

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Jul 2016

Isaiah

Holy Living

Lesson # 1 A Rebellious Nation

INTRODUCTION

What is the most common form of rebellion for “churched” college kids today?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Isaiah 1:1-31

Note: Isaiah means “the salvation of the Lord.” Since he prophesied 40-80 years (around 740 BC) he saw many good and bad kings. He experienced the events of the first 39 chapters. Since he prophesied the events of chapters 40-66 (Babylonian captivity), some scholars think they were written by someone else. “The theme of Isaiah’s prophecy may be summarized as follows: God’s ideal for His covenant people Israel will indeed be realized but only after His judgment purifies the covenant community of those who rebel against His authority. God is the “Holy One of Israel,” who sovereignly controls the destiny of nations but who also demands loyalty from His people.”¹ Prophets were also called “seers” or seeing men because they saw visions from God as if they saw them with their bodily eyes. If they were wrong (false prophets) they were supposed to be stoned. “The first chapter establishes the character of the prophet’s message. Presented as a trial at law the charges of God against his people are expressed. The heavens and the earth are called as a jury. God is both the plaintiff and judge. The people of Judah are the defendants. The prophet is the witness.”²

1. Why would God call heaven and earth to witness His complaint? Vs 2; **Deut 30:19; 31:28; 32:1**
2. What is the problem? Vv 2-4
3. How is Judah (the southern kingdom) wounded? Vv 4-9
4. Why was their worship and sacrifice offensive? Vv 11-15 **1 Sam 15:22, 23; Jer 7:21-26**
5. How can the people get right with God? Vv 16-17 What will God do in return? Vv 18-19
6. What will happen if people continue to resist God’s call to repentance? Vv 20-31

APPLICATION

Our response to God grows out of our relationship to Him. How does your experience of forgiveness reflect in your quality of life? Who is God calling you to encourage, plead or defend? V. 17

You will recall that the nation divided after the death of Solomon; ten tribes in the north were organized as Israel, and two tribes in the south as Judah. The capital of Israel was Samaria; the capital of Judah was Jerusalem. Isaiah ministered in Jerusalem, but his messages touched both the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms. Isaiah lived to see Israel (the Northern Kingdom) decline and finally go into ruin under Assyria.³

¹ Chisholm, R. B. (1998). The Major Prophets. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary: Simple, straightforward commentary on every book of the Bible* (D. S. Dockery, Ed.) (261–262). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Paschall, F. H., & Hobbs, H. H. (1972). *The Teacher's Bible commentary: A concise, thorough interpretation of the entire Bible designed especially for Sunday School teachers* (390). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the Old Testament*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.