

# **CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY**

## **BIBLE STUDY**

### **Isaiah Chapter 5 — The Song of the Vineyard and Woes of Judgment**

#### **A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible**

##### **Introduction**

Isaiah Chapter 5 begins as a love song.

Isaiah sings about a vineyard carefully planted and lovingly prepared by its owner.

The owner chooses:

A fertile hillside.

Good soil.

The best vines.

A protective watchtower.

A winepress.

Everything necessary for fruitfulness is provided.

The owner reasonably expects:

Good grapes.

Instead:

The vineyard produces wild, bitter fruit.

Isaiah then reveals the meaning.

The vineyard is:

Israel.

The pleasant planting is:

Judah.

God looked for:

Justice.

But found:

Oppression.

He looked for:

Righteousness.

But heard:

Cries of distress.

The tragedy of Isaiah 5 is not that God failed to provide.

It is that His people failed to produce the fruit that His grace should have produced.

The chapter then gives a series of solemn woes against:

Greed.

Self-indulgence.

Drunkenness.

Spiritual blindness.

Defiant sin.

Moral reversal.

Intellectual pride.

Corrupt justice.

Isaiah describes people who not only sin but pull sin behind them like a loaded cart.

They mock God.

They challenge Him to act.

They call:

Evil good.

Good evil.

Darkness light.

Light darkness.

They become wise in their own eyes.

Finally, God announces judgment.

The vineyard that rejected His care will lose its protection.

The people who ignored His Word will experience the consequences of rejecting it.

God summons a distant nation as an instrument of judgment.

The chapter ends with:

Roaring.

Darkness.

Distress.

The central truth of Isaiah 5 is:

**God faithfully cultivates His people and rightly expects the fruit of justice and righteousness; when His grace is answered with greed, rebellion, moral confusion, pride, and rejection of His Word, judgment follows because the Holy God will always uphold His righteousness.**

# **I. ISAIAH SINGS ABOUT GOD’S VINEYARD**

## **Isaiah 5:1 — A Vineyard on a Fertile Hillside**

**“Now I will sing for the One I love, a song about His vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.”**

Isaiah begins with tenderness.

This is:

A love song.

The vineyard belongs to:

His beloved.

The location is ideal.

It is planted on fertile ground.

Nothing about the setting explains the coming failure.

The owner has chosen a place where fruit should grow.

## **Cross References**

### **Matthew 21:33**

Jesus told of a landowner who planted a vineyard, placed a protective wall around it, prepared a winepress, built a tower, leased it to tenants, and went away.

### **Psalms 80:8**

God brought Israel out of Egypt like a vine and planted the people in the land after driving out the nations before them.

### **Psalms 80:9**

God prepared the ground for His vine, allowed it to take deep root, and caused it to spread through the land.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God does not demand fruit without first providing what is needed for fruitfulness.

### **Key Truth**

Grace comes before expectation.

## **II. GOD PROVIDED EVERYTHING THE VINEYARD NEEDED**

### **Isaiah 5:2 — Good Preparation, Bad Fruit**

**“He dug it up and cleared it of stones, planted it with the best vines, built a watchtower in it, and cut out a winepress as well. He expected it to yield good grapes, but it produced only wild, bitter ones.”**

The owner does everything properly.

He:

Clears the ground.

Removes stones.

Plants quality vines.

Builds protection.

Prepares for harvest.

His expectation is reasonable.

But the vineyard produces:

Wild grapes.

Bitter fruit.

The problem is not the owner.

The problem is the vineyard.

### **Cross References**

#### **Matthew 21:34**

When harvest time arrived, the owner sent servants to the tenants to receive the fruit that rightly belonged to him.

### **Jeremiah 2:21**

God says He planted Israel like a choice vine from pure stock, yet the people became corrupted like a strange and wild vine.

### **Mark 12:1**

Jesus told of a man who planted a vineyard, protected it, prepared a winepress, built a tower, and entrusted it to tenants.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Privilege increases responsibility.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The more faithfully God has cultivated your life, the more seriously you should ask what fruit your life is producing.

## **III. GOD CALLS JUDAH TO JUDGE THE CASE**

### **Isaiah 5:3 — “Judge Between Me and My Vineyard”**

“Now, you people of Jerusalem and Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard.”

God invites the people to examine the evidence.

This is a courtroom challenge.

Who failed?

The owner?

Or:

The vineyard?

The answer will become obvious.

### **Cross References**

#### **Micah 6:1**

God calls His people to hear His case and summons creation to witness the charges He brings against them.

#### **Micah 6:2**

The mountains and ancient foundations of the earth are called to listen as God presents His covenant case against Israel.

### **Jeremiah 2:5**

God asks what wrong their ancestors found in Him that caused them to wander after worthless things and become worthless themselves.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God's judgment is never based on ignorance.

He knows the full case.

## **IV. GOD ASKS WHAT MORE HE COULD HAVE DONE**

### **Isaiah 5:4 — “What More Could I Have Done?”**

**“What more could I have done for My vineyard that I have not already done? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad ones?”**

This is one of the most searching questions in the chapter.

God provided:

Covenant.

Law.

Priests.

Prophets.

Land.

Protection.

Correction.

Mercy.

Yet the people produced rebellion.

### **Cross References**

#### **Jeremiah 2:21**

God reminds Israel that He planted them as a choice and faithful vine, yet they turned into a corrupted vine.

