

ISAIAH

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. (The Southern Kingdom)

The Wickedness of Judah

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:

"Children have I reared and brought up,
but they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's crib,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand."

4 Ah, sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD,
they have despised the Holy One of Israel, ★
they are utterly estranged. *

5 Why will you still be struck down?
Why will you continue to rebel?

1 ISAIAH'S FATHER Amoz IS NAMED BUT APPEARS IN NO OTHER BIBLICAL GENEALOGY. TRADITION AND SPECULATION ABOUT HAVING ROYAL BLOOD ARE MERELY THAT AND PLAY NO PART IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION.
VISION OF ISAIAH MARKS THE BOOK AS PROPHETIC AND PLACES THE MESSAGE ON A LEVEL WITH REVELATION OF THE N.T.
JUDAH & JERUSALEM PLACES THIS PROPHECY IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM.
Spanning Four Kings

LORD Appears over 400 times in direct reference to God.

2 The call to hear has the understanding of responding to what is said. Here God is speaking as to a defiant child who has been caught and now must listen as rebuked.

3 Even a dumb animal is smart enough to know where it is taken care of. But Israel has forgotten who provides and protects, making a donkey smarter than them. Much like the story of Balzani's donkey & the Prophet they are about to be warned and then Punished. does not know: Their lack of knowledge means they do not understand: or are in danger through their own ignorance. All God has done for them is forgotten.

4 the whole nation has turned away for generations, parents, children, etc. forsaken or abandoned their relationship with God. They are estranged or completely cut off.

*NASB: TURNED AWAY NIV: TURNED THEIR BACKS ON HIM TO REPENT IS TO RETURN. THEY ARE MOVING AWAY FROM GOD.

★ THIS TITLE BECOMES ISAIAH'S DOMINANT THEME. 25 OF 30 TIMES IN SCRIPTURE IS FOUND IN ISAIAH. FOR ISAIAH EVERYONE IS COMPARED OR JUDGED COMPARED TO GOD'S HOLINESS.

5 Do they not realize that their actions have consequences?
WHY IS almost a "You have got to be crazy to live this way."

- 5b The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head,
there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores
and raw wounds;
they are not pressed out or bound up
or softened with oil.
- 7 Your country lies desolate;
your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
foreigners devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.
- 8 And the daughter of Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,
like a lodge in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.
- 9 If the LORD of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we should have been like Sodom,⁺ - Ezekiel 16.49 clearly defines
and become like Gomorrah.⁺ their sins and cause. Sexual
sins are a result of their
turning from God.
- 10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!⁺
Give ear to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!⁺
- 11 "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;

+ Sodom & Gomorrah see Gen 19.1-29 The reference to the two wicked cities is repeated to emphasize the sinfulness of the nation of Judah.

5b) THE RESULTS OF THEIR ACTIONS HAS affected their thinking and how they respond and treat each other. Sin is an "inside out" proposition. Hidden inside it grows till it shows on the outside and is full blown rebellion.

6) Being totally consumed by sin they no longer take care of themselves. like a drug addict they only seek pleasure WITHOUT THOUGHT OF CONSEQUENCES.

7-8) The whole nation is ruined because so many have forsaken God. Enemies are victorious, destroying the land. Like a booth in the field after harvest is finished they are decaying and rotting away. They no longer have value and like a besieged city are surrounded and will be defeated soon.

Daughter of Zion Zion may refer to nation or Jerusalem. In a few cases it may refer to the People rather than the country.

LORD of Hosts the Omnipotent Commander of the Host or army or followers of God. Used 49 times in Isaiah.

9) THERE IS HOPE IN THE REMNANT or the seed nation God will protect and provide. Sodom & Gomorrah were wiped away. His plan includes restoring ISRAEL. Survivors or remnant is not about the faithful but about the few who escape to be used of God to restore the nation and worship BEFORE GOD

Paul cites Is. 1.9 in Romans 9.29 followed by showing that in his time the gentiles are the new seed of faith. (Rom 9.29f) Paul shows this in Romans 11.16f about grafting in the wild olives to replace the natural one that are removed.

10) Their sinfulness has reach the place where God acted before and is promising to act again. He speaks to them, not as His people, but as the most wicked of people. God is about to SPEAK AND THEY BETTER BE READY to hear and respond.

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

12 "When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?

13 Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and Sabbath and the calling of THESE ARE NOW
convocations— CEREMONIES AND NOT WORSHIP

I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ✱

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

16 → Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
→ remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
→ cease to do evil,

17 → learn to do good;
→ seek justice,
→ correct oppression;
→ bring justice to the fatherless,
→ plead the widow's cause.

(11-13) God rejects their worship, sacrifices, burnt offerings, and blood offerings. Their very presence is an abomination because they come before a Holy God thinking their offerings are enough. The incense is an abomination. (Instead of being "fragrant" (see Ex. 30:28) it stinks because of their sins. God tells them to stop bring these offerings which he rejects as insincere.

- THE PEOPLE ARE ACTING LIKE THEIR OFFERING AND SACRIFICES SOMEHOW COVER UP THEIR REBELLIOUS HEARTS AND SINFUL LIVES.

- THEY WANT GOD'S BLESSING, BUT MEET NONE OF THE CONDITIONS SET BY GOD TO RECEIVE THEM.

* God will not accept their worship while they live lives filled with sin. The only worship acceptable from them would involve sincere repentance. Modern worshippers are reminded through this of God's standards are far more than just showing, singing, listening to a message and going home. Holiness is required.

