

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> <b>Introduction</b> How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> <b>New Creation</b> God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> <b>New relationship</b> God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> <b>Who</b> God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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## Isaiah 5 (NIVUK)

**5** I will sing for the one I love  
a song about his vineyard:  
my loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it  
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,  
but it yielded only bad fruit.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more could have been done for my vineyard  
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,  
why did it yield only bad?

<sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,  
and it will be trampled.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it.’

<sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the LORD Almighty  
is the nation of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;  
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

**Sunday 17 August 2025**

Song lyrics:

A vineyard was well-planted...  
(5:1-2a)

...but yielded only bad fruit...  
(5:2b-4)

...so the owner destroys it.  
(5:5-6)

Song explained (5:7):

**This is how God feels about  
his people’s sin**



**Andover  
Bible  
Church**

<u>Chapter 1-5 summary</u> How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>1:1-31</u> Judah's relationship with God has broken down horrendously	<u>2:1-5</u> God promises a future of world peace	<u>2:6-22</u> God promises to end the world, where he will humble the haughty
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<sup>8</sup> **Woe** to you who add house to house  
and join field to field

till no space is left

and you live alone in the land.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD Almighty has declared in my hearing:

‘Surely the great houses will become desolate,  
the fine mansions left without occupants.

<sup>10</sup> A ten-acre<sup>a</sup> vineyard will produce only a bath<sup>b</sup> of wine;  
a homer<sup>c</sup> of seed will yield only an ephah<sup>d</sup> of grain.’

<sup>11</sup> **Woe** to those who rise early in the morning  
to run after their drinks,

who stay up late at night

till they are inflamed with wine.

<sup>12</sup> They have harps and lyres at their banquets,  
pipes and tambourines and wine,

but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD,  
no respect for the work of his hands.

<sup>13</sup> **Therefore** my people will go into exile  
for lack of understanding;

those of high rank will die of hunger

and the common people will be parched with thirst.

<sup>14</sup> **Therefore** Death expands its jaws,  
opening wide its mouth;

into it will descend their nobles and masses  
with all their brawlers and revellers.

<sup>15</sup> So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled,  
the eyes of the arrogant humbled.

<sup>16</sup> But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice,  
and the holy God will be proved holy  
by his righteous acts.

<sup>17</sup> Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture;  
lambs will feed<sup>e</sup> among the ruins of the rich.

**A vast portrait of Judah's sin  
and God's wrath**

**1. Judah is greedy to consume...  
(5:8-12)**

**...so God makes them hungry,  
(5:13)**

**...so God makes death greedy.  
(5:14-17)**

- lowered into the ground

- even animals above the  
buried!

<sup>a</sup> Or *a vineyard of four hectares*

<sup>b</sup> That is, about 22 litres

<sup>c</sup> That is, probably about 160kg

<sup>d</sup> That is, probably about 16kg

<sup>e</sup> From Septuagint; Hebrew

manuscripts say *strangers will eat*

3:1-4:1 The Babylonian exile will lead to a pitiful remnant left in Jerusalem	4:2-6 God promises a perfect future relationship with his people	5:1-7 God feels exasperation and frustration towards Judah	5:8-30 Judah's vast sin will be judged very harshly by God
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<sup>18</sup> **Woe** to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit,

and wickedness as with cart ropes,

<sup>19</sup> to those who say, 'Let God hurry;

let him hasten his work

so that we may see it.

The plan of the Holy One of Israel –

let it approach, let it come into view,

so that we may know it.'

<sup>20</sup> **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.

<sup>21</sup> **Woe** to those who are wise in their own eyes

and clever in their own sight.

<sup>22</sup> **Woe** to those who are heroes at drinking wine

and champions at mixing drinks,

<sup>23</sup> who acquit the guilty for a bribe,

but deny justice to the innocent.

<sup>24</sup> **Therefore**, as tongues of fire lick up straw

and as dry grass sinks down in the flames,

so their roots will decay

and their flowers blow away like dust;

for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty

and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> **Therefore** the LORD's anger burns against his people;

his hand is raised and he strikes them down.

The mountains shake,

and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,

his hand is still upraised.

## 2. Judah chose sin... (5:18-23)

- 'hurry! Let's see his work!'

...so God chose devastation...  
(5:24-25)

- but he's not finished!

<sup>26</sup> He lifts up a banner for the distant nations,  
he whistles for those at the ends of the earth.

Here they come,  
swiftly and speedily!

<sup>27</sup> Not one of them grows tired or stumbles,  
not one slumbers or sleeps;  
not a belt is loosened at the waist,  
not a sandal strap is broken.

<sup>28</sup> Their arrows are sharp,  
all their bows are strung;  
their horses' hooves seem like flint,  
their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup> Their roar is like that of the lion,  
they roar like young lions;  
they growl as they seize their prey  
and carry it off with no one to rescue.

<sup>30</sup> In that day they will roar over it  
like the roaring of the sea.  
And if one looks at the land,  
there is only darkness and distress;  
even the sun will be darkened by clouds.

...and yet more devastation!  
(5:26-30)

- cf. 5:19 'hurry! Let's  
see his work!'

- ruthless destroyers

#### Ch1-5

If God feels this way about sin, how  
*can* one be spared judgement? How  
*can* one live happily ever after?

#### **For reflection**

Isaiah 5 highlights *how God feels* about his people's sin.

1. [Diagnostic] To what extent do we 'allow' God to be a person, and not e.g. an impersonal force?
2. [Devotional] How does Isaiah 5 help you:
  - a. Overcome complacency about your sin?
  - b. Help you appreciate Jesus' death on the cross?
3. [Devotional] Are there parts of Isaiah 5 that struck you? Are there parts that are difficult for you to hear?