

Isaiah 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Analysis

Isaiah identifies the parable's meaning: the vineyard is Israel and Judah, 'the men of His pleasure' (literally, 'plant of His delight'). The devastating wordplay in Hebrew contrasts God's expectation with reality: He expected 'mishpat' (justice) but found 'mispach' (bloodshed/oppression); He sought 'tsedaqah' (righteousness) but heard 'tse'aqah' (a cry of distress). Similar sounds, opposite meanings emphasize the perversion.

Historical Context

Eighth-century Judah was marked by economic oppression, corrupt courts, and social injustice despite religious observance (Isaiah 1:11-17). The cry of the oppressed reached God's ears like Abel's blood.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How might you be practicing religious activities while ignoring justice and righteousness?
 2. What 'cries' of those you've wronged or neglected might be reaching God's ears?

Interlinear Text

בֵּית	אַבְאֹת	יְהִי הַ	כְּרָם	כִּי
is the house	of hosts	of the LORD	For the vineyard	H3588
H1004	H6635	H3068	H3754	
לִמְשָׁפֹט	שְׁעִיר	נָטַע	יְהוָה הִ	אָישׁ
for judgment	and he looked	plant	of Judah	and the men
H4941	H6960	H5194	H3063	H376
צְעַקָּה:	לְאִזְקָה	מִשְׁפָּט	יְהִי הַ	יְהִי הַ
but behold a cry	for righteousness	but behold oppression	but behold	H2009
H6818	H6666	H4939		

Additional Cross-References

James 5:4 (References Lord): Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Isaiah 5:2 (Parallel theme): And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

Isaiah 3:14 (Judgment): The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

Isaiah 3:17 (References Lord): Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

Isaiah 1:6 (Parallel theme): From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Isaiah 62:5 (Parallel theme): For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Psalms 80:15 (Parallel theme): And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself.

Psalms 147:11 (References Lord): The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Psalms 149:4 (References Lord): For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Job 34:28 (Parallel theme): So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.