(14) God finds these distasteful because the people are using them to feel good, but they are not worshipping God. It has all become ceremony and a party without God.

(15) Their prayers are no longer heard by God. He will not overlook their hypocrisy. The hands used to sin cannot be used to worship a holy God. Their worship causes Him to turn away.

(16-17) THERE IS STILL HOPE IF THEY WILL REPLACE THE SACRIFICES OF ANIMALS WITH HOLY LIVING AND CORRECT THE WRONGS THEY HAVE COMMITTED. The most important: was 16
Reject: turn from evil Correct: learn to do good
Strive: Seek Justice Produce: bring justice. The choice is clearly theirs to make.

- 18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
 though your sins are like scarlet,
 they shall be as white as snow;
 though they are red like crimson,
 they shall become like wool.
- 19 If you are willing and obedient,
 you shall eat the good of the land;
- 20 but if you refuse and rebel,
 you shall be eaten by the sword;
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." *

The Unfaithful City

- 21 How the faithful city
 has become a whore,
 she who was full of justice!
 Righteousness lodged in her,
 but now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
 your best wine mixed with water.
- 23 Your princes are rebels
 and companions of thieves.
 Everyone loves a bribe
 and runs after gifts.
 They do not bring justice to the fatherless,
 and the widow's cause does not come to
 them.

- 24 Therefore the LORD declares,
the LORD of hosts,
the Mighty One of Israel:

* emphatic form: spoken w/force to:
 bring attention to Him. 3 times
 God is referenced.

- 18) God calls man to come to Him. This changing of Direction or repenting is always the first step that must be taken. To reason together is to call on man to stop living on emotions and desires and to consider the consequences of his actions. Reason will reveal their sinful way which are scarlet (sins) and crimson. Showing the need for the shedding of blood for forgiveness. Snow and wool reflect the possibility provided for new life from God.

- 19-20) The contrast of choices, and the different outcomes are clearly shown. God makes it clear it is their choice and he will respond in kind. There is no middle ground here. Choose and receive blessings or punishment.
 * Isaiah make it clear this comes directly from God.

- 21) Jerusalem represents the Jewish people and their adulterous actions toward God. see also Ex 34.15/Hos 1.2/Isa 50.1, 4 see Rev. 11.8 Jerusalem called Sodom & Egypt. Showing how far from God the Jewish People have gone.

- 22-23) CORRUPTION HAS BECOME THE NORM. Silver mixed w/other metal to cheat. Wine watered down to get greater profit. Officials taking bribes. They will steal from even the poorest. (much like modern scams that prey on the elderly) Society has broken down and hope is gone.

- 24) Because of this God is going to take action. The name shows He has the authority and the power to act in the matter at hand.
the Mighty One of Israel. MIGHTY IS TO SOAR OR FLY. Here God is one, as in One true God, and He is whole, complete. Father, Son, H. Spirit may not be known but they are the One. THIS one God soars or is over these people and declares His purpose & intentions.

- 24b "Ah, I will get relief from my enemies
and avenge myself on my foes.
- 25 I will turn my hand against you
and will smelt away your dross as with lye
and remove all your alloy.
- 26 And I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counselors as at the beginning.
Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness,
the faithful city." - called a whore in vs. 21
ONLY GOD CAN MAKE SUCH
A CHANGE POSSIBLE
- 27 Zion shall be redeemed by justice,
and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
- 28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together,
and those who forsake the LORD shall be
consumed.
- 29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks
that you desired;
and you shall blush for the gardens
that you have chosen.
- 30 For you shall be like an oak
whose leaf withers,
and like a garden without water.
- 31 And the strong shall become tinder,
and his work a spark,
and both of them shall burn together,
with none to quench them.

The Mountain of the LORD

2 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning
Judah and Jerusalem.

24b God will not leave matters as they are. Those who
do evil are God's enemies, the enemies are not
foreign nations but the wicked people of Judah.

- 25 His purpose in punishment of Judah is to restore them.
He will purify and remove ALL unholiness from them.
SMELT is a process using extreme heat and a bonding agent
to remove impurities. Jesus is the bonding agent and God provides
the heat that is designed to drive us to repent & righteousness.
- 26 His purpose is clearly for their benefit. This will bring
them back into fellowship. Righteousness is not a
single act but a daily way of life, repeated over & over.
- 27 A forebearer of Christ (Messianic) prophecy. The wages
of sin will be ultimately paid in full (redeemed) by
Christ on the cross. It still is an individual
event requiring "repentance" or a complete change of direction.
- 28 Yet those who do not repent will be consumed.

29 Oaks or Sacred Oaks of Pagan worship, usually at top of hill.
This Canaanite nature-worship was abhorrent to God.

Today's nature worship that replaces Him is also abhorrent.

30 Changes and compares them to tree that is dying w/out
nourishment. The garden is the nation that is withering
w/out presence of water (God). Jesus is living water.

31 This is a reference to eternal fires of hell that punish
but do not consume. See Mt. 25.46 Jesus references "eternal
fire" in Mt. 18.8 & 25.41, Luke 16.24 the rich man is in
anguish of the flame. This punishment follows physical death.
shall burn: but not be consumed.

1 This second message is shown to Isaiah. This section 1:2.1-4.6
is a message of condemnation for their sins, and a promise of
hope in restoration. This restoration is not of them but in
the church. This is only clear looking back over history. For
them it was a message of coming hope.