

ISAIAH - THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHET

Chapters 1 through 6 – God’s indictment of the nation.

Chapter 1

Vs.1 Isaiah’s prophecies focus on Judah and Jerusalem. Many nations are included in the book (ch. 13-23). All nations stand guilty before the Holy One of Israel and their guilt is clearly seen in their treatment of the people of God; Israel.

Vision which he saw – Isaiah both heard and saw the revelation given to him by God, Isa. 2:1 (Ezk. 1:1, 4, 15). This was a common means of receiving God’s revelation for the prophets.

Verses 2 through 23 – The charge

Verses 2 through 10 – The Lord’s accusation – They have broken His covenant.

Vs.2-4 All creation would agree with God’s charge.

He first establishes His own innocence.

It is His children who have rebelled against Him (They are the transgressors, not Him. Isa. 66:24).

Animals know their masters – Israel (12 tribes) not her master

- 1) Ox – is submissive
- 2) Donkey – stupid

Both animals know the source of their sustenance, Israel neither knows or understands.

Holy One of Israel (used 25 times) is in contrast to the people of the nation:

- 1) sinful nation
- 2) people weighed down...iniquity
- 3) offspring of evildoers
- 4) sons...act corruptly
- 5) abandoned the Lord
- 6) despised the Holy One
- 7) turned away from Him

Vs.5-6 Your bodies are beaten and bruised – untreated wounds...welts and open sores.

- Vs.7 Hostile forces surround them – they are hated and they are losing their territory to foreign nations.
- Vs.8 Their condition is desolate. Deut. 28:15-68
Their cities are temporary structures.
- Vs.9 Except for God’s grace, they should have been removed from the face of the earth – cleansed off the planet.

Note: Daughter of Zion – Jer. 4:31; Lam. 1:6, 2:13; Micah 1:13, 4:8; Zech. 9:9

Sodom and Gomorrah – cities which speak. Rom. 9:27-29; Ezk. 16:45-52

Vs.10 Like rulers, like people

Vs.11-15 Israel’s faith has become ritual –

multiple sacrifices, vs. 11

incense burning, vs. 13

festivals and feasts, vs. 13-14

prayers, vs. 15

rituals cannot cover iniquity. That which God has commanded is worthless if not done with a proper heart. Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23

Vs.16-17 The people had the mistaken idea that they could live like the devil so long as they followed through with their ritual observances. Note that God does not call on Israel to “confess their sin” (give verbal agreement by reciting the wrongs committed) but rather to clean up their act, cease doing evil and begin doing that which is right. James 1:22-25; 2:14-26; Rom. 2:13-16; 17-29

Bottom line: Instead of trusting in religious ritual (vs. 10-15), the people are to obey God – right attitudes being manifested in right actions.

Seek, reprove, defend, plead -- Isa. 1:23; 10:1-2; Deut. 24:17-22; 26:12; 27:19; Mk. 7:9-13; Rom. 8:1-14

Vs. 18-20 Let us reason together – God is not calling for a negotiating session between the people and Himself, He is calling on them to acknowledge that He is right and they are wrong.
If they acknowledge the extent of their sins then God in His grace will cleanse them.

The obedient will...

The disobedient will...

- Vs. 21-23 Jerusalem, the faithful city – now a harlot.
Full of justice and righteousness – now full of murderers.
Silver – dross (residue left in the smelting process after the silver is removed).
Fine wine – mixed with water
The rulers of the city are leading the people to ruin:
- 1) theft
 - 2) bribery
 - 3) self enrichment
 - 4) injustice
- Vs. 24-31 God's sentence is delivered.
Therefore:
God will relieve Himself by avenging Himself. Not to get even but to get Back.
- Vs. 25 The dross will be removed so that silver can once again be refined.
- Vs. 26 New judges, new counselors – Jerusalem will once again be called a faithful city full of righteousness.
- Vs. 27 Restoration
- Vs. 28 Cleansing
- Vs. 29-30 Oak trees – Isa. 57:4-5
Gardens – Isa. 65:3; 66:17
- Vs. 31 Fire is God's answer – Heb. 6:7-9