

Study 48: Isaiah, Part 4 Isaiah 3:18-5:30

Isaiah 3 18 **In that day**¹ the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands and crescent necklaces, 19 the earrings and bracelets and veils, 20 the headdresses and anklets and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms, 21 the signet rings and nose rings, 22 the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses 23 and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls.

24 Instead of fragrance there will be a stench;
 instead of a sash, a rope;
 instead of well-dressed hair, baldness;
 instead of fine clothing, sackcloth;
 instead of beauty, branding.
 25 Your men will fall by the sword,
 your warriors in battle.
 26 The gates of Zion will lament and mourn;
 destitute, she will sit on the ground.

Isaiah 4 1 **In that day** seven women
 will take hold of one man
 and say, “We will eat our own food
 and provide our own clothes;
 only let us be called by your name.
 Take away our disgrace!”

2 **In that day** the Branch² of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. 3 Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, **all who are recorded among the living**³ in Jerusalem. 4 The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of **fire**. 5 Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. 6 It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Isaiah 5 I will sing for the one I love
 a song about his vineyard:
 My loved one had a vineyard
 on a fertile hillside.⁴
 2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
 and planted it with the choicest vines.
 He built a watchtower in it
 and cut out a winepress as well.
 Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
 but it yielded only bad fruit.
 3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
 judge between me and my vineyard.
 4 What more could have been done for my vineyard
 than I have done for it?
 When I looked for good grapes,

¹ This term may refer simply to something that will happen “at that time,” or it may refer to what is called the “end times” i.e. the time of Christ (1st century AD). This term is also oftentimes synonymous with the “Day of the Lord,” a time of God’s judgment and punishment being meted out.

² This is not the word for branch that is used in Isa 11:1. Here it is *tsemach* vs. *netzer* in chapter 11. The meaning here is more along the lines of a *sprout* or *growth*, i.e. *a remnant*.

³ Cp. Rev 20:15.

⁴ Cp. Matt 21:33-41 — Jesus’ parable of the tenant farmers and the vineyard.

why did it yield only bad?

5 Now I will tell you

what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,

and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,

and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland,

neither pruned nor cultivated,

and briars and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds

not to rain on it.”

7 The vineyard of the Lord Almighty

is the nation of Israel,

and the people of Judah

are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;

for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

8 Woe to you who add house to house

and join field to field

till no space is left

and you live alone in the land.

9 The Lord Almighty has declared in my hearing:

“Surely the great houses will become desolate,

the fine mansions left without occupants.

10 A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath of wine [about 6 gallons];

a homer of seed will yield only an ephah of grain.” [360 pounds of seed will yield only 36 pounds of grain]

11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning

to run after their drinks,

who stay up late at night

till they are inflamed with wine.

12 They have harps and lyres at their banquets,

pipes and timbrels and wine,

but they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord,

no respect for the work of his hands.

13 Therefore my people will go into exile

for lack of understanding;

those of high rank will die of hunger

and the common people will be parched with thirst.

14 Therefore Death expands its jaws,

opening wide its mouth;

into it will descend their nobles and masses

with all their brawlers and revelers.

15 So people will be brought low

and everyone humbled,

the eyes of the arrogant humbled.

16 But the Lord Almighty [Hebrew: *of hosts*] will be exalted by his justice,

and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.

17 Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture;

lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.

18 Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit,

and wickedness as with cart ropes,

19 to those who say, "Let God hurry;
let him hasten his work
so we may see it.

The plan of the Holy One of Israel—
let it approach, let it come into view,
so we may know it."

20 Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
and clever in their own sight.

22 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine
and champions at mixing drinks,

23 who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
but deny justice to the innocent.

24 Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw
and as dry grass sinks down in the flames,
so their roots will decay

and their flowers blow away like dust;
for they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty
and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

25 Therefore the Lord's anger burns against his people;
his hand is raised and he strikes them down.

The mountains shake,
and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,
his hand is still upraised.

26 He lifts up a banner for the distant nations,
he whistles for those at the ends of the earth.

Here they come,
swiftly and speedily!

27 Not one of them grows tired or stumbles,
not one slumbers or sleeps;
not a belt is loosened at the waist,
not a sandal strap is broken.

28 Their arrows are sharp,
all their bows are strung;
their horses' hooves seem like flint,
their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

29 Their roar is like that of the lion,
they roar like young lions;
they growl as they seize their prey
and carry it off with no one to rescue.

30 In that day they will roar over it
like the roaring of the sea.
And if one looks at the land,
there is only darkness and distress;
even the sun will be darkened by clouds.