

>>> A. Background To Isaiah:

- Highly Quoted In New Testament.
- Concerns Many Present Issues.
- Prophetic Material Including Messiah, New Heavens And New Earth.
- 740 BC-680 BC. 60 Years.

Isaiah 1:1.

>>> A. “Vision.” Divine Revelation. Sometimes Called A “Burden.”

- Little Personal Information About Isaiah. (Possibly Access To The Palace Leaders? Hebrew Tradition = Relative Of Uzziah.)

>>> B. “Concerning Judah And Jerusalem.” Southern Kingdom. Northern Kingdom Already Under Attack By Assyria. Shortly Devastated And Exiled.

- Ministered During 4 Kings: Mostly Good Kings Except Ahaz.

2 Chronicles 27:2. And he (King Jotham) did what was right in the eyes of the Lord according to all that his father Uzziah had done, except he did not enter the temple of the Lord. But the people still followed corrupt practices.

- Generally The Prophets, Priests, And People Were Rebellious.

Isaiah 1:2. 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.

>>> A. “Hear O Heavens And Give Ear O Earth.”

- The Lord Is Presenting An Indictment Against His People.
- He Calls All The Cosmos As Witnesses And A Jury.
- Presents Evidence Of Inexcusable Spiritual And Moral Corruption And Rebellion.

>>> B. “Children I Have Reared And Brought Up....”

- Israel Have Been Tremendously Blessed By God Like A Good Father Raising Up Beloved Children.
- God Rescued. Protected. Provided. Guided. Instructed.

>>> C. “But They Have Rebelled Against Me.”

- Natural Response To God's Goodness Should Be Gratitude And Commitment.

God Helping People And Their Long-Term Response Examples: Heal Their Sickness. Restore Their Relationships. Provide Their Finances. Rescue From Problems, Forgive Their Sins And Then They Forget God.

Isaiah 1:3. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”

>>> A. Isaiah Uses Tons Of Illustrations, Metaphors, And Analogies.

>>> B. Ox And Donkey Proverbial For Their Stupidity And Stubbornness.

- Even Stupid And Stubborn Animals Recognize And Respond To The Master That Feeds And Shelters Them.
- Know A Good Thing When They See It. Listen To Owner, Come Home When Called.

>>> C. “Israel Does Not Know-My People Do Not Understand.”

- They May Be Extremely Knowledgeable About Spiritual Things: God’s Word. Spiritual Upbringing. Religious Culture.

>>> D. Did Not “Know” God In The Sense Of Intimacy, Trust, And Commitment.

- Did Not “Understand” The Reality Of Their Search Situation From A Spiritual Perspective.

Oncology Doctor III. Top Medical Degree. Fail To Recognize Own Body Is Ridden With Cancer. Fails To Understand How Serious.

>>> E. You Can Have Bible Knowledge Without A Biblical Response Or Personal Insight To Own Life.

Isaiah 1:4. 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.

>>> A. Seven Different Descriptions Of Their Spiritually Corrupt Condition.

- Sinful, Laden With Iniquity, Offspring Of Evildoers, Children Who Deal Corruptly, Forsaken The Lord, Despised The Holy One Of Israel, Utterly Estranged.
- Hammering Home His Point! Why? Hard-Headed, Unbelieving, Self-Righteous.

>>> B. Greater The Spiritual Deafness The Hire The Volume Or Greater The Bluntness In Speaking The Truth Of God.

>>> C. Note Oft Repeated Phrase: “Holy One Of Israel.”

- Phrase Highlights God’s Uniqueness, Purity And Separation.
- God’s People Should Reflect His Nature And Revere His Word.

Isaiah 1:5-6. 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.

>>> A. “Why Will You Still Be Struck Down?” “Why Will You Continue To Rebel?”

- Not A Slip Up Or Stumble. Committed To Disobedience Of God. Results In National And Personal Hardship.
- Despite The Pain, There's No Gain. No Change In Direction.

Dog Electric Fence Ill. Most Learn From The Pain Of Being Zapped. Crossing That Line Causes Pain. The Stupid And Stubborn Just Keep Crossing The Line. Ask Question: Why?