#### **Micah 6:3**

God asks His people what He has done against them or how He has wearied them, inviting them to answer His complaint.

### **Jeremiah 8:19**

The people cry from afar, but God asks why they provoked Him with idols and foreign vanities.

### **Spiritual Principle**

When fruit is absent, we should not immediately blame God's provision.

### **Key Truth**

God is never deficient in faithfulness.

## **V. GOD REMOVES THE VINEYARD'S PROTECTION**

### **Isaiah 5:5 — The Hedge Is Removed**

**“Now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.”**

The vineyard enjoyed protection.

Now that protection is removed.

This is judgment.

God allows the consequences of rebellion to reach the people who refused His care.

### **Cross References**

#### **Psalms 80:12**

The psalmist asks why God allowed the vineyard's walls to be broken so that passersby could plunder its fruit.

#### **Psalms 80:13**

Wild animals ravage the unprotected vineyard and destroy what once flourished.

#### **Nehemiah 1:3**

Jerusalem's survivors were in great distress because the city wall had been broken and its gates burned.

### **Spiritual Principle**

One severe form of judgment is when God allows people to experience what life looks like without protections they once took for granted.

# **VI. THE VINEYARD BECOMES A WASTELAND**

## **Isaiah 5:6 — No Rain, No Cultivation**

**“I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”**

The cultivated vineyard becomes:

Abandoned.

Overgrown.

Dry.

Fruitless.

What once received careful attention now experiences desolation.

### **Cross References**

#### **Deuteronomy 28:23**

God warned that persistent rebellion could result in the skies becoming like bronze and the ground like iron because rain would fail.

#### **Deuteronomy 28:24**

Instead of life-giving rain, drought and dust would fall upon the land under covenant judgment.

#### **Amos 4:7**

God withheld rain from Israel as a warning, yet the people still refused to return to Him.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Fruitlessness eventually has consequences.

# **VII. ISAIAH EXPLAINS THE VINEYARD**

## **Isaiah 5:7 — God Looked for Justice**

**“For the vineyard of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are His pleasant planting. He looked for justice, but found only oppression; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.”**

Now the parable is interpreted.

Vineyard:

Israel.

Pleasant planting:

Judah.

Expected fruit:

Justice.

Righteousness.

Actual fruit:

Oppression.

Distress.

This verse is the key to the vineyard song.

### **Cross References**

#### **John 15:1**

Jesus declares Himself to be the true vine and identifies His Father as the One who tends and cultivates the vineyard.

#### **Jeremiah 2:21**

God says He planted Israel as a choice vine, yet the nation became corrupt.

#### **Micah 6:8**

God has shown humanity what is good: practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God evaluates His people by the fruit their lives produce.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Religious identity without righteous fruit does not satisfy God.

## **VIII. WOE TO THOSE WHO HOARD LAND AND PROPERTY**

### **Isaiah 5:8 — House Added to House**

**“Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until there is no room left, and you live alone in the land.”**

The first woe concerns greed.

Powerful people expand their estates at the expense of others.

They accumulate:

Houses.

Land.

Property.

Until others are squeezed out.

## **Cross References**

### **Micah 2:2**

The wicked covet fields and seize them, desire houses and take them, and oppress families by stealing their inheritance.

### **1 Kings 21:19**

God condemned Ahab for arranging Naboth's death so that he could take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

### **Habakkuk 2:9**

Woe is pronounced upon the person who builds wealth through dishonest gain in an attempt to establish personal security.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Ownership becomes sinful when greed destroys justice.

# **IX. LARGE HOUSES WILL BECOME EMPTY**

## **Isaiah 5:9 — Luxury Turns to Desolation**

**“The Lord Almighty has declared in My hearing: ‘Surely many houses will be ruined, large and beautiful houses left empty.’”**

They accumulated property.

God says:

It will become empty.

Their security becomes desolation.

## **Cross References**

### **Amos 5:11**

Because the wealthy oppressed the poor and built expensive houses through injustice, God warned they would not enjoy the homes they constructed.

#### **Zephaniah 1:13**

Wealth gained in rebellion would be plundered, houses left deserted, and vineyards planted without the owners enjoying their fruit.

#### **Micah 6:16**

Because the people followed corrupt practices, God warned that their land and accomplishments would become objects of devastation and shame.

#### **Spiritual Principle**

What greed accumulates can disappear quickly.

## **X. THE LAND WILL PRODUCE ALMOST NOTHING**

### **Isaiah 5:10 — A Failed Harvest**

**“Ten acres of vineyard will yield only a few gallons of wine, and a large amount of seed will yield only a small measure of grain.”**

The land produces far less than expected.

This reverses normal blessing.

They wanted abundance through greed.

God sends scarcity.

#### **Cross References**

##### **Haggai 1:6**

The people planted much but harvested little, ate without satisfaction, drank without fullness, and earned wages that seemed to disappear.

##### **Leviticus 26:20**

God warned that persistent rebellion would make human labor fruitless because the land would not yield its produce.

##### **Deuteronomy 28:38**

Israel could sow much seed yet gather little because judgment would consume the expected harvest.

#### **Spiritual Principle**

More possessions do not guarantee more satisfaction.

