

Isaiah 1:1-20
 God Desires Faithful Obedience –Not Vain Rituals

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Outline of Chapters 1-6

Chapter 1 – The Sin of Judah
 Zion Poem 2:1-4
 Zion Poem 4:1-6
 Chapter 5 – The Sin of Judah

- **All five chapters contrast the ideal with the actual situation in Judah.**
- **The first five chapters give the “situation” that necessitated Isaiah’s call in chapter 6.**

Yahweh’s Indictment of His People

Isaiah 1:1-3 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. Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the Lord speaks, “Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. “An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master’s manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand.”

They Had Divorced Their God

Isaiah 1:4 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.

Isaiah's Diagnosis of His People

Isaiah 1:5-6 Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint. 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.

Isaiah's Diagnosis of His People

Isaiah 1:7-9 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. 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. Unless the Lord of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.

Yanwen Indicts Judah's Ritualism!
Isaiah 1:10-11 Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. "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."

Yanwen Indicts Judah's Ritualism!
Isaiah 1:12-14 "When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? "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. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them."

Yanwen's Reaction and Call to Action
Isaiah 1:15-17 "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. "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow."

Isaiah's Gracious Offer

Isaiah 1:18-20 "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. "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Application

1. We must recognize the dangers of trusting in rituals and sacrifices rather than Christ!

Sacrifices:

Isaiah 1:11, 13 "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... Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me."

Sacrifices Always Pointed to Christ

Leviticus 17:11a For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls...

Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

1. Obedience is Greater Than Sacrifice!

1 Samuel 15:22-23 Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king."

1. Trust in Christ - Not in Rituals

Vain Rituals:

Isaiah 1:12-13 I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts...

Colossians 2:16-17 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

2. We must know that the human condition necessitates the work of the Suffering Servant.

Isaiah 1:4a, 6 Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity... 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.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.
