“Woe to the Wicked”

Isaiah 5:8-30
12-6-2023

Introduction:

**** Woe means don’t Go the way of the wicked!***

I. ***Woe to those who*** **“Buy it up” with Greedy Materialism & Unjust Exploitation** (v.8-10)

II. ***Woe to those who*** **“Live it up” with Alcohol & Party Life** (v.11-17)

III. ***Woe to those who*** **“Flaunt it up” by shoving their wickedness in your face and taunting Almighty God** (v.18-19)

IV. ***Woe to those who*** **“Twist it up” by Reversing Morality and Confusing Moral Distinctiveness** (v.20)

V. ***Woe to those who*** **“Know it all” with Inflated Egos and Sinful Pride** (v.21)

VI. ***Woe to those who*** **“Booze it up” and Pervert Justice and Righteousness** (v.22-24)

Conclusion: v.25-30

“Woe to the Wicked”

Isaiah 5:8-30
12-6-2023

Introduction:

**** <u>Woe</u> means <u>don’t Go</u> the way of the wicked!***

I. ***Woe to those who*** **“Buy it up” with <u>Greedy</u> <u>& Unjust</u>** _____ (v.8-10)

II. ***Woe to those who*** **“Live it up” with** _____ (v.11-17)

III. ***Woe to those who*** **“Flaunt it up” by** _____ **<u>in your face and taunting</u>** _____ (v.18-19)

IV. ***Woe to those who*** **“Twist it up” by** _____ **<u>and Confusing Moral</u>** _____ (v.20)

V. ***Woe to those who*** **“Know it all” with** _____ (v.21)

VI. ***Woe to those who*** **“Booze it up” and** _____ _____ (v.22-24)

Conclusion: v.25-30

“Woe to the Wicked”

Isaiah 5:8-30
12-6-2023

Introduction:

God’s <u>Provision</u> for a <u>Fruitful</u> Vineyard (v.1-2)

A. The Lord’s Vineyard was Planted with <u>LOVE</u> (v.1)

B. The Lord’s Vineyard was Planted with <u>OBSTACLES REMOVED</u> (v.2a)

C. The Lord’s Vineyard was Planted with <u>the BEST OF VINE</u> (v.2b)

D. The Lord’s Vineyard was Planted with <u>PROTECTION PROVIDED</u> (v.2c)

E. The Lord’s Vineyard was Planted with <u>MUCH ANTICIPATION</u> (v.2d)

The nation of Israel was a <u>vineyard</u> that God planted and did everything for, yet all it produced was rotten, bad fruit.

Much like America which had received so much blessing yet (as a nation) has turned its back on God by indulging in wickedness.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.”

In Isaiah 5:8-24 God indicts Israel because of her wickedness and gives a stern warning of impending judgment.

The Lord gives a <u>six point</u> pronouncement of judgment, with each indictment beginning with the word “<u>Woe</u>.”

**** <u>Woe</u> means <u>don’t Go</u> the way of the wicked!***

I. *Woe to those who* “Buy it up” with <u>Greedy Materialism & Unjust Exploitation</u> (v.8-10)

Verses 8 -10 describe greedy land grabbers who were endlessly expanding their ownership of Israel’s property until no one else could live there. People were being forced out of their own land (land originally given by God to be the perpetual property of that particular tribe).

Land was being gobbled up by the few, who, due to their vast wealth and power, controlled the land in unrighteousness.

See Micah 2:1-2, 9-11

“God gave the land to the Israelites with the intention that the original allocation remain with each family (Lev. 25:23-25). By Isaiah’s time, land speculators had begun putting together huge estates (Mic. 2:2, 9), and the powerful rich used legal processes to deprive the poor of what was rightfully theirs (Amos 2:6, 7).” (John MacArthur, Study Bible Note, p. 961).

In verse 9, God warns that the owners would not profit because of the judgment which was on its way.

Only 6-10 gallons of wine would come from ten acres of land (which typically should produce 500 baths of wine).

v. 10
“God judged the greedy rich by reducing the productivity of their land to a small fraction of what it would have been normally. . . such small amounts indicate famine conditions” (MacArthur, p. 961).

II. *Woe to those who* "Live it up" with Alcohol & Party Life (v.11-17)

Verses 111 and 12 describe a love for pleasure and over-indulgence. God gave Israel an abundance of wine (recall the huge grapes that the spies brought back to Moses), yet Israel abused God's provision.

Alcohol consumption always results in shame and foolish behavior. The effects of drinking are spelled out clearly in Scripture.

"Directly or indirectly, alcohol kills thousands of Americans every year.

Thirty thousand drunkards die of cirrhosis of the liver annually.