# **XI. WOE TO THOSE CONTROLLED BY DRINK**

## **Isaiah 5:11 — Chasing Strong Drink**

**“Woe to those who rise early in the morning to chase after strong drink, who stay up late at night inflamed with wine.”**

Their entire day revolves around intoxication.

Morning:

Drink.

Night:

Drink.

Pleasure has become bondage.

### **Cross References**

#### **Proverbs 23:29**

Scripture asks who experiences sorrow, conflict, complaints, unnecessary wounds, and clouded eyes because of destructive drinking.

#### **Proverbs 23:30**

The answer is those who linger over wine and continually seek stronger drink.

#### **Amos 6:6**

The self-indulgent drink excessively and use expensive luxuries while remaining unconcerned about the spiritual ruin around them.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Pleasure becomes slavery when it begins controlling the schedule, appetite, judgment, and priorities of life.

# **XII. THEIR PARTIES HAVE EVERYTHING EXCEPT GOD**

## **Isaiah 5:12 — Music Without Spiritual Awareness**

**“They have harps and lyres, tambourines, flutes, and wine at their feasts, but they pay no attention to the Lord’s work, and they do not see what His hands have done.”**

Their parties have:

Music.

Instruments.

Wine.

Entertainment.

What is missing?

Attention to God.

They are spiritually distracted by pleasure.

### **Cross References**

#### **Amos 6:5**

The self-indulgent entertain themselves with music while imagining themselves secure.

#### **Amos 6:6**

They drink and enjoy luxury but refuse to grieve over the spiritual destruction of God’s people.

#### **Psalms 28:5**

Because people refuse to consider the Lord’s works and what His hands have done, they place themselves under judgment.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Enjoyment becomes dangerous when it makes us spiritually blind.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

A life can be full of entertainment and empty of awareness of God.

# **XIII. GOD’S PEOPLE GO INTO EXILE FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE**

## **Isaiah 5:13 — Ignorance With Consequences**

**“Therefore My people will go into exile for lack of knowledge. Their nobles will die of hunger, and the masses will be parched with thirst.”**

This is not lack of information alone.

It is rejection of the knowledge of God.

They had:

Law.

Prophets.

Warnings.

But refused understanding.

### **Cross References**

#### **Hosea 4:6**

God says His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because they rejected His truth and refused faithful instruction.

#### **Hosea 4:1**

God charges the land because truth, faithful love, and knowledge of Him have disappeared.

#### **Jeremiah 4:22**

God describes His people as foolish because they do not know Him; they are clever in doing evil but do not know how to do good.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Rejecting truth eventually produces consequences.

# **XIV. THE GRAVE OPENS WIDE**

## **Isaiah 5:14 — Death Swallows the Proud**

**“Therefore the grave has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth wide. Into it will descend their nobles, their multitudes, their noisy revelers, and all who celebrate with joy.”**

The image is frightening.

The grave is pictured as expanding.

It swallows:

Nobles.

Crowds.

Revelers.

Those who thought the party would never end.

## **Cross References**

### **Proverbs 27:20**

Death and destruction are never satisfied, just as human desire can continually demand more.

### **Habakkuk 2:5**

The proud person is pictured as enlarging desire like the grave, never satisfied with what has already been obtained.

### **Numbers 16:30**

In Korah's rebellion, the ground opened and swallowed rebels alive as a dramatic act of divine judgment.

## **Spiritual Principle**

A life devoted entirely to pleasure cannot escape mortality.

# **XV. HUMAN PRIDE WILL BE BROUGHT LOW**

## **Isaiah 5:15 — The Arrogant Humbled**

**“People will be brought low, everyone humbled; the eyes of the arrogant brought down.”**

This continues the theme from Isaiah 2.

Human pride rises.

God brings it low.

## **Cross References**

### **Proverbs 16:18**

Pride prepares the way for destruction, and arrogance comes before a fall.

### **1 Peter 5:5**

God opposes the proud but gives grace to those who humble themselves.

### **1 Peter 5:6**

Believers are called to humble themselves under God's mighty hand so that He may exalt them at the proper time.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Humility chosen today is better than humiliation forced tomorrow.

## **XVI. GOD IS EXALTED THROUGH JUSTICE**

### **Isaiah 5:16 — The Holy God Shows Himself Holy**

**“But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by His justice, and the Holy God will show Himself holy by His righteousness.”**

Human beings are humbled.

God is exalted.

His judgment reveals:

Justice.

Holiness.

Righteousness.

### **Cross References**

#### **Leviticus 10:3**

God declares that those who approach Him must recognize His holiness and that His glory must be honored before the people.

#### **Ezekiel 38:23**

God says He will demonstrate His greatness and holiness so that the nations recognize who He is.

#### **Psalms 99:4**

God is a powerful King who loves justice and establishes what is right.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God's holiness is revealed both through mercy and through righteous judgment.

### **Key Truth**

God never becomes unjust in order to appear loving.

# **XVII. THE RUINS OF THE RICH BECOME PASTURE**

## **Isaiah 5:17 — Sheep Among the Ruins**

**“Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture; lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.”**

The once wealthy estates become abandoned.

Sheep graze where:

Luxury.

Power.

Greed.

Once dominated.

### **Cross References**

#### **Zephaniah 2:6**

Places once occupied by proud cities will become grazing land for shepherds and flocks.

#### **Micah 7:14**

God is asked to shepherd His people and feed them in good pasture under His care.

