

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 10 (#911055)
WEEK 2 (#911311)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 10 – Woe To The Wicked!

FRIDAY

OPEN

What's going to happen to people who seduce others to do what is wrong, who tell them there's nothing wrong with it? What's going to happen to those who call evil good and good evil? Well they say, "Man you're crazy. You're crazy. You can do it. You can try it. It's all right. Come on, join me." And what's going to happen to people who seduce others to take drugs or to take alcohol with evil intent? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

We've come to Isaiah 5. It's a very, very sobering chapter, Beloved. It is not an easy message. It is a chapter that is filled with woes. And as I told you, those woes appear more in Isaiah than any other prophet because God is laying out the sin of His people. And part of the sin of His people is the way people are "...call[ing] evil good and good evil...", the way they're substituting bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. (**Isaiah 5:20**) And we're going to look at that. We're going to see, how do you substitute sweet for

bitter and bitter for sweet? Well I think it has to do with seducing people to take things that they say, “Oh, come on man, that’s sweet.” I mean that’s a term that my grandson uses. One of my grandsons uses all the time. “O Sweet Mimi.” But he’s not talking about evil. So we’re looking at Isaiah chapter 5. Now this chapter opens up with a song, a song of “**...my well-beloved....**” (Isaiah 5:1) I promise you I will not sing you that song. And I do want to read it and I want you to see who is, “My Well-Beloved.” If you’re doing the study along with us, and I pray that you are, or if you have just discovered “Precepts for Life”, I want you to know that our passion is to establish you in God’s Word. Because our goal for you is for you to become a model, an exemplary follower of Jesus Christ who studies the Bible inductively. That means you go straight to the Word of God yourself to discover truth. Who views the world biblically? That means that you look at everything in life through the lens, the glasses of God’s Word, and who serve the church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. You know God has raised up the church. The church is the Bride of Christ. The church meets in various congregations and various names of denominations, but it is that which is comprised of believers in Jesus Christ, and God loves the church. It’s His bride. And so you and I, and my goal and our goal at Precept Ministries International is to so minister to the church that we help the pastor to become the hero that he should be and that he can be, and that you ought to honor him as. And then to get behind that pastor who is the hero and help him accomplish God’s calling on his life as he shepherds the flock of God. So it is to help people serve the church faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. That’s our passion. Well as you study the Word of God we’re enabling you to do all of that, and that’s the purpose of this program. So one of the things that we told you to do in your study guide was to mark every reference to the “well-beloved.” Now before you ever marked it you ought to read chapter 5, verse 1 through chapter 2. I mean through verse 2, excuse me, until you understand who this is. And one of the ways that you do that is

you mark every reference to “well-beloved”, every noun, every pronoun, any synonym. And then what you do is, you look at everything that you marked and you see, “Oh, what is God telling me about the “well-beloved”?” Let’s do it. It says, **“Let me sing now for my well-beloved....” (Isaiah 5:1)** So it sounds like Isaiah is singing for his **“...well-beloved a song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. He dug...all around [it], [He] removed its stones...,”** He got rid of those heavy stones in that fertile ground, on that fertile hill. And it says, **“...And [He] planted it with the choicest vine...,”** the very best grape vine that He could find. And it says, **“...And He built a tower in the middle of it....” (Isaiah 5:5:1-2)** I’ve been in one of those towers. It’s incredible to go into that tower in the midst of that vineyard, in the midst of that field, which was a shelter, which was a place where you could go up and watch for any predators. Oh, when I went up in that tower and stood there I just was in awe and I was transported back to this time and I thought of this Scripture. **“...[He] also hewed out a wine vat in it....”** He went over and He dug out a wine vat where they would take the grapes and where they would trample out the grapes and they would hang on to this rope, and they would tread those grapes. **“...Then He expected...good grapes, but it produces only worthless ones.”** It says, **“And now...inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard.” (Isaiah 5:2-3)** Who’s the “Me”? It’s the “well-beloved”. He says, **“What more was there to do for My vineyard...,”** and you would mark it the same way, **“...that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: [I’m going to] remove its hedge....”** He says, **“...And it will be consumed....”** He says, **“...I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.” (Isaiah 5:4-5)** I’m going to take down the wall, the barrier, and people are going to come through and they’re just going to trample down My vineyard. He says, **“I will lay it waste; it will not be**

