

# Let's Worship God

20th-25th November 2023

Isaiah



Isaiah

# Isaiah

## **Monday - Isaiah 5:18-19 - Bad Fruit: Defiant Bravado**

We're looking at the third kind of bad fruit that Jehovah receives from his vineyard, as we see in the first seven verses of this chapter. When threatened with God's judgment, the wicked of Judah and Jerusalem go on to sin with more enthusiasm and defy God to do anything about it. If the people turn, if they have faith in God's promises of redemption, and they repent of their sin, this threatened disaster will not happen. That is always the case when there is repentance, because God gives the repentance. He honors that which He Himself has put in the heart of people, and He turns away from doing what He threatened.

What is the picture that we should have in our minds about those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity and sin as with a cart rope? The words in the Hebrew will work for several kinds of images in our mind. One would be as though these stout sinners are pulling the sin to themselves. It is as though you might cast out a fishing line, and then when the fish bites, you reel it in. The people continue even when threatened with judgment; they work hard at pulling the sin to themselves. Or it might be like the picture of oxen hitched to sin. Even though they are warned to stop and, in fact, to turn around, they continue in the way they are going with the sin hitched up ever more strongly, the harness more firmly and firmly bound to them. Or the image could be that they are bound to their sin and bound by their sin, so that their every move is more and more sin, and they cannot and do not even want to break the tie.

The pictures are not pleasant ones. These folks like their sin, and they are bound to it with ties, growing ties of affection and love, a perverted affection and love. But they cannot break these cords because they will not; and they will not, because as dead sinners, they cannot.

### **Questions**

1. What is the third kind of bad fruit?
2. What would God do if the people truly repented of their sin?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that our nation would come to repentance
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 65 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Isaiah

## **Tuesday - Isaiah 5:18-19 - Bad Fruit: Defiant Bravado - Part Two**

When reproved, this bad fruit of defiant bravado comes out even more strongly. One might think that the people who have fallen away and their leaders would be getting a little nervous, would be getting a little anxious, a little edgy, but you'd be wrong. That's not what's happening. Instead, like a defiant child, they dare God to do anything about it. They assert that God can't do anything to them. They assert that His sovereign will, His decree, His counsel is vain and empty. Hard judgment comes upon them in Isaiah's lifetime. There is a shattering invasion of the Assyrians who lap up all the land except for Jerusalem itself. Jerusalem is only saved through a miraculous intervention. Then, after God gives Judah breathing space and room to repent, He gives them a wonderfully godly king in the person of Josiah. Once Josiah is dead the people revert immediately to their apostasy. There is vast destruction and deportation by the Babylonians. God again delivers them. And in the time of Jesus Christ they reject, in the most ultimate way, the Word of God. They reject Him Who is the Word become flesh. Judgment comes upon them, through the destruction by the Romans.

Those who profess to be the people of God reject God, and they become rejected. So it happens, even today; societies that reject King Jesus and defy Him to do anything, can expect similar destruction. We need to give warning to others and to remember it ourselves that it's a very bad sign in any land that knows the Gospel when it continues into grosser and grosser sin and defies King Jesus to do anything about it. Let us pray that this bad fruit will wither and be replaced by the good fruit of our land turning to righteousness, our land covenanting to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray for revival, for God's church. Let us pray for reformation of our society, for in no other way can we escape punishment from God. Let us pray that God will have mercy upon us and exalt King Jesus in the land.

### **Questions**

1. What judgement comes upon the people of Judah and Jerusalem?
2. Will God judge those who reject King Jesus today?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for reformation and revival.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 66 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Isaiah

## **Wednesday - Isaiah 5:20 - Bad Fruit: Reversing Reality**

The word 'woe' means sadness, crying, and screaming. This is what comes to the bad fruit described in these verses. Today we look at the bad fruit of those who reverse reality. Woe to those who call evil good. Evil means that which is bad, which is wicked. These nasty people say that what are truly good things are really evil. And the evil, wicked things -- they're good. They also say that that which is light is dark, and that that which is dark is really light. They say that which is sweet is bitter, and you shouldn't like that. But that which really is bitter, they say is great, it's cool, you should like this. They reverse everything. They make everything backwards. That's terribly wicked. In fact, that goes back to the first sin in the world. That's what the devil said, when he was inside the serpent, to Eve.

All the creation tells of God, but it's a fallen creation. But even those who aren't believers know something about good and evil because they themselves bear within themselves the image of God. It's broken, it's messed up, it's marred. Yet one can still discern that the image of God is there. But that's all that people in the world had outside of Israel, outside of Judah. But with whom is Isaiah speaking? Not to those in the world. It's to Judah and Jerusalem. God provided His Word among them. It is God's Word which told them and tells us today what is good and what is evil.

The leaders and the people as a whole rejected the counsel of God in the Bible. They decided that that which was good was disgusting to them. They decided that evil was appealing. That which the Bible calls good was demeaning. To some, it was discriminatory, to others, it was a terrible thing. But that which was evil, that was cool, that was trendy. So it is stated by many today. Woe to them because they are saying exactly what the serpent did in the garden.