Alcohol is also indirectly involved in causing at least –
50 percent of the road accidents in our country,
65 percent of the drowning deaths,
80 percent of the deaths by fire,
22 percent of all home accidents,
36 percent of the pedestrian accidents,
and 44 percent of all airplane accidents.

Alcohol is a major factor in violent crimes as well –
65 percent of murders,
40 percent of all assaults,
35 percent of the rapes,
30 percent (later figures are 50 percent) of the suicides,
55 percent of fights in the home, and
60 percent of the reported child abuse cases in our country . . .

[All these] are perpetrated by people under the influence of alcohol." (WINE; A Biblical Imperative: Total Abstinence, by Robert P. Teachout, p. 6).

"1 ½ ounces of whiskey
3 ½ ounces of fortified wine
5 ½ ounces of ordinary wine
12 ounces of beer

= "One drink" (each of these puts an equal percentage of ethyl alcohol into a person's body)

With the above equation in mind, it is clear that one drink will cause 0.03 percent alcohol in the blood of an average (150 lb.) weight man. Two drinks will double the percentage to 0.06. Three drinks will cause 0.09 percent, four drinks 0.12 percent, and five drinks will raise the blood alcohol level to the very high and dangerous percentage of 0.15, producing 'unmistakable abnormality of gross bodily functions and mental faculties'." (Teachout, p. 55)

"…Ancient Jewish rabbis decreed that if a man drinks one glass of unmixed wine, he is deprived of one-fourth of his reason; two glasses remove half; three glasses take away three-fourths; and four glasses will make him fully drunk. Experience of old is in line with modern scientific discoveries." (Teachout, p. 56)

"In demonstrating to future physicians the effect of alcohol on the intelligence, many medical schools follow this procedure. They give two written examinations on subsequent days, with similar questions. The first examination is written under the usual circumstances without alcohol. Preceding the second one, each student is given one bottle [12 oz.] of beer to drink. The results of these two examinations are graded by people unfamiliar with the undertaking. At the end of the second examination the students are asked these questions:

1) Is this examination easier, harder, or about the same as the one yesterday?
2) Have you done better, worse, or as well as yesterday?

Most of the students reply that the second test is easier and that their marks are better. However, the grades on the second examination are approximately seventeen percent lower. *This shows that even one drink hampers intelligence and decreases efficiency."* (Teachout, p. 57)

"In summary, several major points have been made from modern experimental scientific testing regarding the effects of alcohol upon man.

1. Alcohol in any amount immediately enters the blood stream; even a few sips can be detected in measurable amounts in the blood within three minutes.

2. The part of the body which shows the first symptoms of impairment is the brain.

3. Even one small drink (5 ½ oz. Of ordinary wine) will normally produce measurable impairment of reasoning skills in mental acuity tests.

4. The same amount (one drink) decreases the subject's ability for self-evaluation of alcohol's effect, which in turn makes it more difficult for the subject to discern his own need to stop at one drink.

5. While many people may have a greater tolerance, it is a demonstrated fact that a 'sizeable minority' is so affected by *one drink* as to cause definite impairment of judgment and attention along with emotional instability."

(Teachout, p. 58)

The Damaging Effects of Alcohol (wine; beer; etc.) according to the Bible:

Alcohol is associated with <u>shameful exposure</u> (nakedness)
Ge 9:21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

Alcohol is associated with <u>Sexual impurity</u>
Ge 19:32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.
Ge 19:33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

Alcohol was forbidden for the Priests of Israel since it would <u>impair their proper worship and service for God</u>
Le 10:9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Alcohol was forbidden for those who would take the Nazarite vow, since it would prevent the one who took the vow to fulfill it
Nu 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes…
Jud 13:7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. **Samson evidently violated this law by participating in a drinking feast with other young men** (Jud.14:10)**. This and his other acts of disobedience paved the way for awful consequences in Samson's life.**

Alcohol is associated with <u>violent behavior</u>
Pr 4:17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

Alcohol <u>mocks and deceives</u> its victim
Pr 20:1 ¶ Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
(Note: This is an indictment by God on the beverage, not merely the drinking of it. The text specifically indicates that wine itself is a "mocker" without mention of the quantity involved" (Teachout, p.12)

Alcohol <u>destroys and enslaves</u> a person's life
Pr.23:29 ¶ Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.
32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.
34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.
35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

The alcoholic <u>falls under a curse</u>; God pronounces a woe to him
Isa 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

Alcohol <u>affects the mind and reasoning ability</u>
Isa 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Alcohol leads to <u>sin (transgression)</u>
Hab 2:5 ¶ Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death

Alcohol is used by people who want to <u>take advantage of others</u>
Hab 2:15 ¶ Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Alcohol leads to <u>riotous behavior</u>
Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess (riotous living); but be filled with the Spirit;

<u>Drinking for What?</u>

We drank for happiness and became unhappy.
We drank for joy and became miserable.
We drank for sociability and became argumentative.
We drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
We drank for friendship and became enemies.
We drank for sleep and awakened without rest.
We drank for medicinal purposes and acquired health problems.
We drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
We drank for confidence and became doubtful.
We drank to forget and were forever haunted.
We drank to erase problems and saw them multiplied.
We drank to cope with life and invited death.