#### **Ezekiel 34:14**

God promises to feed His flock in good pasture and provide them with safe grazing places.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Human monuments to greed do not last forever.

# **XVIII. WOE TO THOSE WHO DRAG SIN BEHIND THEM**

## **Isaiah 5:18 — Ropes of Wickedness**

**“Woe to those who drag their sins along with cords of deceit, who pull wickedness with ropes like a cart.”**

This is powerful imagery.

They do not merely fall into sin.

They:

Drag it.

Pull it.

Attach themselves to it.

They work to carry wickedness forward.

## **Cross References**

### **Proverbs 5:22**

The wicked person becomes trapped by his own sins and held by the cords created by his wrongdoing.

### **Jeremiah 5:25**

The people's sins have held back good things and separated them from blessings they might otherwise have enjoyed.

### **Hosea 11:4**

God says He drew His people with cords of kindness and bands of love, treating them tenderly rather than oppressively.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Repeated sin can become a bondage we ourselves strengthen.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Sin first appears as something you carry.

Eventually it becomes something that carries you where you never intended to go.

# **XIX. THE PEOPLE MOCK GOD'S WARNING**

## **Isaiah 5:19 — “Let God Hurry”**

**“They mock, saying, ‘Let God hurry and do His work so we can see it! Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come true, so we may know it!’”**

The people have moved beyond disobedience.

Now they mock.

They challenge God:

Do it.

Show us.

Prove it.

They treat divine warning as entertainment.

### **Cross References**

#### **2 Peter 3:3**

Peter warns that mockers will come, following their own desires and ridiculing God's promises.

#### **2 Peter 3:4**

They will ask where the promised coming is and use apparent delay as an excuse for unbelief.

#### **Jeremiah 17:15**

Jeremiah's hearers mockingly ask where the Lord's threatened word is and challenge it to come true.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God's patience should never be mistaken for inability.

## **XX. WOE TO THOSE WHO REVERSE MORALITY**

### **Isaiah 5:20 — Calling Evil Good**

**“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.”**

This is one of Isaiah's strongest moral warnings.

The people do not merely practice evil.

They rename it.

Moral language is reversed.

Evil becomes:

Good.

Good becomes:

Evil.

Darkness becomes:

Light.

### **Cross References**

#### **Malachi 2:17**

The people weary God by treating evildoers as though they were good and by questioning whether God truly judges rightly.

**Proverbs 17:15**

God condemns both the person who declares the guilty innocent and the one who declares the innocent guilty.

**Micah 3:2**

Corrupt leaders are described as people who hate what is good and love what is evil.

**Spiritual Principle**

One of the deepest forms of rebellion is changing the labels while keeping the sin.

**Key Truth**

Truth does not change merely because culture changes vocabulary.

## **XXI. WOE TO THE SELF-PROCLAIMED WISE**

### **Isaiah 5:21 — Wise in Their Own Eyes**

**“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.”**

Self-confidence has become intellectual pride.

They do not merely think.

They believe they cannot be corrected.

**Cross References**

**Proverbs 3:7**

Do not consider yourself wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

**Proverbs 26:12**

There is more hope for a fool than for a person who is convinced of his own wisdom.

**Romans 12:16**

Believers are instructed not to become proud or wise in their own estimation but to live humbly with others.

**Spiritual Principle**

Wisdom begins when we recognize that we can be wrong.

## **XXII. THEY ARE HEROES AT DRINKING**

### **Isaiah 5:22 — A Perverted Definition of Greatness**

**“Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and champions at mixing drinks.”**

Isaiah uses sarcasm.

Heroes?

Champions?

Not in:

Courage.

Justice.

Faithfulness.

But drinking.

The culture celebrates the wrong achievements.

### **Cross References**

#### **Proverbs 20:1**

Wine can mock and strong drink can produce disorder, and the person controlled by them does not walk wisely.

#### **Proverbs 23:20**

Do not join those whose lives are dominated by excessive drinking and indulgence.

#### **Proverbs 23:21**

Drunkenness and uncontrolled appetite produce poverty, laziness, and ruin.

### **Spiritual Principle**

A culture reveals its values by the people it calls heroes.

## **XXIII. JUSTICE IS SOLD FOR A BRIBE**

### **Isaiah 5:23 — Guilty Acquitted, Innocent Condemned**

**“Who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.”**

The moral reversal of verse 20 enters the courtroom.

Those with money can manipulate justice.

The innocent suffer.

The guilty escape.

## **Cross References**

### **Exodus 23:8**

God forbids judges from accepting bribes because gifts can blind clear judgment and corrupt the words of righteous people.

### **Proverbs 17:15**

Declaring the guilty innocent or condemning the righteous is detestable before God.

### **Micah 3:11**

Judges take bribes, religious leaders serve for personal gain, and yet they falsely assume God's presence guarantees their safety.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Justice that can be purchased is no longer justice.

# **XXIV. REJECTING GOD'S WORD BRINGS DESTRUCTION**

## **Isaiah 5:24 — Roots Rot and Blossoms Blow Away**

**“Therefore, as fire devours stubble and flames consume dry grass, so their roots will rot and their blossoms will blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”**

Isaiah identifies the root issue.

They rejected:

God's law.

God's Word.

That rejection produces destruction at both ends of the plant.

Roots:

Rot.

Blossoms:

Disappear.

Nothing remains secure.

