

Holy Trinity Bible Study - Isaiah Lesson #2

Primary Sources:

Webb - The Message of Isaiah, Barry G. Webb

Motyer – The Prophecy of ISAIAH, J. Alec Motyer

From the Jerusalem that is to the Zion that will be (1:2 – 2:5)

Chapter 1

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? 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, and become like Gomorrah. (**Romans 9:29**)

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; 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 convocations-- 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.

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: "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."

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.

Chapter 2

The Mountain of the Lord

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples;

and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Reading: The Message of Isaiah pages 41-46

Questions to Consider

1. What was God's intention for Israel? (Exodus 19:6)
2. How did Israel respond? (1:2-3)
3. What charges does God bring against Israel?
4. How is that manifested? 1:4)
5. What does Isaiah mean when he refers to "Holy One of Israel"?
6. What does it mean that they are now estranged?
7. What is the result of that estrangement? (1:5-7)
8. How has God brought about correction?
9. What is the meaning of verse 8?
10. Who is in control of the outcome? (1:9)
11. What is God's judgement on the religion as practiced by Judah and Israel? (1:11-15)
12. How does this relate to Judaism as practiced by many in the time of Jesus, and Christianity as practiced today?
13. Was Isaiah calling on the people of Israel and Judah to abandon their traditional rites?
14. Was he simply advocating morality without religion?
15. Why does Isaiah relate the situation in Judah with that of Sodom and Gomorrah? (Deuteronomy 31:9-13)
16. How can the Lord so persistently reject their sacrifices? (1:12-15)
17. What does God call Judah and Israel to do? (1:16-17) (Exodus 12 & 20)
18. What is the promise of God in verses 18 & 19?
19. What does God call then to do first?
20. How will the Lord's judgment be executed? (1:20)
21. What is God's judgement on Jerusalem? (1:21)
22. How does sin act on the nation? (1:22-23)
23. How will God deal with the faithless city? (1:24-25)
24. Why does God deal so harshly with the city?
25. What is the ultimate promise of God? (1:26) (2 Samuel 5:6-9 & 7) (Psalm 89)
26. What are the moral grounds of redemption and judgement? (1:27-28)
27. What is the ultimate result of false religion? (1:29-31)
28. What do verses 2:2-4 represent?
29. What is Isaiah's call after the song presented above? (2:5)