

Isaiah 1

Jesus

I. Introduction

▪ Four Categories of OT Books

1. **Law** Gen-Deut.
2. **History** Josh-Esther
3. **Poetry** Job-Song
4. **Prophets** Isaiah-Malachi

Isaiah begins the Prophetic Section of OT

17 Prophetic Books divided into Major/Minor depending on length

- **5 Major Prophetic Books:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
- **12 Minor:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Q. What is the role of a Prophet? **A.** Forth Tell what is/Forthtell what will be

- **Dangerous to Presume to be a Prophet:** Thus says the Lord

Deuteronomy 18:20 ... the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.** [False-Prophet] ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'— ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does **not happen or come to pass**, that *is* the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Revelation 19:10 ... the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy**

The true spirit of prophecy always shows itself in **bearing witness to Jesus**. Any teaching of prophecy that takes our minds and hearts away from Him is not being properly communicated. [Hocking]

... **prophecy at its very heart is designed** to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [Walvoord]

- True Prophets are **filled with God's Spirit...**

1 Peter 1:10 Of **this salvation** the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the **grace that would come to you**, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, **the Spirit of Christ who was in them** was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things **which angels desire to look into.**

2 Peter 1:16 ...we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have the **prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to **heed as a light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...

- **Fulfilled Prophecy:** Light shining in a dark place/Truth revealed in world of lies

When we consider the prophetic testimony to Jesus, **we do well to heed it**. There are at least 332 distinct OT predictions regarding the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled perfectly. The combination of this evidence together, from a simple statistical perspective, is absolutely overwhelming. Professor Peter Stoner has calculated that the probability of **any one man fulfilling eight** of these prophecies is one in a **quadrillion** (10 to the 17th power). That number of silver dollars would **cover the state of Texas two feet deep...** if you consider 48 of the prophecies, the odds become one in **10 to the 157th** power.

- **Northern Kingdom** Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, Hosea
- **Southern Kingdom** **Isaiah**, Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Malachi
- **Northern Kingdom** **19** Kings of Israel No Good Kings. Idolatry rampant
- **Southern Kingdom** **20** Kings of Judah 8 Good Kings...maybe inc...

1. Asa
2. Jehoshaphat
3. Joash
4. Amaziah
5. **Uzziah**
6. **Jotham**
7. **Hezekiah**
8. Josiah

Isaiah: [Salvation of God] He is a Prophet sent by God to the Southern Kingdom of Judah who prophesied during the reign of 4 Kings of which **3 were good** [Uzziah, Jotham and Hezekiah] and **one bad [Ahaz]**

- **Ahaz:** Wicked. Sacrificed his son in the fire as pagan nations
- **Judah invaded many times under Ahaz:** Israel/Syria/Edom/Philistines/Assyria

Prophecy in Ch. 1: Time of wicked King Ahaz

SUMMARY Isaiah Prophet sent by God to Judah

III. Wickedness of Judah Father's Heart

- Judah has Rebelled against Me v4
- Judah remains Unrepentant even in discipline vv 5-8
- Only My Grace stands between Judah/Extinction v 9

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I have **nourished** and **brought up children**, And 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 consider."

- **Rebelled:** Lit. Refusing to submit to authority

Heaven and Earth are my witness

My people are dumber than an ox! Even an ox knows who feeds it!

- **Excruciating** for parents to watch children they love go their own way....

Crucifixion is quite possibly the most painful death ever invented by humankind. The English language derives the word "**Excruciating**" from crucifixion, acknowledging it as a form of slow, painful suffering

- **Question:** How have we treated God our Father? Sin against His love?

Judah has Rebelled Against Me

4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden [weighed down] with iniquity, A **brood of evildoers**, Children who are corrupters!

Q. Why did the Prophets/J the B/ Jesus use term Brood/Offspring of evil?

A. Children tend to resemble their father

John 8:44 [To those seeking to kill Him] You are of your **father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- You say your My children/Act like children of the devil.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the **children of the devil are manifest**: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God...

3 John 1:11 ... He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

Q. Who is our father God or Devil? **A.** The one we resemble

4b... They have forsaken the Lord, They have provoked to anger **The Holy One of Israel**, They have turned away backward.

Holy One of Israel: Isaiah's favorite Name for God

- **Forsaken Me** Walked away from Me
- **Provoked Me** Spurned, Despised, Abhorred Me
- **Turned from Me** Become Estranged/Turned backside to Me

Judah remains Unrepentant even During My Discipline

5 Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.

We are born Sick...from Head to the Sole of the Feet

Romans 7:18 ...I know that in me [that is, in my flesh] nothing good dwells

- Can't be reformed/rehabilitated...We must be reborn. **Born-again w/new heart**

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Pride deceives people that sin/misery/stench is better than being whole

- Sick from head to toe/No soundness in body
- Purifying stinking oozing wounds that won't heal

Why will you not turn to Me? Stop beating your head against wall?

Look at yourself...How is going your own way working?

7 Your country is desolate, Your cities are burned with fire; Strangers devour your land in your presence; And it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. 8 So the **daughter of Zion** is left as a booth in a vineyard, As a hut in a garden of cucumbers, As a besieged city.

- God uses pain/misery to get our attention...

