

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 216 – Vision Of Isaiah Through Both Burn Together (Isaiah 1:1-31)

1. What can you learn from the first verse of the book of Isaiah?

Many things: *“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” (Isaiah 1:1).*

- This book is a vision (**Numbers 12:6**, and **II Chronicles 32:32**). There are some grievous things Isaiah will see (**Isaiah 21:2**). Remember that visions often contain imagery and we must be cautious in not reading too much into things (**Acts 10:9-17**).
- Isaiah is the son of Amoz (**II Kings 19:2**, **II Kings 19:20**, **II Kings 20:1**, etc.).
- These visions are concerning Judah and Jerusalem (**Isaiah 2:1**). That does not mean there will solely be things about Judah though (i.e. **Isaiah 13:1**). An accurate vision in these days was limited among prophets (**Isaiah 28:7**).
- Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah are the kings during the time of this vision. That puts us in the history of Judah recorded from: **II Kings 15 – II Kings 20:21** and **II Chronicles 26:3 - II Chronicles 32:33**. Hosea and Micah are also prophets at this time (**Hosea 1:1** and **Micah 1:1**).
 - Uzziah was a leper (**II Chronicles 26:21**) and was cut off from the Lord’s house (**Numbers 5:2**).
 - Jotham was the son of Uzziah (**II Kings 15:32**). He, like his father, did right with the exception of not removing the high places (**II Kings 15:34-35**).
 - Ahaz blew it (**II Kings 16:2**).
 - Hezekiah was up and down (i.e. he only cared about himself; **II Kings 20:12-19**), but ultimately did good (**II Chronicles 31:20** and **II Chronicles 32:25-26**). He took away the high places of idolatry (**II Chronicles 32:12**).

2. At the time Isaiah has his vision, was Judah properly remembering the Lord?

No, they have rebelled against Him: *“(2) Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. (3) The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. (4) Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward” (Isaiah 1:2-4).*

- When God speaks, you’d best listen (**Deuteronomy 4:1**). The problem is, when God spoke they often did not listen (**Jeremiah 16:12** and **Hosea 9:17**).
- God had nourished them (**Isaiah 46:3-4**).
- They have rebelled (**Isaiah 30:9** and **Isaiah 63:9-10**).
- They really don’t know their Father (**Jeremiah 4:22**) through willful blindness (**Isaiah 44:18**). They have fallen because of sin (**Hosea 14:1**).

3. From bottom to top, is the daughter of Zion in good shape in Isaiah's vision?

No: *"(5) Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. (6) From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. (7) Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. (8) And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city"* (Isaiah 1:5-8).

- God's people have a history of corruption from head to toe (**Zephaniah 3:1-4**). The people loved it that way (**Jeremiah 5:31**).
- This vision Isaiah has is one wherein destruction has occurred all the way up to Jerusalem wherein she is besieged (**Isaiah 7:1** and **Isaiah 8:5-8**).

4. What kept Judah from having an end likened to Sodom and Gomorrah?

The remnant: *"Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah"* (Isaiah 1:9).

- **II Kings 19:20-34**.
- In times of apostasy, there is always a remnant (**Romans 11:1-5** and **Revelation 3:4**).
- As we progress in the book of Isaiah, we will see that this will be true after Assyria is sent by God against them (**Isaiah 10:12-25**).

5. Though Judah did not have the end of Sodom and Gomorrah, did the Lord see them in a similar way?

Yes: *"Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah"* (Isaiah 1:10).

- Calling His people Sodom and Gomorrah shows they were sinful (**Genesis 18:16-19:24**). This also shows God has plans for severe judgment (**Jeremiah 49:18**, **Jeremiah 50:40**, **Amos 4:11**, and **Zephaniah 2:9**).
- When God's people saw that reference from God, they should have realized that God despised them (**II Peter 2:6** and **Jude 7**).

6. Did God accept the worship that Judah was offering to Him?

No: *"(11) To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. (12) When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? (13) Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. (14) Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am*

wearily to bear them. (15) And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood” (Isaiah 1:11-15).

- **Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 21:27, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 6:19-20, Matthew 23:14, John 9:31, I Timothy 2:8, and I Peter 3:12).**

7. What did God require Judah to do to have good return to them?

They had to cleanse themselves and reason with the Lord: “(16) Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; (17) Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. (18) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (19) If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:16-19).

- They have to repent (**II Chronicles 7:14, Isaiah 55:6-7, and Jeremiah 3:12-14**).
- If they cleaned up their act God would be with them (**Isaiah 3:10 and Hosea 14:1-4**).

8. What did God promise if Judah refused His word?

They’d be devoured: “But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” (Isaiah 1:20).

- **Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and I Samuel 12:25.**
- God’s promises are sure (**Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2**).

9. Why did the Lord refer to His faithful city as an harlot?

Because they were perverted and for sale: “(21) How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. (22) Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: (23) Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them” (Isaiah 1:21-23).

- They had become spiritual harlots (**Jeremiah 3:1, Lamentations 1:8-9, and Ezekiel 23:30**).
- They are not a pure drink any more (**Hose 4:16-18**).
- They loved gifts (**Ezekiel 22:12 and Micah 7:3**) and bribes perverted judgment (**Proverbs 17:23**).

10. Did the Lord intend to seek vengeance and return Jerusalem to a state of faithfulness?

Yes: “(24) Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: (25) And I will turn my

hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: (26) And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. (27) Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness” (Isaiah 1:24-27).

- God has a switch they have flipped (**Deuteronomy 28:63**).
- His goal was to restore (**Jeremiah 33:7**).
- The fullness of His promise for restoration came with Christ (**Jeremiah 33:15-17**).
- The Gospel shall start in Jerusalem (**Isaiah 2:2-3** and **Luke 24:47**).

11. Was God’s judgment on the unfaithful something that they could quench?

No: *“(28) And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed. (29) For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen. (30) For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water. (31) And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them” (Isaiah 1:28-31).*

- **II Kings 22:17, Isaiah 66:24, and Malachi 4:1.**