

QUOTATIONS

“Isaiah lives always with the tension between what will be and what is; between the glorious destiny which beckons Israel and the awful reality of its present condition. It is a tension which ultimately only the Lord can resolve” (Webb 1996: 54).

“The power of story. What we find in this chapter is the power of the well-told illustration. That power disarms us. When someone tries to make a point to us, we already have our guard up, thinking about the ways this idea might apply to us in uncomfortable ways. But with stories we lower our guard and simply enter into the experience. Sometimes we find ourselves forced to embrace ideas we never would have otherwise. That is what happened to David when Nathan told him the story of the poor man and his one lamb (2 Sam. 12:1–6). All the justifications David had created for his outrageous immoral behavior were blown away in an instant. The religious leaders of the Jews had the same experience when Jesus told the story of the wicked tenants. They had unconsciously admitted the logic of the argument before they realized there was an argument going on” (Oswalt 2003: 116).

“As Oswalt states, ‘When the passion for pleasure has become uppermost in a person’s life, passion for God and his truth and his ways are squeezed out.’ Certainly the pleasure on focus and leisure activities in our day has the potential of doing the same thing” (Smith 2007: 174).

“The prophet’s role, and each reader’s responsibility, is to warn others of God’s impending holy judgment and to persuade the ungodly to change their ways. Like Isaiah, preachers, teachers, and parents need to weep over the evil that pervades this world. It is especially sad when friends, neighbors, fellow workers, children, and fellow church members do not classify their evil deeds as sins against God. People need to communicate their deep sadness, explain the just demands of God, encourage people to humble themselves, and warn of irresistible judgment for those who do not glorify God. There is no hope for those who ignore, scorn, or reject God (5:12,17,24). One day an Almighty Lion will roar over them (5:29)” (Smith 2007: 182-83).

SOURCES CITED

John N. Oswalt, *Isaiah*, NIV Application Commentary, 2003.
Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1–39*, New American Commentary, 2007.
Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, The Bible Speaks Today, 1996.

ISAIAH 5: A SONG OF THE LORD’S VINEYARD

Isaiah 5:1-7 (ESV)

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

OUTLINE

I. SONG OF THE VINEYARD (5:1-7)

A. The Introduction of the Song (5:1a)

B. The Preparation of the Vineyard (5:1b-2)

C. The Produce of the Vineyard (5:3-4)

D. The Punishment of the Vineyard (5:5-6)

E. The Interpretation of the Song (5:7)

II. THE WORTHLESS GRAPES EXPLAINED (5:8-24)

A. Woe to the Greedy (5:8-10)

B. Woe to the Self-Indulgent (5:11-14)

C. The Holiness of God (5:15-17)

D. Woe to the False (5:18-19)

E. Woe to the Fools (5:20-24)

III. THE JUDGMENT OF THE VINEYARD EXPLAINED (5:25-30)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 21:33-46 (cf. Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-19)

Romans 11