>>> B. Foolish Stubbornness Is Not An Unrealistic Picture.

- Many People Experience Consequences Of Disobedience; Ruining And Hurting Their Own Lives.
- They Keep On Going In The Same Direction.
- Why Will You Still Be Struck Down? Why Do You Continue To Rebel?

>>> C. Verse 5b-6 Uses Analogy Of Physically Sick Person To Demonstrate The Destructive And Harmful Results Of Unrepentant Sin On The Nation.

- “The Whole Head Is Sick, The Whole Heart Is Faint.”
- Total Ruin. Desperately Sick And Broken.

>>> D. Sole Of Foot To The Top Of Head. No Soundness (Health.) Nothing But Bruises And Sores And Untreated Wounds.

- God Is Saying: Just Look Around At Your Life And Your Nation. Can't You See How Bad Things Are? Can't You See You Need God? Why Won't You Turn Around?

>>> E. Ancient Healing Of Infected Wounds Involved Pressing Out The Pus Of Infection, Applying Oil To Heal, And Bandages To Protect.

- Spiritual/Moral Wound Is Not: Pressed, Bound, Softened.
- Israel Is Allowing The Deadly Moral And Spiritual Infection To Remain By Continuing To Disregard And Disobey God.

>>> F. Allowing Sin To Remain Is Like Allowing A Puss-Filled Infection To Remain. It Will Only Get Worse.

Isaiah 1:7-8. 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.

>>> A. Straightforward Language Instead Of Illustrations.

- Your Country Is Desolate.
- Your Cities Are Burned.
- Foreigners (Armies Like The Assyrians) Devour Your Land.

>>> B. So Much Of Country Is Defeated And Devastated Zion (Jerusalem) Has Become Like A Lonely Farmer's Shack That Was Used To Guard The Field.

- Nothing Else Around. Just A Dilapidated Booth In A Vineyard. A Sole Hut In A Cucumber Field.

>>> C. Basic Message: Look At Yourselves. You Are A Mess. Let's Quit Ignoring The Problems Or Treating It Mildly. Serious!!!

Meth Addict Picture III. Just Take A Look. Seriousness And Ultimate Outcome Is Obvious.

Isaiah 1:9-10. If the Lord of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah. 10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching (Law) of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

>>> A. “Hear The Word Of The Lord.” Refused To Hear With Receptive Hearts Up To This Point.

- Not A Failure Of God To Speak But A Failure Of Wayward People To Listen.
- God Speaks: Bible. Teacher. Conscious. Friends. Circumstances.

>>> B. “Rulers Of Sodom.” Notoriously Evil City Wiped Out By God In Genesis 18-19.

- Used Figuratively To Communicate Total Depravity. Like Saying “You Are A Benedict Arnold.”

>>> C. Vs. 10a Is A Rebuke Of Leaders (Rulers.)

- The Political And Religious Leaders Should Have Led The Nation Toward Righteousness But Instead Preached And Promoted Wickedness.

Corrupt Police Illustration. Crime Is Wrong For Everyone But Especially Detrimental When Those Who Lead And Enforce Are Committing And Encouraging Crime.

>>> D. Vs. 10b. Is A Rebuke To The Average Citizen. “Give Ear To The Teaching Of Our God You People Of Gomorrah.”

- The Word Is Not Just To Inform You But To Transform You. The Teaching Is To Satisfy Your Curiosity But To Change Your Character.

Isaiah 1:11. “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.

>>> A. “Multitude Of Sacrifices.” Who Cares?

- Hours You’ve Prayed?
- Worship Songs You’ve Sung?
- Religious Services You've Attended?
- Money You've Given?

>>> B. Bribe God? Is He Indebted To You?

>>> C. “I Have Had Enough.. I Do Not Delight.”

- Spiritual Activities That Don't Reflect A Heart Of Love, Trust, And Commitment Are Repulsive.

Unfaithful Husband Illustration. Make It All Better With A Dozen Roses, Personal Poetry, And Greeting Cards Every Day While Continuing In Unfaithful Activities.