## **Cross References**

### **Malachi 4:1**

The coming day of judgment is compared to a burning furnace in which arrogant wickedness becomes like dry stubble.

### **Matthew 3:12**

John the Baptist describes God separating the grain from the chaff and burning what is worthless with unquenchable fire.

### **Amos 2:4**

Judah is judged because the people rejected the Lord's law, refused His commands, and followed falsehood.

## **Spiritual Principle**

The visible collapse begins with invisible rejection of truth.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

When God's Word is despised at the root, corruption eventually appears in the fruit.

# **XXV. GOD'S ANGER REMAINS AGAINST PERSISTENT REBELLION**

## **Isaiah 5:25 — His Hand Is Still Raised**

**“Therefore the Lord's anger burns against His people; He has raised His hand against them and struck them down. The mountains shake, and dead bodies lie like refuse in the streets. Yet for all this, His anger is not turned away; His hand is still raised to strike.”**

Judgment has already begun.

Yet rebellion remains so serious that further judgment follows.

The imagery is severe because sin is severe.

## **Cross References**

### **Deuteronomy 29:24**

Other nations would ask why the Lord brought such devastating judgment upon the land.

### **Deuteronomy 29:25**

The answer would be that the people abandoned their covenant with the Lord and turned away from faithful obedience.

### **Amos 4:10**

God describes severe judgments sent as warnings, yet repeatedly says the people still did not return to Him.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Persistent rebellion can continue even under warning.

## **XXVI. GOD SUMMONS A DISTANT NATION**

### **Isaiah 5:26 — The Army Comes Swiftly**

**“He lifts up a banner for the nations far away; He whistles for them from the ends of the earth. They come swiftly and speedily.”**

God is sovereign even over nations Judah fears.

He can summon them as instruments of judgment.

The image is effortless:

God whistles.

They come.

### **Cross References**

#### **Habakkuk 1:6**

God announces that He is raising up a fierce foreign nation to move across lands and seize territories.

#### **Deuteronomy 28:49**

Israel was warned that rebellion could bring a distant nation swiftly against them like an eagle descending upon prey.

#### **Jeremiah 5:15**

God warns that He will bring a powerful and ancient nation from far away against His rebellious people.

### **Spiritual Principle**

World powers are never outside God's sovereignty.

# **XXVII. THE INVADING ARMY IS FULLY PREPARED**

## **Isaiah 5:27 — No One Grows Tired**

**“Not one of them grows tired or stumbles; no one slumbers or sleeps. Their belts are tight, their sandals strapped on.”**

The army is pictured as:

Alert.

Disciplined.

Prepared.

Unstoppable.

There is no weakness in the advancing force.

### **Cross References**

#### **Deuteronomy 28:49**

God warned that a distant nation could descend rapidly against Israel like an eagle.

#### **Deuteronomy 28:50**

The invading nation would be fierce, showing little respect for age and little compassion for vulnerability.

#### **Joel 2:7**

An invading army is pictured as disciplined warriors running forward without breaking formation.

### **Spiritual Principle**

When judgment finally arrives, opportunities previously ignored may be gone.

# **XXVIII. THEIR WEAPONS ARE READY**

## **Isaiah 5:28 — Bows Strung and Wheels Like a Whirlwind**

**“Their arrows are sharp, all their bows strung. Their horses’ hooves are like flint; their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.”**

Everything about the army communicates:

Speed.

Strength.

Readiness.

Danger.

## **Cross References**

### **Jeremiah 5:16**

The enemy's weapons are described as deadly, and its warriors as powerful.

### **Habakkuk 1:8**

The invading horses are described as swift and fierce, moving rapidly toward their prey.

### **Habakkuk 1:9**

The army advances violently and gathers captives with overwhelming speed.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God's warnings are merciful because judgment, once unleashed, can move quickly.

# **XXIX. THE ENEMY SEIZES ITS PREY**

## **Isaiah 5:29 — Like a Lion**

**“Their roar is like that of a lion; they roar like young lions. They growl and seize their prey; they carry it off with no one to rescue.”**

The army is compared to:

A lion.

Young lions.

Once prey is caught:

No rescuer appears.

Judah's false securities cannot deliver.

## **Cross References**

### **Jeremiah 5:6**

Because of persistent rebellion, destructive enemies are pictured like wild animals waiting to tear and devour.

### **1 Peter 5:8**

The devil is compared to a roaring lion searching for someone to devour, so believers are called to remain alert.

### **Amos 3:4**

A lion does not roar over prey without reason; the roar signals that something has been seized.

### **Spiritual Principle**

False security is most clearly exposed when the danger it promised to prevent finally arrives.

## **XXX. THE CHAPTER ENDS IN DARKNESS**

### **Isaiah 5:30 — Darkness and Distress**

**“In that day they will roar over them like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks across the land, there is only darkness and distress; even the light will be darkened by clouds.”**

Isaiah 5 begins with:

A fertile vineyard.

It ends with:

Darkness.

Distress.

Why?

The vineyard rejected its Owner.

The people rejected God’s Word.

The result is darkness.

### **Cross References**

#### **Amos 5:18**

Those who casually desire the day of the Lord are warned that for the rebellious it will be darkness rather than light.

#### **Amos 5:20**

The day of the Lord is described as deep darkness without brightness for those under judgment.

