

Isaiah 1:2-9

The Case Against the Nation

1. Summary

- a. 1:1 is a book header, spanning Isaiah's whole life. (>61 yrs)
- b. Ch. 1 encompasses the content of the entire book (God's purpose in Rom 11:15)
- c. It is the legal indictment and sentence of judgment on the nation and the city of God.

2. 1:2-9 – Charging a Sinful Nation

- a. "*Hear...*" Calling the jury to witness – Deu 4:26, 30:19, Ps 50:4 "if walls could talk"
- b. 2-3 – The cry of every parent with rebellious children.
- c. 4-6 – The indictment: "*sinful nation*" contrasted to Exo 19:6, Deu 7:6, 14:2, 21
 - i. "*seed of*" not Abraham "*children*" Mt 3:7, Jn 8:44; "*corrupters*" – Deu 32:5
 - ii. The body dead due to the covenant – Deu 28:22,27-29,35, 49-52, 2Chr 36:16
 - iii. How will they respond to God's chastening? Prov 3:11, Heb 12:5-7
- d. 7-9 – Israel's depraved condition.
 - i. 1:5-9 cf to closed minds of Isa 6:9-10 (v5), 6:11-12 (v7), 6:13 (v9) remnant
 - ii. They were promised seed as the stars, but now a "very small remnant"
 - iii. Remnant cf. Mt 7:14, 21:43, Lk 12:32, Ac 2:21, Rom 9:29, 11:4-6, Rev 12:17

3. 1:10-15 – What the Law Says

- a. Sodom and Gomorrah and "burnt offerings" – both covered in soot and ash.
- b. "*what purpose*"... "*who hath required this*"... the rebellious were religious.
- c. "*vain oblations*" – empty offerings - Hos 6:6, Amos 5:21-24, Mt 23:23
- d. The law says it is of the heart and will - Deu 10:16, Lev 1:2-4, 1Ch 29:18, 2Ch 16:9
- e. God hates empty religion – this is why he also gives grace - Titus 1:16
- f. "*prayers*" – Num 6:25, Jer 11:14, Lam 3:44, Ps 80:4, also Mt 5:24, Jam 5:16, 1Pe 3:7