

Isaiah Bible Study

Isaiah 3-5

The Lord of Hosts

- I. **Isaiah 3:1** For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah stay and staff
 - a. **Sanctus** Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus / Dominus Deus Sabaoth
 - i. Holy, holy, holy / Lord God of Hosts
- II. God is a commander of heavenly armies
 - a. **Matthew 2:10-14** And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!”
 - b. **Matthew 28:52-53** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”

Submission to Authority

- I. **Isaiah 3:2-3** ...the mighty man and the soldier, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor and the skilful magician and the expert in charms.
- II. **Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32** And the high priest questions them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”
 - a. Human (especially God-given) authority should be respected
 - i. It can never require you to disobey God himself
 - ii. Disobeying human authority (even to obey God) will still have real consequences to deal with
 1. **Acts of the Apostles 5:40** ...when [the council] had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

iii. We should rejoice when we are persecuted

1. **Acts of the Apostles 5:41-42** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

III. **Tertullian, *Against Marcion*, 3.23** Consider whether what follows in the prophet has not received its fulfillment: “The Lord of host has taken away from Judah and from Jerusalem, among other things, both the prophet and the wise craftsman”; that is, his Holy spirit, who builds the church, which is indeed the temple, and household and city of God....And so in this manner the law and the prophets were until John [the Baptist], but the dews of divine grace were withdrawn from the nation.

Deliberate Sin

- I. **Isaiah 3:9** Their partiality witnesses against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom, they do not hide it.
 - a. **Saint Gregory the Great, *Pastoral Care*, 3.31** Again they are to be admonished that if they are not afraid of being wicked; they should at least be ashamed of being seen for what they are. Often a sin that is concealed is avoided....On the other hand, when a person is shamelessly and notoriously wicked, then, the more freely he commits every kind of evil, the more he thinks it lawful, and in imagining it lawful, he is thereby without doubt immersed in it all the more. Therefore, it is written, “They have proclaimed abroad their sin as Sodom, and they have not hid it.” For if Sodom had concealed its sin, it would still have sinned, but in fear. But it had completely lost the curb of fear, in that it did not seek even darkness in its sinning. Therefore, it is said again, “The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is multiplied.” [Genesis 18:20] For sin in words is sin in act, but sin that is cried out is sin committed with deliberation.
 - b. **Genesis 13:13** Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

Let Us Bind the Just One

- I. **Isaiah 3:9-11**
 - a. **Modern Bibles** Woe to them! For they have brought evil up themselves. Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have done shall be done to him.
 - b. **Septuagint** Woe to their soul, for they have devised an evil counsel against themselves saying, “Let us bind the just one, for he is burdensome to us:

therefore shall they eat the fruits of their works. Woe to the transgressor!
Evils shall happen to him according to the works of his hands.

- II. **Saint Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*, 136** The climax of your sin is that you hate the righteous one whom you killed, as well as those who by his grace are godly, righteous and loving. It is for this reason that the Lord said, “Woe to their soul, because they have taken evil counsel against themselves, saying, ‘Let us take away the just one, for he is distasteful to us.’” Although you did not offer a sacrifice to Baal, like your ancestors, . . . you did not accept the Lord’s Christ. Whoever does not know Christ does not know the will of God. Whoever rejects and hates him obviously rejects and hates the one who sent him. [cf. John 15:23] Whoever does not have faith in him does not believe the words of the prophets who preached his good news and proclaimed him to all people.
- III. **Saint Ambrose, *On the Patriarchs*, 3.13** From the tribe of Simeon come the scribes, from that of Levi the chief priests, who brought their wickedness to completion and filled up the entire measure of their fathers’ ungodliness [cf. Matthew 23:32] in the passion of the Lord. They took counsel against the Lord Jesus, to kill him, even as Isaiah says, “Alas for their souls! Because they have devised an evil counsel against themselves, saying, ‘Let us bind the just one, for he is profitless to us.’” They killed the prophets and apostles who announced the coming of the Lord of salvation and preached his glorious passion and resurrection.
- IV. **Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures*, 13.12** They bound Jesus and led him to the meeting place of the high priest. Can you recognize that this was already written? Isaiah says, “Woe to their souls because they have taken evil counsel against themselves saying, ‘Let us bind the just one, for he is troublesome to us.’” Woe to their souls indeed! Let us see why, Isaiah was sawn in two, but afterwards the people were restored. Jeremiah was thrown into the dungeon, but the Jews had their wound healed. In these instances the sin was against a man, and therefore less. However, when they sinned not against a man but against God become human, then woe to their souls!

The Vineyard

- I. **Isaiah 3:13-14** The Lord has taken his place to contend, he stands to judge his people. The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: “It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.”
- II. **Luke 19:38** “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
 - a. Public proclamation of the Kingship of Jesus
 - b. **Luke 19:39-40** “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”
 - c. **John 12:41** Isaiah . . . saw his glory and spoke of him

- III. **Luke 19:41-44** And when [Jesus] drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, “Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
- IV. **Luke 20:9-19** “A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, that they should give him some of the fruit of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant; him also they beat and treated shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third; this one they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; it may be they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants, and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “God forbid!” but he looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Every one who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but when it falls on any one it will crush him.” The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people; for they perceived that he had told this parable against them.
- V. **Isaiah 3:13-14** The Lord has taken his place to contend, he stands to judge his people. The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: “It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.”

Salvation

- I. **Isaiah 4:2-4** In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, every one who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.
- a. **Clement of Alexandria, *Christ the Educator*, 3.9.48** This refers to the blood of immortality as well as the killing of the prophets.
- II. **Jeremiah 3:12-13, 15-17, 19** “Return, faithless Israel, says the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the Lord;... Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scatter your favors among strangers under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, says the

Lord...And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the Lord, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the Lord." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; it shall not be made again. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart...I thought how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me."

God's Final Judgment?

- I. **Isaiah 5:1-2** My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 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.
 - a. **Saint Augustine, Sermon 376A** Let me warn you, holy seedlings, let me warn you, fresh plants in the field of the Lord, not to have it said of you what was said of the vineyard of the house of Israel...Let him find good bunches of grapes on you, seeing that he was himself a bunch of grapes trodden in the winepress for you. Produce grapes, live good lives.
 - b. **John 15:1-2, 4-6** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit...Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers, and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned."
 - i. **John 15:10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
 1. **1 Corinthians 13:13** So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
 2. **1 Corinthians 13:2** ...and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
 - ii. **John 6:53-57** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you, he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink

indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he who eats me will live because of me.

iii. Parallels John 15 & John 6

1. **(Ch. 15)** Abide in me, and I in you / **(Ch. 6)** He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him
2. **(Ch. 15)** For apart from me you can do nothing...If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch...and [is] burned / **(Ch. 6)** Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you
3. **(Ch. 15)** As I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love, if you keep my commandments you will abide in my love / **(Ch. 6)** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he who eats me will live because of me

II. **Matthew 23:37-38** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate.

- a. **Isaiah 5:3-6** And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, between me and my vineyard. 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? 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. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall group up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

III. **Isaiah 5:25-30** Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away and his hand is stretched out still.

He will raise a signal for a nation afar off, and whistle for it from the ends of the earth; and behold, swiftly, speedily it comes! None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistcloth is loose, not a sandal-thong broken; their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind. Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey, they carry it off, and none can rescue. They will growl over it on that day, like the roaring of the sea. And if one look to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.

IV. **John 1:9** The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.