

**Episode:** God and His Family No. 08

**Narrator:** Isaiah

**Primary Scriptures:** Isaiah 5:20

**Story Summary:** God's children cannot tolerate evil

**Location:** Israel

**Time:** circa 700 BC

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Isaiah 5:20, Galatians 6:7

From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, the message is plain: God is good and pure, and he desires his people to be the same. The Bible continually sets standards for types of behaviors and beliefs that are good and acceptable, and those that are sinful and unacceptable.

Exodus 19:5-6 are God's words inviting the Hebrews to be his people: "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." For much of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, God goes into excruciating detail to show the Israelites what it means to be a holy nation. Deuteronomy 22:24 sums up an aspect of that as "purge evil among you."

Isaiah 5:20-21 has these stark words: "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 clever in their own sight."

In those words, Isaiah is quoting God. A few verses previously, he says the people are being deceived so badly that "my people will go into exile for lack of understanding." His people are being deceived by their rulers and by themselves.

In Isaiah's time, and in many other times and societies, people appear to be "wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight." They "call evil good and good evil". According to God, the result is always woe.

Of his letters in the New Testament, *Galatians* is probably the first one Paul wrote. In Galatians 6:7, he wrote, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." This is an immutable law from an unmockable God, you reap what you sow.

In a later letter, Paul writes in Romans 1:28-32, he writes of people who have chosen to ignore God and his commands. He says God "gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness...they invent ways of doing evil...they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

With these types of commandments in mind, how can members of God's family call evil good and good evil, or approve of those who practice evil?