#### **Joel 2:2**

The approaching day of the Lord is pictured as a day of darkness, gloom, clouds, and overwhelming judgment.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Rejecting God’s light eventually leaves people in darkness.

## **Key Truth**

The chapter begins with opportunity and ends with consequence.

# **XXXI. THE SIX WOES OF ISAIAH 5**

## **1. Woe Against Greed — Verse 8**

They accumulate property without concern for others.

### **Lesson:**

Greed asks, “How much more can I get?” rather than, “How faithfully am I using what God has given?”

## **2. Woe Against Self-Indulgent Drunkenness — Verse 11**

Their lives revolve around pleasure.

### **Lesson:**

Anything pursued without restraint can become a master.

## **3. Woe Against Defiant Sin — Verse 18**

They drag sin behind them like a cart.

### **Lesson:**

Habitual sin becomes bondage.

## **4. Woe Against Moral Reversal — Verse 20**

They call evil good.

### **Lesson:**

Changing moral vocabulary cannot change moral reality.

## **5. Woe Against Intellectual Pride — Verse 21**

They are wise in their own eyes.

### **Lesson:**

A person who cannot be corrected cannot easily become wiser.

## **6. Woe Against Corrupt Justice — Verses 22–23**

Pleasure and bribery corrupt judgment.

### **Lesson:**

**When truth can be purchased, society loses justice.**

# **XXXII. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 5**

## **1. God Expects Fruit from His People**

Israel was carefully planted and cultivated.

### **Principle:**

**Grace should produce righteousness.**

## **2. God Has the Right to Examine the Fruit**

The vineyard belongs to Him.

### **Principle:**

**God does not merely ask whether we are planted; He asks what we are producing.**

## **3. Greed Destroys Community**

House joins house.

Field joins field.

Others are pushed aside.

### **Principle:**

**Possession without justice becomes oppression.**

## **4. Pleasure Can Blind the Soul**

Music and feasting consume their attention.

**Principle:**

**Pleasure is dangerous when it makes God irrelevant.**

## **5. Sin Becomes Bondage**

People drag sin with ropes.

**Principle:**

**What begins voluntarily can become enslaving.**

## **6. Moral Confusion Is Serious Rebellion**

Evil is called good.

**Principle:**

**Truth cannot be reversed by popular opinion.**

## **7. God's Holiness Will Prevail**

People are humbled.

God is exalted.

**Principle:**

**God's standards do not fall when human standards fall.**

## **8. Judgment Can Come Swiftly**

The distant army arrives quickly.

**Principle:**

**God's patience should lead to repentance before consequences arrive.**

# **XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT FRUITFULNESS**

The vineyard had every opportunity.

God expected:

Justice.

Righteousness.

That is fruit.

Fruitfulness means God's grace becomes visible through changed life.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The question is not only:

“What has God given me?”

The question is:

“What am I producing with what God has given me?”

## **XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT GREED**

Greed expands without satisfaction.

House.

Then another house.

Field.

Then another field.

Greed says:

More.

More.

More.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Greed has no natural stopping point because possessions cannot satisfy the spiritual hunger beneath it.

## **XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT PLEASURE**

Music is not condemned.

Food is not condemned.

Celebration is not condemned.

The problem is:

They ignore God.

### **Key Truth**

A good gift becomes spiritually dangerous when enjoying it causes us to forget the Giver.

## **XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT KNOWLEDGE**

Verse 13 says the people perish for lack of knowledge.

They had information.

What they lacked was obedient knowledge of God.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Biblical knowledge is not merely information retained.

It is truth received, believed, and lived.

## **XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE**

Pride appears in several forms:

Economic pride.

Intellectual pride.

Moral pride.

Social pride.

God brings it all low.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Pride changes clothing, but its heart remains the same:

“I do not need God to tell me how to live.”

## **XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT MORAL TRUTH**

Verse 20 is central.

Good and evil are not created by:

Votes.

Trends.

Preferences.

Human language.

God determines moral truth.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Calling darkness light may change the label on the darkness.

It does not make the darkness shine.

## **XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE**

God expected justice.

Instead:

The poor are oppressed.

Land is hoarded.

Judges accept bribes.

The innocent suffer.

### **Spiritual Principle**

A society cannot claim righteousness while justice is sold to the highest bidder.

## **XL. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S WORD**

Verse 24 gives the root problem:

They rejected God's law.

They despised His Word.

Everything else grows from that rejection.

### **Key Truth**

When God's Word loses authority, human desire rushes to fill the empty throne.

## **XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 5 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT**

Judgment comes because God is:

Holy.

Just.

Righteous.

It is not uncontrolled anger.

It is the response of the Holy One to persistent rebellion.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God's patience is long.

It is not permission.

## **XLII. THE VINEYARD PRINCIPLE**

A vineyard requires:

Planting.

Pruning.

Protection.

Water.

Cultivation.

But ultimately:

Fruit.

God is not cultivating lives merely so they can look religious.

He seeks fruit.

## **Spiritual Principle**

The purpose of cultivation is fruitfulness.

## **XLIII. WILD GRAPES**

The vineyard produces something.

But it is the wrong fruit.

That distinction matters.

Activity is not necessarily fruitfulness.

A person can be:

Busy.

Religious.

Successful.

Visible.

And still produce bitter fruit.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Never confuse activity for God with fruit that resembles God.

