be produced; scant crops is often accompanied with a temporal period of national disgrace and failure.

¹¹ **Woe / how terrible it will be**... **to those who rise early in the morning, that they may pursue strong drink; who continue late in the night, till they are inflamed with wine!**

¹² **The lyre, the harp, and tambourine, and pipe; and wine are at their feasts** / the finest, loudest entertainment at their parties:

but they do not regard the work of the LORD, nor respect the deeds of His hands / His personal contribution was not valued; Jesus said: *for without Me, you can do nothing* -- **John 15**.

And before going on, did you notice: they had become the ultimate EAT, DRINK and be MERRY crowd.

EAT: verse 8-9; **DRINK**: verse 10-11; be **MERRY**: verse 12. Nothing wrong with eating: nothing wrong with drinking; nothing wrong with being merry; but if in your privilege... that is your only purpose and only goal –

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which is how things usually degenerate following that track... then, I think they missed the point. They were blessed by God... to become a blessing to the world.

13 Therefore My people go into captivity, because they have no knowledge / the LORD said, *My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge* -- they were no longer taught, so they no longer knew the ways of God, He says *they forget My law* -- **Hosea 4:**

their honorable men are famished / they will die of starvation,

and their multitude dried up with thirst / not refreshed with the word of God; later speaking for the LORD, Isaiah will say, *Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and you who have no money come buy and eat* -- **Isaiah 55.**

14 Therefore hell / in Hebrew: *sheol*, **the grave...**

has enlarged itself, and opens its mouth without limit / ready to swallow the next clueless pack parading through life... no matter their size:

the massive crowds of pride and pomp,

along with all the revelers, will descend into it / and did you notice, no one pauses to even ask... who's leading the parade down this gradual slope? All they hear is: Party!!

But that's not why the LORD planted and cultivated His vineyard here on earth. One thing we can count on: Heaven will not be populated with earth's trailer trash.

15 And the common of Adam are humbled; the mighty are abased,

and the eyes of the proud will be abased:

16 But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment;

God who is holy will be hallowed in righteousness.

17 Then will the lambs graze as usual / they will survive,

and among the ruin of the fat ones / the wealthy ones...

will strangers eat / the foreigners whom God is sending will enjoy what the wealthy created.

18 Woe / how terrible it will be... **to them who drag around iniquity** / and inequality...

with cords of vanity,

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and sin as yoked to a cart rope:

¹⁹ **Who sneeringly say** / about the LORD,

Let Him make speed / in other words these party-goers say: God needs to move faster,

and hurry His work, that we may see it / the incredulous words of a cynic:

and let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come near / a title used 30 times; their Savior, Creator,

that we may know it! / they want to evaluate God's plan? They want to know what He has in mind. They do sound a little inebriated, don't they? They sound like our generation. Perhaps they're drunk on their own egos.

They could open the Book and start reading... if they really wanted to know, right?

²⁰ **Woe / how terrible it will be... to them who call evil good, and good evil** / they are the twisted kind of people who weep when others rejoice, and rejoice when others weep... their thinking is perverted;

who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

²¹ **Woe / how terrible it will be... those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight!**

²² **Woe / how terrible it will be... those who are mighty to drink wine** / champion wine drinkers,

and valiant to mix strong drink:

²³ **Who justify the wicked** / the guilty... **for a bribe,**

and take away the rightness of the righteous from him / who deprive the innocent his rights!

²⁴ **Therefore as fire devours stubble, and flame consumes chaff,**

so their roots will decay, and their blossom will blow away with the dust:

Why has the LORD decided this agenda?

For they have [1] rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and

[2] despised the word of the Holy One of Israel / neither is a good thing to do; He is the Savior and the Creator; the Redeemer who only could pay a price that nobody else could pay in a million years. As a matter of fact, it is incredibly careless and suicidal to do. Isn't it interesting: that is exactly what Jesus

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the Messiah repeatedly warned His followers... the night He was betrayed, the last night He lived among us; by this they will know you are My disciples; His students are not lawless anarchists -- [John 13-17](#).

Judah and Israel, their motto was **no** longer: **In God We Trust**

²⁵ **For this, the anger of the LORD burns against His people,**

and He has stretched out His hand against them,

and struck them:

and the mountains quaked,

and their carcasses lay torn in the middle of the streets.

For all this His anger has not turned,

but His hand is stretched out still / now there are many who will cherry-pick verses and dismissively shout: That's Old Testament... as they presumptuously suggest these words are meaningless and no longer relevant. To which I ask: Is the Lord no longer our Shepherd? Does the Lord no longer forgive all our sins; or heal all our diseases; or redeem our lives from destruction... and crown our lives with lovingkindness? We don't get to pick and choose the good verse and ignore the others.

5 times to chapter 10, Isaiah uses this phrase; so, we should probably pay attention, too. [Proverbs 6](#) reminds us: *6 things the Lord hates and the 7th is an abomination*. And why does our heavenly Father tell us about these things? Simple; He is kind; He gives us fair warning. His new heaven and earth will not be populated with earth's trailer trash. And suddenly Isaiah sees a future, final prophetic event...

²⁶ **He lifts up an ensign** / a war flag...

to the nations from afar,

He whistles to them at the end of the earth / to some great nation far from Jerusalem:

behold / pay attention, **they will come swiftly and speedily:**

²⁷ **Not one is weary or stumbles among them;**

not one slumbers or sleeps;

not a belt is loose around their vital parts,

not a buckle of their boot is broken / they are a well-trained army; awake and prepared:

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²⁸ **Whose arrows / their missiles... are sharp,**

and all their bows bent / their weapons are ready,

their horse hoofs will be counted like flint,

and their wheels like a whirlwind / their weapons of war did not look familiar to Isaiah... maybe what he attempts to describe are 21st century modern armaments:

²⁹ **Their roar is like a lion, they will roar like young lions:**

yes, they roar and seize their prey / their target...

and carry it away,

and none will rescue it.

³⁰ **In that day / when *the LORD alone will be exalted...* *when He arises to shake terribly the earth* they will roar against them... like the roaring of the sea:**

if one looks to the land,

behold darkness and sorrow,

even the light is darkened in the heavens / did Isaiah see Armageddon? We haven't seen that terrifying Day... but it's coming. God wants us sober, clear thinking and awake... as that Day approaches.