pruned or hoed....” And see, if it’s pruned then it produces more grapes. You can see this in many illustrations, but especially in John chapter 15. He says, **“...It will not be pruned or hoed, but briars and thorns will come up. I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it.” (Isaiah 5:6)** Who alone can do that? God. God. So if this is God then who’s the vineyard? It says in verse 7, **“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel....” (Isaiah 5:7)** In case you didn’t get it before, **“...the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel and the men of Judah His delightful plant....” (Isaiah 5:7)** Who is the well-beloved? He’s the Lord of hosts. Who’s the vineyard? It’s all of Israel. And who is this delightful plant in the midst of it? It is Judah. He says, **“...Thus He looked for justice, but behold, ...bloodshed; [He] looked for righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.” (Isaiah 5:7)** In other words, instead of people doing what’s right, here are people in absolute distress because of the iniquity that they are experiencing. Look at our nation. Listen to our nation. Listen to people. I love it when you write me. I love it when you e-mail me. I love hearing. I want to hear about your pain. I want to hear about your distress. I want to know so that I can take the Word of God and use it as the balm of Gilead (see Jeremiah 46:11) to minister to you, Precious One, because He can send His word and heal you and deliver you from all your distresses. But this is what He says. He says, **“...[I] looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but...a cry of distress.” (Isaiah 5:7)** When people are hurting, I have never seen people hurting more than I see them hurting now. And I think it’s because, like Israel we have turned our back on the precepts of God. And you, [Know it’s through His precepts that we get understanding and then hate every false way.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 119:104) But when we do not keep His precepts then God has to judge us. And so he says **“Woe....”** Here it is, the first of the number of them. Mark it. I mark it in red with a squiggly line like a tornado cloud. And then I color it brown. **“Woe to those who...,”** listen carefully, **“...[who] add house to house and join**

field to field, until there's no more room...." In other words, you can't get enough of building. You can't get enough of adding to your property. You're so materialistic, **"...So that you have to live alone in the midst of the land!" (Isaiah 5:8)** In other words, you just keep heaping up for you, for you, for you, and there you are in all your riches and all your treasures alone in the land. **"In my ears....,"** Isaiah's speaking, **"...the LORD of hosts has sworn, 'Surely, many houses shall become desolate, even great and fine ones, without occupants.'"** (Isaiah 5:9) You're going to walk into these huge fine homes and there's going to be nobody home. God's whispering it in Isaiah's ear. **"For ten acres of [a] vineyard will [only yield] one bath of wine, and a homer of seed....,"** a lot of seed will only yield, **"...but an ephah of grain."** (Isaiah 5:10) In other words, you're going to be in trouble. There's not going to be enough food. "I'm going to deal with you because you're My vineyard, because you didn't do what you were supposed to do, so I'm going to have to deal with you." O Beloved, what is the answer? What is coming? We'll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

If you're going to disobey God, Precious One, you can know this: your life is going to be filled with woe. Oh, you may enjoy the pleasure of sin, but know this, they only last a short time. And there is bitterness in the end. Listen now in Isaiah chapter 5 as he brings these woes to our attention. Pay attention as I read and look at the text with me if you can so that it goes deep into your soul. Mark every "woe" and notice why the "woe" comes. I'm in Isaiah 5, **"Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink...."** They just want to grab the bottle and they want to start drinking and that's why they get up. **"...Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute....,"** or by good ole rock bands, **"...and by wine; but they do not pay attention....,"** listen carefully, **"...to**