The first reference to wine in the Bible is a negative one. We should take careful heed to such early warnings!

NOTE: The word “wine” (*tirosh & yayin* – Heb. Or *oinos* – Greek) simply refers to the fruit of the vine in liquid form. It may refer to fermented alcohol or unfermented grape juice. The context will decide in each case which meaning is implied.

Jesus said, “No man puts new wine into old wine skins.” Why? Because new wine, although it is called wine (*oinos*) is not yet fermented. Therefore, not all references to wine are references to alcoholic wine. In fact, most are not. Jesus turned water into new wine (For further study, see: Bible Wines and the Laws of Fermentation).

v. 14
Hell (“sheol”) is pictured here as a “great monster with wide-open jaws ready to receive its victims” (MacArthur, p. 961).

v. 15
Both the common man (“mean man”) and the important man (“mighty man”) will be snuffed out by God in judgment.

v. 17
In an emptied land, devoid of its inhabitants, lambs would eat in peace and become fat, and foreigners would come into the land and eat the fat lambs.

III. *Woe to those who* “Flaunt it up” by shoving their wickedness in your face and taunting Almighty God (v.18-19)

v. 19
Note the arrogance f the mockers, who shamelessly sin. They are saying in effect, “Come on God – get with it! Let’s see what You can do.”

“Let Him make speed” – Hurry up God! Where is the judgment you have warned about? We will believe it when we see it.

“Holy One” occurs 25 times in Isaiah.

IV. *Woe to those who* “Twist it up” by Reversing Morality and Confusing Moral Distinctiveness (v.20)

“Moral standards were destroyed by new definitions of sin (SEE: Amos 5:7), people using God’s vocabulary but not His dictionary” (Wiersbe, p. 27).

Here is the invocation Pastor Joe Wright delivered to the Kansas legislature.
“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says: ‘Woe to those who call evil good,’ but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it moral pluralism.

We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbors’ possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our fore-fathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh GOD, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Amen!”

The Response Was Immediate
The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In six short weeks, Central Christian Church in Wichita, where Wright served as pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church received international requests for copies of this prayer.

The legendary Paul Harvey reported on it and recited the prayer.

V. *Woe to those who* "Know it all" with Inflated Egos and Sinful Pride (v.21)

Woe to those who are clever in their own eyes.

Their view of their smug intelligence was grossly over-inflated. They thought they knew more than God.

God sees people as they really are.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." Rom. 1:22

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Prov. 3:7

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18

Pride keeps us from:

1. Admitting wrong, error (apologizing)
2. Seeking help from God (prayer) and others
3. Learning from others (accepting constructive criticism)

[READ Isaiah 14:13-14 - Lucifer's five "I wills"]

Prov. 11:2 - "When pride cometh, then cometh shame"

Prov. 13:10 - "Only by pride cometh contention"

Prov. 15:25 - "The Lord will destroy the house of the proud"

Prov. 16:18 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"
I Jn. 2:16 - "The pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world

VI. *Woe to those who* "Booze it up" and <u>Pervert Justice and Righteousness</u> (v.22-24)

v. 22
Excesses blunt the sense of justice and stimulate the need for more money.

"The judges who were supposed to enforce the Law used their authority to free the guilty and punish the innocent. They were more interested in cocktail parties than fair trials, and making money (bribes) than promoting justice. Isaiah warned these corrupt politicians that the fire of God's wrath was coming" (Wiersbe, p. 27).

Conclusion: v.25-30

Now God describes Assyria, who is coming under Tiglathpelesar.

v. 26
"Ensign" = standard
"Hiss" = God will whistle like a beekeeper for them (Assyria) to come!

v. 27
Assyrian army is not slip-shod – they are always ready for battle – they are well prepared and don't even need rest!

v. 28
Horses' hoofs don't wear out

v. 30
It will come like a great storm.

Verse 26 – 30 does not say Assyria, but it will be Assyria because Babylon isn't even strong nation yet.

The Assyrian army is the most wicked ever!

1) They loved taking poles with a point on one end, put pole into ground and hang people on pole with point up into rib cage
2) Twelve inch spikes on chariot wheels and then run over people (they loved torture)
3) Would bury a person up to chin, and put a piece of metal in your mouth facing toward the sun – so you couldn't breath through your mouth, drink, etc.

God uses Assyria as a tool to judge Israel, then eventually judges and destroys Assyria because of her own wickedness. God uses wicked nations because He is judging wickedness.