## **XLIV. “WHAT MORE COULD I HAVE DONE?”**

God’s question in verse 4 should cause serious reflection.

What has God given?

Scripture.

Grace.

Conviction.

Teaching.

Prayer.

Fellowship.

Opportunities.

Warnings.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God's blessings create responsibility.

## **XLV. DRAGGING SIN WITH ROPES**

Verse 18 pictures intentional attachment to sin.

Some people do not merely stumble.

They organize life around keeping sin close.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

You cannot walk freely with God while deliberately tying yourself to what God tells you to release.

## **XLVI. WHEN PEOPLE MOCK GOD'S PATIENCE**

Verse 19 shows people daring God to act.

They interpret delay as weakness.

Scripture repeatedly warns against this mistake.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Delayed judgment is an opportunity for repentance, not evidence that judgment is impossible.

## **XLVII. CALLING EVIL GOOD**

Moral confusion becomes especially dangerous when wrong is not merely tolerated but celebrated as right.

Isaiah says:

Woe.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

When a culture loses the ability to distinguish light from darkness, it loses the ability to recognize where it is going.

## **XLVIII. WISE IN THEIR OWN EYES**

Verse 21 addresses self-sufficient reasoning.

The problem is not intelligence.

The problem is refusing correction.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Real wisdom remains teachable before God.

## **XLIX. THE HOLY GOD WILL BE EXALTED**

Humanity is humbled.

God is exalted.

That is the direction of the chapter.

### **Key Truth**

History does not end with human pride having the final word.

God's holiness does.

## **L. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY**

### **Question 1**

What does the vineyard represent?

The vineyard represents the house of Israel, with Judah described as God's pleasant planting.

### **Question 2**

What did God expect from His vineyard?

He expected the fruit of justice and righteousness.

### **Question 3**

What did He find instead?

He found oppression and heard the cries of people suffering injustice.

### **Question 4**

What does verse 4 teach about God's care?

It teaches that God had faithfully provided everything necessary for fruitfulness.

## **Question 5**

What happens when the vineyard refuses to produce good fruit?

Its protection is removed and it becomes desolate.

## **Question 6**

What is wrong with adding house to house and field to field?

The context condemns greedy accumulation that pushes others aside and turns property into an instrument of oppression.

## **Question 7**

What is wrong with the parties in verses 11–12?

The central problem is that pleasure consumes their attention while they ignore God and His work.

## **Question 8**

What does it mean to drag sin with cords?

It pictures deliberately remaining attached to wickedness until sin becomes a heavy bondage.

## **Question 9**

What does calling evil good mean?

It means reversing God's moral categories and presenting wrongdoing as righteousness.

## **Question 10**

Why is being wise in our own eyes dangerous?

Because pride makes correction difficult and causes human judgment to replace dependence upon God.

## **Question 11**

Why does God judge the courts?

Because judges accept bribes, protect the guilty, and deny justice to innocent people.

## **Question 12**

What is the root reason for judgment in verse 24?

The people rejected God's law and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.

## **Question 13**

Who summons the invading army?

God does.

Isaiah presents the foreign power as operating under God's sovereign judgment.

## **Question 14**

How does the chapter end?

It ends in darkness and distress as the consequences of rebellion finally arrive.

# **LI. PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Isaiah 5 asks several searching questions.

## **What Fruit Is My Life Producing?**

Justice?

Righteousness?

Love?

Holiness?

Or:

Bitterness?

Selfishness?

Pride?

## **What Has God Invested in Me?**

How much truth have I received?

How many warnings?

How many opportunities?

What am I doing with them?

## **Is Greed Controlling Me?**

When is enough:

Enough?

## **Does Pleasure Distract Me from God?**

Can I enjoy good things without forgetting Him?

## **Am I Dragging a Sin I Should Release?**

What have I tied to myself?

## **Have I Redefined Anything God Has Clearly Defined?**

Am I calling:

Evil good?

Good evil?

## **Am I Wise in My Own Eyes?**

Can Scripture correct me?

Can godly counsel correct me?

## **Do I Care About Justice?**

Do I treat people differently based on:

Money?

Influence?

Status?

## **Do I Take God's Warnings Seriously?**

Or do I assume His patience means He will never act?

# **LII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE**

## **“God Cultivates His People Because He Intends His People to Bear Fruit”**

God did not plant the vineyard as decoration.

He wanted fruit.

He:

Prepared it.

Protected it.

Cultivated it.

Then:

He looked for grapes.

**Principle:**

**Every blessing from God carries an opportunity to produce something that honors God.**

## **LIII. GOD LOOKED FOR JUSTICE**

This phrase reveals God's concern for public righteousness.

He did not merely ask:

Did they attend worship?

Did they sing?

Did they sacrifice?

He looked at how people treated one another.

**Spiritual Principle**

Faith that never affects justice has not produced the fruit Isaiah describes.

## **LIV. GOD LOOKED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Righteousness includes a life aligned with God.

Instead of righteousness:

God hears cries.

Someone is being hurt.

Someone is oppressed.

Someone is denied justice.

**Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Your spirituality is partly revealed by what happens to other people when they encounter your character.

## **LV. THE DANGER OF A LIFE BUILT ONLY AROUND PLEASURE**

The people have:

Music.

Parties.

Wine.

Entertainment.

But no awareness of God.

A life can be:

Full.

Busy.