the deeds of the LORD, nor do they consider the work of His hands.”
(Isaiah 5:11-12) In other words, they’re preoccupied with themselves and they’re in trouble ’cause they’re not thinking about doing the deeds of the Lord. They’re not concerned with the works of His hands. They’re concerned with their own works. They’re concerned with their own happiness. They’re concerned with their own passions, with heeding their own desires. He says, **“Therefore....”** When you find a “therefore” you want to mark it. I mark it with three red dots in the diagram of a triangle. A “therefore” is a term of conclusion. He says, **“Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge....”** (Isaiah 5:13) Next to this I’ve written Hosea chapter 4, verses 1 to 6, and you might want to write that down and you might want to read it later, if you didn’t do it in your homework, if you didn’t download the study guide and study along with me. But Hosea chapter 4, verses 1 through 6 says, [My people are perishing. They are being ruined because of a lack of knowledge of God.] (PARAPHRASE Hosea 4:6) You know what distresses me is, many times we go to these Bible studies, but what we want is Bible lite, l-i-t-e. We want it easy. We want it simple and we really don’t want to know the doctrine. We really don’t want to have to think. We really don’t want to be convicted or convinced of anything that has to do with holiness. We just want application and fluff so that we can be tickled, so that we can fall in love with our little teachers or whatever and not fall in love with God who is a holy God. We just want it easy. We want a way out of our problems and we just want application and not knowledge. Believe me it will not last. You’ve got to know God. He goes on to say, **“...Their honorable men are famished, ...their multitude is parched with thirst. Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure....”** Sheol is the netherworld. It’s speaking in their language of death. But they know that death is not laying silent in the grave. They know that there’s life after death. It says, **“...And Jerusalem’s splendor, her multitude, her din of revelry**

and the jubilant within her, descend into it.” (Isaiah 5:14) They are going down into death. He’s talking about a siege. They’re going to be hungry. They’re having their party, some of them and they’re perishing. I just asked my husband for a video series that I think is from BBC. And it’s called “The Fall of Eagles” and it is the story of the different families. That became the kings and rulers over Austria and over Russia and over England and Hungary. And you look at those rulers and you see what’s going on and then I made the mistake of buying, because it was only \$7.44 and I’m interested in Alexander the Great, and I bought the film that I think it’s, Stone, did on it. I was so sickened by the scene that they showed in there of immorality. I thought, “Why do you have to put that in there? What are you doing? You are seducing people to commit evil and that’s going to be on your hands.” You can tell the story without showing those pictures. You can let it be known without taking us into all that debauchery. I took the film and I threw it in the trash. I wouldn’t even give it to someone else. Well what did I tell you about the film? It shows all this revelry. It shows all this partying. It shows that there’s no recognition that there is a holy God in heaven and we are accountable to Him. It says, “**...The common man will be humbled...the man of importance abased, the eyes of the proud...will be abased. But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment....**” (Isaiah 5:15-16) When do you really see the holiness of God? When He judges sin. “**...And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness. Then the lambs will graze [together] ...in their pasture, and strangers will eat in the waste places of the wealthy. Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood....**” They’re bringing sin along and they’re calling it something other than it is. “**...And sin as if with cart ropes; who say, ‘Let Him make speed...,’**” let God make speed, “**...let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; ...let the purpose of the Holy One...draw near....**” You say, “God’s coming. Jesus is coming. Where is He? Let Him draw near.” I mean, the arrogance of it all. Mocking.

He says, “...And [let it] **come to pass, that we may know it!**”(Isaiah 5:16-19) Let God prove that He’s God. He’s spoken. That’s enough proof. He sent His Son. That’s enough proof. **“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil....” (Isaiah 5:20)** In other words, who say, “It’s all right.” The men that say, “Let’s go to bed.” I am so sick of these movies where all of a sudden it is just taken for granted that you go out and you go to bed. Where is marriage in all this? They’re calling it good and it is evil. It says, **“...Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20)** If I seduce another person and say, “Come on, this is sweet, try it. You’re going to like it.” And I’m introducing them to a drug, I’m introducing them to meth, I’m introducing them to a high, I’m introducing them to alcohol, woe be unto me who call bitter sweet and sweet bitter! He says, **“Woe to those that are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:21)** “Come on man, I know how to get this. I know how we can take that away from him.” **“Woe to those who are heroes in [mixing] wine and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!”** He says, **“Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble and [as] dry grass collapses into the flame, so their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust....”** Now here’s the conclusion of, not the chapter, but here’s the conclusion. **“...For they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts and [they have] despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. On this account [His anger] the anger of the Lord has burned against His people....” (Isaiah 5:22-25)** A righteous God’s anger burns against sin. That’s your precept for today. That’s what you need to remember and you need to avoid sin. God judges it.