

Isaiah was called as a prophet in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Judah is dominated by the city of Jerusalem. The Northern Kingdom is called Israel. During Isaiah's prophetic time he witnessed the fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria and the almost destruction of Jerusalem. He lived to see the restoration in Hezekiah's reign and then see the utter rebellion of Manasseh. For background information you should read 2 Kings 15 – 2 Kings 21, 2 Chronicles 26 – 2 Chronicles 33, Nahum, Micah, and Hosea.

Isaiah 1:1-9 – This section speaks of people who have rebelled against the commands of God but continue even in judgement of God. Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned in Gen 18:16 to Gen 19.

What does it take for God's judgement to be on all Israel and Judah?

Often people compare modern nation/states to Israel or Judah, is this a good comparison? Who are the people of God today and could they ever be this rebellious?

Isaiah 1:10-20 – Even though the people are rebelling against God, they are still following the sacrificial system, feast tradition, and worship patterns.

What does God think about people who hold of the form of religion, but not the heart? What does it say in this case?

What actions does God prefer?

Isa 1:18 is quoted in the Hymn *Jesus Paid It All*, what does this verse tell us about the character of God?

Isaiah 1:21-31 – In this section of the prophecy there is a dramatic turn. God says He will protect Zion from its enemies.

Who are the enemies of Zion in this passage?