Exciting.

And spiritually empty.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Do not let noise become a substitute for meaning.

## **LVI. TRUTH DOES NOT NEED OUR PERMISSION TO REMAIN TRUE**

Verse 20 warns against redefining morality.

Human beings can:

Rename.

Reframe.

Reinterpret.

But they cannot make darkness become light.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Truth is not determined by how many people agree with it.

## **LVII. REJECTING THE WORD DESTROYS THE ROOT**

Verse 24 says:

Roots rot.

Blossoms disappear.

Why?

God's Word has been rejected.

Roots determine what eventually appears above ground.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Long before public collapse becomes visible, private rejection of truth may already be destroying the roots.

## **LVIII. THE ARMY GOD WHISTLES FOR**

The chapter ends with a striking demonstration of God's sovereignty.

A distant nation appears powerful.

Yet Isaiah says:

God calls it.

The empire believes it moves by its own strength.

God remains sovereign over history.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The strongest nation on earth is still not stronger than the God who rules history.

## **LIX. FINAL APPLICATION**

Isaiah Chapter 5 begins with love.

That is important.

God lovingly plants a vineyard.

He does not begin with destruction.

He begins with:

Preparation.

Provision.

Protection.

Expectation.

Then He looks for fruit.

That gives the chapter its force.

God had been good to His people.

Their rebellion was not caused by lack of divine faithfulness.

They responded to grace with:

Greed.

Pleasure.

Arrogance.

Injustice.

Moral confusion.

Rejection of God's Word.

The same question comes to us:

What are we doing with what God has given us?

If God has given:

Truth.

Grace.

Opportunity.

Teaching.

Conviction.

Forgiveness.

Then what fruit is growing?

God still looks for:

Justice.

Righteousness.

Faithfulness.

Holiness.

Do not become a vineyard full of religious leaves but bitter grapes.

Isaiah also warns us against the progression of sin.

Sin may begin as:

A desire.

Then become:

A habit.

Then:

A rope.

Then:

A cart being dragged through life.

Then people begin:

Defending it.

Mocking correction.

Renaming it.

Calling evil:

Good.

That is dangerous.

Do not wait until sin must be defended before surrendering it.

Break the cord early.

Listen to God's Word.

Remain teachable.

Reject the pride that says:

"I know better."

Reject the culture that says:

"Truth is whatever we decide."

God remains:

Holy.

Just.

Righteous.

Isaiah 5 also reminds us that judgment may appear delayed.

But delay is mercy.

The people mocked:

"Let God hurry."

Eventually:

He did.

The distant army came.

Therefore:

Do not challenge God's patience.

Receive it as an opportunity to repent.

And remember the central image:

You are not merely occupying soil.

God desires fruit.

So ask:

What is growing?

What is God receiving from the life He has cultivated?

Let the answer increasingly become:

Justice.

Righteousness.

Truth.

Humility.

Faithfulness.

Fruit worthy of the One who planted the vineyard.

## **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for planting, protecting, correcting, and caring for Your people.

Thank You for every blessing You have placed into our lives.

Forgive us when You have looked for good fruit and found:

Pride.

Greed.

Selfishness.

Bitterness.

Injustice.

Disobedience.

Father, make our lives fruitful.

Produce in us:

Righteousness.

Justice.

Mercy.

Faithfulness.

Holiness.

Love.

Teach us not merely to receive Your blessings but to respond to them faithfully.

Guard us from greed.

Keep possessions from possessing us.

Teach us contentment.

Protect us from building life around pleasure while ignoring Your work.

Let us enjoy Your gifts without forgetting the Giver.

Father, break every cord of sin.

If we are dragging something You have commanded us to release, give us strength to let it go.

Do not allow habitual sin to become deeper bondage.

Keep our hearts sensitive to Your correction.

Protect us from mocking Your warnings.

Protect us from confusing patience with permission.

Give us repentance while mercy still calls.

Father, guard our minds from moral confusion.

Help us never call:

Evil good.

Good evil.

Darkness light.

Light darkness.

Anchor us in Your truth.

Keep us from being wise in our own eyes.

Make us:

Teachable.

Humble.

Correctable.

Dependent upon Your Word.

Father, establish justice.

Protect innocent people from corrupt systems.

Give leaders integrity.

Keep money, status, and influence from purchasing decisions that should belong to truth.

Remind us that You are the Holy One of Israel.

You will be exalted through righteousness and justice.

May Your Word take deep root in us.

May our roots remain healthy.

May our blossoms remain.

May our fruit honor You.

When You look at the vineyard of our lives, may You find the fruit You desire.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## Key Verse

**“For the vineyard of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are His pleasant planting. He looked for justice, but found only oppression; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.” — Isaiah 5:7**

## Central Truth

**God faithfully cultivates His people and rightly expects the fruit of justice and righteousness, but persistent greed, self-indulgence, defiant sin, moral reversal, pride, corruption, and rejection of His Word bring judgment because the Holy God will always uphold truth and righteousness.**

## Isaiah 5 in One Sentence

**Isaiah compares Israel and Judah to a carefully cultivated vineyard that produced bitter fruit, then pronounces judgment upon greed, drunkenness, defiant sin, moral confusion, pride, and corrupted justice, warning that rejection of God’s Word ultimately brings darkness and judgment while God Himself remains exalted in holiness and righteousness.**

