

Isaiah 5:18-24

The Consequences of Rejecting God's Word

Outline of Isaiah 5:18-30

5:18 Woe: To those in bondage to sin
5:19 Who call for God to "prove Himself"
5:20 Woe: To those who call good evil...
5:21 Woe: To those wise in their own eyes
5:22 Woe: To those who justify the wicked...
5:24 The reason for judgment: Rejection of God's word.

5:25-30 The coming judgment

The Bondage of Sin

Isaiah 5:18 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the **cords** of falsehood, and sin as if with **cart ropes**;

Romans 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, **sold into bondage to sin.**

Unbelievers Demand a Sign

Isaiah 5:19 Who say, "Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know it!"

Isaiah 5:12 Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the Lord, Nor do they consider the work of His hands.

Lesson 1

➤ The bondage of sin blinds people to the truth and makes them demand signs from God.

Spiritual Blindness:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (cf. James 1:14).

Unbelievers Seek Signs

Matthew 12:39-40 "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, **so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**"

Luke 16:31 But he said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded **even if someone rises from the dead.**"

The Godless Distort Morality

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

- Public morality = "light and darkness"
- Private morality = "bitter and sweet"

Think About It:

Godless societies always murder the innocent and protect the evil!

Isaiah 59:7 Their feet run to evil, and they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, devastation and destruction are in their highways.

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There Is No Excuse!

Exodus 21:22-24 If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with **child** so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is *any further* injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot...

There Is No Excuse!

- S:** Size
- L:** Level of development
- E:** Environment
- D:** Degree of dependency

Psalm 139:13, 16 For You formed my inward parts; **You wove me in my mother's womb...** Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me...

The Godless Rationalize Their Sin

Isaiah 5:21-23 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes in drinking 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!

The Cause of Judah's Problems

Isaiah 5:24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble and dry grass collapses into the flame, so their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust; For they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts and **despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

Challenge

➤ Is God's word THE AUTHORITY in your life?

Problems We Must Answer

1. We can't know!
2. The Bible is just a book written by men
3. The biblical manuscripts are unreliable
4. I like my sin too much
