

# Isaiah 1 – 7 September 2023

## “Curing Religious Hypocrisy”

### Introduction

\*Read Chap 1:1

\*The Times – 740-680BC during the Judean kings Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh

\*During Ahaz’s reign was the Assyrian Captivity of Northern Israel & defeat of Egypt by Assyria in 722

\*Assyria returns against Judah under Hezekiah in 701

\*The Man – Isaiah: called the evangelical prophet b/c he says much of the redemptive work of the Messiah

\*Other Servants – At this time prophet Hosea is preaching God’s love in N. Israel & Micah in Judah

\*Book opens w/ a chapter about religious hypocrisy

\*Highly recommend reading Rom 10 to complement this study in Isaiah 1 titled “Religious Paralysis”

**Today we’ll see 4 ways to cure religious hypocrisy**

# #1 – Identify the Condition: Rebellion (Chap 1:2-9)

Read Chap 1:2

1. The prophet of God speaks on behalf of God
2. If one today says ‘Thus saith the Lord’ they’d better be quoting scripture b/c canon is complete
  - a. Bible warns from beginning (Deut 12), to middle (Prov 30), to end (Rev 22), not to add to the Words of God
3. God sees Israel as His children that He’s done nothing but good for & yet they rebel against Him

Read Vs 3

1. Even animals, by nature, return home each day
  - a. The ox responds to his master’s commands
  - b. The ass finds his way home each night

Read Vs 4

1. Sin: archery term to miss the mark of perfection
2. They missed the mark of righteousness w/ guilt b/c they’re the offspring of evil doers
  - a. We are by birth & nature sinners

3. Corrupters: To change that which is good to bad
4. They had available that which is good yet didn't continue in it

### Read Vs 5-6

1. Whether the 'striking' comes from God or sinful results, they're not having their intended effect of causing repentance and conversion
2. Israel hasn't fixed their wounds b/c they don't see them as a problem
  - a. We talk to people reaping the results of their sin & it's difficult to get them to see the connection between what's happening and their sin that caused it

### Read Vs 7-9

1. Their personal sin has had a massive effect on the whole country – Just as it was in Sodom
2. Thru the devastation that Judah is facing, God is being gracious just to allow them to endure
  - a. Read Psm 103:10: < our sins deserve
  - b. God has promises yet to fulfill w/ Israel so He's being patient allowing time to repent

3. Paul quoted vs 9 as a reminder to Israel in Rom 9 of God's gracious patience toward Israel in waiting for their repentance

## **#2 – See the Contradiction: Work w/o worship? (Chap 1:10-15)**

Read Chap 1:10-11a

1. God is sarcastically calling Israel Sodom
2. Read I Sam 15:22 – (Samuel to Saul)
3. When our heart is disobedience to God our coming in 'worship' is gross
  - a. It's like yelling at your spouse all day long, then wanting to be together that night
4. God never wants our work without first our worship
5. Sacrificing to God should be a response of a grateful heart – any other reason is prideful & ineffective

## Read Vs 11b

1. God doesn't need our sacrifices, they're for our benefit – to see Christ in them

## Read Vs 12

1. They've turned worship into religious labor
2. Being w/ God isn't required, it's a privilege

## Read Vs 13-14

1. These God-appointed feast days were designed to point them to Jesus (Passover, etc.)
  - a. Their meetings are stained w/ guilt for they haven't repent of their disobedience
2. Read I Cor 11:27-28 – deal with it, then come to God

## Read Vs 15

1. Outward acts of service & worship are repelled by God when they're not connect to an inward heart of wanting to obey God

### #3 – Receive the Cleansing: Wash (Chap 1:16-20)

Read Chap 1:16-17

1. There's never a process given to quit evil, just quit – As in I Cor 6:18 – Flee fornication
2. However, there is a process to better up health godly habits – go thru the process

Read Vs 18-20

1. Would you plz notice this very famous verse isn't being said to heathen, but to religious people
2. This is a reasonable course of action to obey God
  - a. God never asks us to follow Him out of blind faith
  - b. God gives us reasons & a choice – what a gentleman
3. There is a choice to be made that WILL have its natural consequences

## #4 – Heed the Calling: There’s only two choices (Chap 1:21-31)

Read Chap 1:21

1. Instead of using all your resources for good, you’re now using them for selfish gain

Read Vs 22-23

1. Sinners make wine into water, only Jesus can make water into wine – that’s the way back

Read Vs 24-27

1. There are two options for restoration
  - a. We can bow our heart at the cross and purge sin converting to His good ways...or...
  - b. God comes & purges the sinners themselves
2. Read Luke 20:17-18 – There’s no third option

Read Vs 28-31

1. Problem is, they are spiritual dry w/o life
2. Whether intentional (transgressor) or just indifferent to God (a sinner), all will be judged & ashamed

## Conclusion

So religious hypocrisy can creep into even our life subtly, be ready!

1. **Identify the condition of rebellion**
  - a. Anything we think, speak or do that is in violation of God's Word is rebellion
2. **See the contradiction of work w/i worship**
  - a. Man's fleshly work apart from God's spirit moving in us is self-promotion and pride
3. **Let's receive the cleansing Jesus offers**
  - a. There isn't a process to quit evil, there's a decision to accept the power of Jesus
  - b. Then we begin the process of sanctification and having daily foot washings
4. **Heed the calling when facing the choice**
  - a. The way down is up in pride & selfishness
  - b. The way up is down in humility and service to the worthy One Jesus