

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

I. God’s Denunciation of Judah (1:1-12:6)

A. The Condemnation of Judah (1:1-5:30)

1. The *Charge* against Israel (1:1-4)

¹ The **vision** of **Isaiah** the son of **Amoz** concerning **Judah** and **Jerusalem**, which he saw during the reigns of **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.**

² **Listen**, O heavens, and **hear**, O earth; for the **LORD speaks**,
“**Sons** I have **reared** and **brought up**,
but they have **revolted** against Me.

³ “An **ox knows** its **owner**, and a **donkey** its **master’s manger**,
but **Israel** does **not know**, **My people** do **not understand**.”

⁴ Alas, **sinful nation**, **people weighed** down with **iniquity**,
Offspring of evildoers, **Sons** who act **corruptly!**

They have **abandoned** the **LORD**,
they have **despised** the **Holy One of Israel**,
they have **turned away** from **Him**.

2. The *Chastisement* of the Nation (1:5-9)

⁵ **Where** will you be **stricken again**, as you **continue** in *your rebellion*?
The **whole head** is **sick** and the **whole heart** is **faint**.

⁶ From the **sole** of the **foot** even to the **head** there is **nothing sound** in it,
Only **bruises, welts** and **raw wounds**, not **pressed** out or **bandaged**,
nor **softened** with **oil**.

⁷ Your **land** is **desolate**, your **cities** are **burned with fire**,
your **fields—strangers** are **devouring them** in your presence;
It is **desolation**, as **overthrown** by strangers.

⁸ The **daughter of Zion** is left like a **shelter** in a vineyard,
like a **watchman’s hut** in a cucumber field, like a **besieged city**.

⁹ Unless the **LORD of hosts** had left us a **few survivors**,
we would be like **Sodom**, we would be like **Gomorrah**.

3. The *Censure* of their **Religious Hypocrisy** (1:10-15)

¹⁰ **Hear** the word of the LORD, you rulers of **Sodom**;
give **ear** to the instruction of our God, you people of **Gomorrah**.

¹¹ “**What** are your multiplied **sacrifices** to **Me**?” says the LORD.
“I have had **enough** of **burnt offerings** of rams and the fat of fed cattle;
and I take **no pleasure** in the **blood** of bulls, lambs or goats.

¹² “When you come to **appear before Me**,
who requires of you this **trampling** of **My courts**?

¹³ “Bring your **worthless offerings** no longer,
incense is an **abomination** to **Me**.

New moon and **sabbath**, the **calling of assemblies**—
I cannot **endure iniquity** and the **solemn assembly**.

¹⁴ “I **hate** your **new moon festivals** and your **appointed feasts**,
they have become a **burden** to **Me**;
I am **weary** of **bearing them**.

¹⁵ “So when you spread out your **hands in prayer**,
I will **hide My eyes** from you; yes, even though you **multiply prayers**,
I will **not listen**. Your **hands** are **covered with blood**.

4. The *Call* for **Repentance** (1:16-20)

¹⁶ “**Wash** yourselves, make yourselves **clean**;
remove the **evil** of your **deeds** from **My sight**.

Cease to do **evil**, ¹⁷**learn** to **do good**; **seek justice**,
reprove the **ruthless**, **defend** the **orphan**, **plead** for the **widow**.

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us **reason together**,” says the LORD,
“Though your **sins** are as **scarlet**, they will be as **white as snow**;
though they are **red like crimson**, they will be like **wool**.

¹⁹ “If you **consent** and **obey**, you will eat the **best** of the **land**;
²⁰ “But if you **refuse** and **rebel**, you will be **devoured by the sword**.”
Truly, the **mouth** of the LORD has **spoken**.

5. The *Corruption* of **Jerusalem** (1:21-23)

²¹ How the **faithful city** has become a **harlot**, she *who* was **full of justice!**
Righteousness once lodged in her, but **now murderers**.

²² Your **silver** has become **dross**, your **drink** diluted with **water**.

²³ Your **rulers** are **rebels** and **companions** of **thieves**;
everyone **loves a bribe** and **chases after rewards**.

They do **not defend** the **orphan**,
nor does the **widow's plea** come before them.

6. The *Confirmation* of Future Restoration (1:24-31)

²⁴ Therefore the **Lord GOD of hosts**, the **Mighty One of Israel**, declares,
“Ah, I will be *relieved* of **My adversaries** and *avenge* **Myself** on **My foes**.

²⁵ “I will also turn **My hand against you**,
and will smelt away your **dross** as with **lye** and will remove all your **alloy**.

²⁶ “Then I will restore your **judges** as at the **first**,
and your **counselors** as at the **beginning**;
after that you will be called the **city of righteousness**, a **faithful city**.”

