

Truth vs. Twisting: Isaiah 5, Leviathan, and Courage for the Remnant | KIB 502

Kingdom Intelligence Briefing Notes

1. Calling Evil Good - the Twisting of Levithan

Isaiah 5:20-21

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!
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
and shrewd in their own sight!

Through history there have been seasons when humanity has descended into spiritual darkness as if spiraling into progressive madness. This descent into madness has been the work of both the priesthood of darkness and the spirit of deception - Leviathan.

The "spirit of Leviathan" is characterized by "pride, deception, the twisting of truth, and the twisting of communication to sow confusion and division." This spirit is also associated with legalism, emotional hardness, and opposition to spiritual breakthroughs. It is described as a powerful, deceptive, and controlling force that can work through individuals to slander, gossip, and create false accusations.

Pride and Arrogance

- **Difficulty with correction:** A person influenced by this spirit is often proud and arrogant, refusing to submit to correction or guidance.
- **Self-righteousness:** It can operate in a self-righteous way, making individuals feel superior to others.
- **Refusal of deliverance:** Pride can lead a person to reject deliverance, believing they are "okay" and don't need help, which blocks spiritual progress.

Deception and Control

- **Twisting of words:** This is a primary characteristic, causing misinterpretation and confusion in relationships and communication.
- **Manipulation:** It works through intimidation, confusion, and deception to control situations and people.
- **False accusations:** It can operate through slander, gossip, and verbal abuse, often using biting words and false accusations to destroy individuals or groups.
- **Underhanded tactics:** It may operate "behind the scenes," gathering information to create false narratives and attack others.

Hindrance to Spiritual Growth

- **Opposition to breakthrough:** It actively blocks spiritual progress and revelation and can cause a spiritual "shipwreck".
- **Spiritual hardness:** It creates an inability to receive love, guidance, or correction from others.
- **Stiffness and blindness:** It can manifest as confusion, frustration, spiritual blindness, or the feeling of being "tongue-tied".

How it is Fought

- **Recognizing the source:** Understanding that this spirit operates through deceptive tactics is the first step.
- **Humility:** Overcoming the spirit of Leviathan requires humility, as pride is a key element of its power.
- **Spiritual warfare:** It is fought through prayer and by using scripture, with the understanding that God's power is needed to overcome it.
- **Truth and clarity:** Seeking and speaking truth and clarity in communication helps to counter the spirit's efforts.

2. Isaiah Chapter 5 - A Prophetic Snapshot of Both America and the American Church

Isaiah 5:1–7 (ESV)

¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² 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. ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ 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? ⁵ 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. ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Wild Grapes:

In **Isaiah 5:4**, the prophet uses the image of “**wild grapes**” (Hebrew: *be’ushim*, בְּאֻשִׁים) as part of a parable describing Israel’s unfaithfulness to God. Let’s unpack the meaning both linguistically and theologically:

a. Context of Isaiah 5:4

Isaiah 5:4 (ESV)

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?

God is the **owner of the vineyard**, and Israel (specifically Judah) is the **vineyard** He cultivated. He gave it every advantage — care, protection, and provision — expecting **good fruit** (righteousness, justice, obedience). Instead, it produced **wild grapes** — corrupt fruit.

b. Hebrew Meaning of “Wild Grapes”

The Hebrew word בְּאֻשִׁים (*be’ushim*) means:

“stinking,” “worthless,” “rotten,” or “sour grapes.”

Derived from a root meaning “to stink” or “to become foul.”

These are **not just unripe grapes**, but **decayed, bitter, and offensive fruit**—representing **moral decay** and **spiritual corruption**.

c. Symbolic (Spiritual) Meaning

In the metaphor:

Good grapes = righteousness, justice, covenant faithfulness.

Wild grapes = sin, oppression, bloodshed, and rebellion.

Isaiah 5:7 makes this explicit:

“He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!”

So “wild grapes” symbolize **a people who look religious outwardly but produce the fruit of unrighteousness** — hypocrisy, injustice, and idolatry instead of holiness and truth.

d. Summary Definition

Biblical definition of “wild grapes” (Isaiah 5:4):

The corrupt and bitter fruit of a people who reject God’s covenant and produce unrighteousness instead of justice — a symbol of moral decay, false religion, and rebellion against divine care.

e. Root Cause

“...for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.” Verse 24