2 Chronicles 28:19 ...the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged **moral decline in Judah** and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord. 20 Also Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him. 21 For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the Lord, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him. 22 Now **in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the Lord.** [What?]

God Brings Trials to Force a Choice

Judah chose to rebel. Choose to sin...choose to suffer

9 Unless the Lord of hosts Had left to us a **very small remnant**, We would have become like Sodom, We would have been made like Gomorrah.

God's Grace: Only thing standing between Judah/Annihilation

- Judah deserved to be judged as Sodom/Gomorrah

10 Hear the word of the Lord, You **rulers of Sodom**; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah: 11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" Says the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats. 12 "When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts? 13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble 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 hear. **Your hands are full of blood.**

- **Judah:** Worshiped Idols while Playing Church

If your heart's not in it...do yourself and Me a favor...**Stop**
To Lukewarm Church: I'll vomit you out of My mouth

- Spread out hands as if to Me/Full of blood/Sinful deeds
- Self-deceived through the **ease of religious formality**
 1. **Easier** than heart-felt repentance
 2. **Easier** than forgiving/dealing w/bitterness

3. **Easier** than being honest self and w/ God who know all...

When sinners are under the judgments of God, they will more easily be brought to fly to their devotions than to forsake their sins and reform their lives. [Matthew Henry]

It's easier to be an excessive fanatic than it is to be consistently faithful because God causes an amazing humbling of our religious conceit when we are faithful to Him. [Chambers]

- **Instead of worthless rituals/unhealed wounds...**

Repent

16 "**Wash yourselves**, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord...

- **Fruit or Repentance is Action...Wash Yourselves**
 1. Put away/Cease evil
 2. Learn goodness: Yoke is easy burden light. Lear from Me
 3. Seek Justice
 4. Rebuke evil
 5. Defend Orphans/Speak for Widow

Be Clean/Forgiven

18 "**Come now**, and 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 be as 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 devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 49:14 [God's Heart] [My people say...] "The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands

Heart of a Father pursues...Let us Reason Together

- **Obvious** Sins are red as crimson/mess/not working
- **Invitation** Come now... Do the reasonable thing
- **Offer** Your sin can be washed away! Far as East/West
- **Question** Do you really want to get right with God?

Willing/Obedient or Refusing/Rebelling

- **If you're willing** to confess ...you will be forgiven
- **If you refuse** to confess ...you will not be forgiven
- **If you're obedient** to My ways ...you will live well

- **If you rebel** ...you will be devoured by self, world, devil

The Mouth of the Lord has Spoken. Choose

God legally binds Himself to Forgive/Cleanse a humble confessing heart

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful **and just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar,** and His word is not in us.

- **Let us reason together:** It is the most reasonable thing to do... to follow God

SUMMARY Wickedness of Judah vs Father's Heart

III. Unrepentant Judah Father's Discipline

21 How the faithful city has **become a harlot!** It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers. 22 Your silver has become dross, Your wine mixed with water. 23 Your princes are rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them.

- **Faithful City now a Harlot:** Spiritual Adultery

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world **makes himself an enemy of God.**

- **100 Yrs.** until Babylon invades

24 Therefore the Lord says, The Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, "Ah, I will **rid Myself** of My adversaries, And take vengeance on My enemies. 25 I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly **purge away your dross,** And take away all your alloy.

- **Purge Dross:** Heat up silver and scoop off the filth

God turns up the heat to separate good stuff from the bad

Allow us to see our need for Him/See what we're made out of

Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

God speaks of Future Grace/Mercy after Judgment...

26 **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."

- God's Heart is Restoration

When will Jerusalem be called The City of Righteousness? Not today but Ch. 2

27 Zion shall be **redeemed with justice**, And her penitents with righteousness. 28 The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the Lord **shall be consumed**. 29 For they shall be **ashamed of the terebinth trees** Which you have desired; And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens Which you have chosen.

- **Terebinth Trees/Gardens:** Places of idolatry manifested in orgies leading to unwanted children culminating in child sacrifice to demons

30 For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades, And as a garden that has no water. 31 The strong shall be as tinder, And the work of it as a spark; Both will burn together, And **no one shall quench them**.

- **Shame/Embarrassment are gifts:** Guardrails to wake us up

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord.

Always a Choice: Repent or Dig in?

Repent: Eternal Life...**Dig in:** Eternal fire never quenched...

Isaiah 66:24 [Last v Isaiah] And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have **transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched ...**

Romans 6:23 ...the **wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Justice will be satisfied for your sin by one of two deaths**
 1. Jesus' Death on Cross
 2. Your Eternal Death in Hell ... **What say you?**

God's mercy, grace and forgiveness knock at the door of every heart...The question is will we open the door? No one will ever be forced through heaven's gate against their will and no one will be surprised to be there. The great and never-ending shock will be at Judgment for those who only played church **...and believed that God did not notice.** [NJC]

Isaiah's message to Judah? Time to get serious in your relationship with Jesus
Why? The consequences for not doing so are as serious as it gets

- What father do we resemble by our words/actions/lives?
 1. **God** Truth, Honesty, Obedience, Humility, Love
 2. **Devil** Lies, Deceit, Rebellion, Arrogance and Hate...even as we go church

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, '**Lord, Lord,**' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

SUMMARY Unrepentant Judah Father's Discipline