²⁷ **Zion** will be redeemed with **justice** and her **repentant ones** with righteousness.

²⁸ But **transgressors** and **sinner**s will be *crushed together*,
and those who **forsake the LORD** will come to an **end**.

²⁹ Surely you will be *ashamed* of the **oaks** which you have **desired**,
and you will be *embarrassed* at the **gardens** which you have **chosen**.

³⁰ For you will be like an **oak** whose leaf *fades away*
or as a **garden** that has **no water**.

³¹ The **strong man** will become *tinder*, his **work** also a *spark*.
Thus they shall both *burn together*
and there will be **none** to **quench them**.

Personal Application

God’s *Indictment* of Judah—Key Lessons

1. God’s severe indictment of **Judah** came as a result of **His people forsaking Him**, and **embracing** all manner of sin and corruption→

→ having “**revolted against**” **Him** (1:2b)

→ showing no sense of **gratitude** and **ownership** (1:3)

→ a “**sinful nation**,” *weighed down* with **iniquity**” (1:4a)

→ the “**offspring of evildoers**,” “**sons who act corruptly!**” (1:4b)

→ having “**abandoned the LORD**,” (1:4c)

→ having “**despised the Holy One of Israel**,” (1:4d)

→ having “**turned away from Him**.” (1:4e)

Personal Application→ When a **nation “abandons” the Lord**, and becomes **sinful** and **corrupt** in their **ways**, it will eventually result in **God’s “indictment,”** and judgment against them.

For the wrath of **God** is revealed from **heaven**
against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men
who **suppress the truth** in **unrighteousness**, (Romans 1:18)

2. **Judah’s rebellion, sinfulness, and abandonment of God** resulted in the **nation** being punished and afflicted. Their **head** was “**sick**,” and their **heart** was **faint**.

They had “**bruises, welts, and raw wounds**” from the “**sole of the foot even to the head** (1:5-6).” The *land* was now **desolate**, their *cities* were being **burned**, and their *fields* being **devoured by strangers** (1:7)

Personal Application→ Oftentimes **God** will bring **affliction** and **punishment** upon His “**sons**” so that they might **turn** from their **evil**, and **return** to a **walk of righteousness**.

Before I was **afflicted** I went **astray**,
But **now** I keep **Your word**...
It is **good** for me that I was **afflicted**,
That I may **learn** **Your statutes**. (Psalm 119:67, 71)

3. **Judah’s sin and iniquity** had **permeated** their society to the point that **the LORD** **no longer received** their **religious practices** and **worship** towards **Him**. Their *offerings* and *solemn days* became **meaningless gestures** with them being “**weighed down with iniquity**,” and with their **hands** being “**covered with blood** (1:11-15).”

Personal Application→ As believers, if we say that we **believe** and have **faith** in **God**, and yet we **live ungodly** and **unrighteous** lives, our *religious practices* become a **hypocritical “show” of faith** and **mean nothing**. Our **faith** and **love for God** are *not* **truly genuine**, if we *don’t* **live uprightly** and **walk in love** towards **others**.

Pure and undefiled religion in the **sight** of *our* **God and Father** is this:
to **visit orphans** and **widows** in their **distress**,
and to keep oneself **unstained** by the **world**. (James 1:27)

If someone says, “**I love God**,” and **hates his brother**, he is a **liar**;
for the one who does **not love his brother** whom he has **seen**,
cannot love God whom he has **not seen**. (I John 4:20)

4. Although **Judah** had **revolted** against the **Lord** and **forsaken Him**, **God** still **appealed** for them to make themselves “**clean**,” and **remove** their **evil deeds** from **His sight**. There was still an **opportunity** to **return** to the **Lord**, and “**learn to do** what is **good**” (1:16-17).

Personal Application→ We know from **Israel’s history**, that when the people did **repent**, that **the Lord** was “**gracious and full of compassion**,” and **delivered** them *many* times. As **believers**, we also know that if we *sin* and **go astray** from **God**, and we **repent** and **confess our sins**, we can be “**cleansed**” from **all unrighteousness** (I John 1:9, 2:1-2).

If you are **not a believer**, there is still **presently** the opportunity to **turn to God** and **receive His salvation**. We **receive salvation** by placing our **faith** in the **Savior**, **Jesus the Messiah**, who **paid** the **penalty of death** for our **sins**, that we might **receive the gift** of **eternal life**.

To you, this **appeal** of the **Lord** through **Isaiah** is extended to you **this day**:

“Come now, and let us **reason together**,” says the **LORD**,
“Though your **sins** are as **scarlet**, they will be as **white as snow**;
though they are **red like crimson**, they will be like **wool**”