### **Questions**

1. What does woe mean?
2. What did the serpent say to Eve in the garden?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that we have the perfect Word of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 67 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Isaiah

## Thursday - Isaiah 5:20 - Bad Fruit: Reversing Reality - Part Two

In the Bible, both in the Old and New Testament, we frequently see good and evil compared to light and darkness. Just as light brings life, joy, sight, familiarity and safety, that which is good does the same thing. On the other hand, what does darkness bring? Well, since the fall anyway, darkness brings death. It brings blindness, it brings waywardness, it brings falling. Sadly, in Isaiah's day, people had drifted away from the light of God's Word, saying, 'What God has said is boring. What God has said will not really take care of us. We need to worship Him in a way that we think is better.' So they went to the golden calves. 'We need the help of Baal for our crops, we need the help of Ashtaroth for our baby animals, and to have children ourselves. Who cares if God says it's wrong?'

Frequently we see the images in Scripture of sweetness and bitterness. God's Word tells us to come and taste and see that the Lord is good. But often evil things are described as being bitter for the godly. Sadly, in Isaiah's time, and sadly, in our own time, to many people, what really is sweet, they say is bitter. God's good Word, they say, is a terrible thing. And what truly is bitter and that leads to death, they say, is sweet.

Flee from that which God hates, run away from it, and run to be rescued by Jesus! He alone can make you understand things correctly. He alone can deliver you from an evil conscience, from blind eyes, and a perverted taste. Come to Him for all good things. If not, woe will be yours, and maybe more quickly than you can imagine right now. That was the word to the people in Isaiah's time, and the word to a culture where the Gospel has been.

### Questions

1. How is light called dark and sweet called bitter today?
2. How do we stand against this reversal of reality?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would point people to the true light in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 68 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# Isaiah

## Friday - Isaiah 5:21 - Bad Fruit: Wise in Their Own Eyes

Now we come to the fifth of these bad fruit. Those that are so wise in their own eyes, who flatter themselves about their own intelligence and cleverness and wisdom. They weren't around merely in Isaiah's time. They're around even today. You can find them all over the place. You find a lot of them in academia, you find them in the media, news, and entertainment. You can find them all over the Internet. And most astonishingly and horrifyingly -- maybe it shouldn't be because that was the case in Isaiah's day -- you find them in the church. Instead of being faithful shepherds, they're wolves. What a horrifying thing. There is great danger, sadly, for the leaders of the church. Far too often they become wise in their own eyes. Instead of being God's agents of transformation, as they apply the Scripture to the world and call the world to surrender to Jesus Christ, they end up attempting to conform to the world, saying, we're engaging the culture and the times. They are pursuing a course that seems to them very wise, but it is not according to true wisdom.

Where do we find that true wisdom? The scriptures testify that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of Jehovah. Wisdom is based upon proper application of the truth. Where is truth? God's Word, the Bible, is truth.

Those who are wise in their own eyes are proud and unteachable. They think they already know what is good, so they will not listen to anything contrary. There is the utmost contempt for those who truly are wise, who know the wisdom of God and the power of God in Jesus as revealed in and through the Bible.

What can you do for someone that you know who is like this? All you can do, but it may be used by the sovereign God, is pray for them. They are invincible to your reasoning, and no more than a leopard can change its spots into the stripes of a tiger can they change themselves. But though they be invincible to themselves or to your argumentation, they are not to the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for them.

### Questions

1. Where is true wisdom?
2. What are those who are wise in their own eyes like?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for those who you may know who are "wise in their own eyes".
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 69 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Isaiah

## **Saturday - Isaiah 5:22-23 - Bad Fruit: Perverting Authority**

Drunkenness, yes, is condemned again in these verses, and it is condemned throughout Scripture. But there is a deeper thing here still. These aren't ordinary people drinking and drinking to excess. These are the leaders in the community, these are the magistrates. In the Bible, God calls men into positions of rule, power, authority, responsibility, and duty. They are put in these places, so that they will shepherd and lead those under their care, so that God will be glorified. Those who are in the position of authority can't command you in areas that they're not allowed to. However, where all is being exercised properly, where they are ruling in a godly way, those under them must obey. For all those in positions of authority, one of their great responsibilities is protection. The magistrate is to protect. He is to be mighty in promoting justice, in protecting people from criminals and from the wicked within, and he is to be valiant in defending from enemies on the outside. That's not what we see here. These magistrates, these rulers in Jerusalem and Judah are being mighty, but not mighty to protect people from the wicked. They are mighty to drink. But there is worse. They're seeing their power as a way to get more things. They justify the wicked. In their courts, they ignore his sin and say he is innocent. They justify the wicked for bribe and take away justice from the righteous man.

Are you in a place of rule, power, and authority? You're given that position by God, so you can lead God's people into more Godliness, more kingdom faithfulness, more usefulness for Jesus Christ. You are not given that rule, so you can lord it over them. You are not given that authority, so you can be on a power trip. You are not given that power, in order that it be abused. Should you do this, there will be woe. If you ignore your responsibility and duty, Jesus will hold you to it.

### **Question**

1. What is the bad fruit described here?
2. What is your responsibility if you are in a position of authority?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

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! Isaiah 5:20

**Praise: Psalm 70 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced  
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - [rpchurchscotland@gmail.com](mailto:rpchurchscotland@gmail.com)