Introduction to Isaiah - Understanding what rebellion does to you

**Experiencing the freedom of cooperating with God**

**Monday**

Read Isaiah 1:1-8, Hebrews 4:6-8

Avoid rebellion against God at all costs. **Search** your heart and talk to God.

**Tuesday**

Read Matthew 26-27:1-10, John 21

**Study** the difference between Judas and Peter.

**Wednesday**

Read Isaiah 51

You will know God (Jesus) personally and understand Him so much better if you submit to His sovereignty over your life. **Meditate** on who God is.

**Thursday**

Read Psalm 91, Isaiah 1:1-8

If you live close to Jesus, you will enjoy His perfect protection. **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Friday**

Read 1 Peter 4

Cooperate with the Holy Spirit, even when it’s hard. **Pray** for God’s help.

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About Isaiah

* Son of Amoz (nothing really known about him)
* Married with at least two children
* Possibly from a noble family. Always seemed to have access to Judah’s monarchs.
* Lived and ministered during a moral decline in Judah, during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
* Tradition is that he was martyred during King Manassah’s reign
* His message delivered approximately between 739 BC and 701 BC

About the historical context

930 BC Judah and Israel divided

In 750 BC Assyria began to emerge as an empire, ruled by Tiglath-pileser

Little by little Assyria took over more and more of Israel (Northern Kingdom), getting closer and closer to Judah (Southern Kingdom); strategy was to deport and resettle

The events of Jonah probably took place around the time the Assyrian’s began to start their empire building

Northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed and exiled by Assyria 722 BC

About the book

3 main units:

Chapters 1-39 - Parts of these sections seem to have pretty clear historical parallel - they can be linked to historical events and to biblical historical accounts

Chapters 40-55

Several chapters are probably sermons Isaiah preached. A call to trust God instead of the nations around them

Chapters 56-66

Addressing the exiles from Babylon prophetically. Again a series of sermons of Isaiah

5 major themes in Isaiah:

1. The nature and character of God

* There is no other being like Him in the universe
* The Holy One
* Deeply cares for His creation and wants to be personally involved with them
* He is a God of cause and effect, but He steps in and bears the effect for wrong doing
* He is absolutely trustworthy and dependable

1. The nature of sin

* Rebellion against God
* Refusal to recognize the character of God
* Self exaltation and pride
* Worship of creation
* The act of religion without relationships

1. The nature of salvation

* The Assyrian crisis as a back drop
* Salvation from exile and captivity
* Divine grace is the only means for salvation

4. Servanthood

* Willingly submits to God because of trusting relationship
* Religion ignores true, loving servanthood

5. The Messiah

* Prophesies of Jesus
* The King
* A servant
* In the lineage of King David
* Lays down His life for His people
* Empowers His people to live a righteous life

Isaiah 1 New International Version (NIV)

It is possible that Isaiah 1 was written last to provide a summary overview and theme of the book.

1. Addresses rebellion
2. The effect of rebellion
3. Empty religious gestures don’t impress God
4. Repent from wrong doing and God forgives sin
5. God restores you

**1**

The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

**2**

Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth!

    For the Lord has spoken:

“I reared children and brought them up,

    but they have rebelled against me.

**3**

The ox knows its master,

    the donkey its owner’s manger,

but Israel does not know, (no relationship)

    my people do not understand.”

**4**

Woe to the sinful nation,

    a people whose guilt is great,

a brood of evildoers,

    children given to corruption!

They have forsaken the Lord;

    they have spurned the Holy One of Israel

    and turned their backs on him.

**5**

Why should you be beaten anymore?

    Why do you persist in rebellion?

Your whole head is injured,

    your whole heart afflicted.

**6**

From the sole of your foot to the top of your head

    there is no soundness—

only wounds and welts

    and open sores,

not cleansed or bandaged

    or soothed with olive oil.

**7**

Your country is desolate,

    your cities burned with fire;

your fields are being stripped by foreigners

    right before you,

    laid waste as when overthrown by strangers.

**8**

Daughter Zion is left

    like a shelter in a vineyard,

like a hut in a cucumber field,

    like a city under siege.

**2**

Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth!

    For the Lord has spoken:

“I reared children and brought them up,

    but they have rebelled against me.

There is nothing more painful than to lead someone to the Lord and then, eventually, see that person walk away from God...and end up in a worse spot.

**Hebrews 6:4-8 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, **5**who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age **6**and who have **fallenaway**, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. **7**Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. **8**But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

fallen away -

turn away from their allegiance (AMPC)

committed apostasy (EXB)

abandoned their faith (GNT)

turned against God (TLB)

deserted Christ (NOG)

abandons his faith (TPT)

BibleHub

defector

Apostasy - An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith. (Websters 1828)

Other thoughts - to conspire against

**3**

The ox knows its master,

    the donkey its owner’s manger,

but Israel does not know,

    my people do not understand.”

This rebellion leads to not knowing (relationship) and not understanding (not understanding God, His goodness, His purpose, who He is)…not knowing who God is (His character, his purpose)

and therefore leads to hopelessness and not experiencing His love or having the inner strength that comes from faith in God.

**4**

Woe to the sinful nation,

    a people whose guilt is great, (unatoned sin)

a brood of evildoers, (Jesus used this term when talking about the Pharisees)

    children given to corruption! (Don’t forget this term)

They have forsaken the Lord;

    they have spurned the Holy One of Israel

    and turned their backs on him.

3 verbs in Isaiah 1:4 - **forsaken** (left, absent, departed),  **spurned** (web 1828 to kick, reject with disdain, treat with contempt, treat with contempt; to despise), **turned their back** on Him (become a stranger as in part of a different family or household, divorced your husband to be a prostitute)

To **forsake** or backslide - due to temptation, due to condemnation, due to lack of interest and distraction. God goes after the back-slider.

Romans 2:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**4**…the kindness of God leads you to repentance

Are you going to let an unanswered prayer turn your heart against God? Are you going to let a question about God turn you against Him?

Are you going to let one of your own failures, lure you away from trusting in Him?

The difference between Judas and Peter who hid out of fear, when Jesus was arrested. One thing is to hide because of your fear or shame, its another to turn on Jesus and attack Him.

Let me ask you a question: If you were to attack one of my family members, do you think I would feel like you were attacking me? That’s how God feels when you attack someone in the church.

Be very careful…don’t attack a member of the Christ’s family. If you do, you are attacking Jesus Himself.

One thing is to slip away from God as you are reaching out to Him, another is when you turn your back on Him as you are running away from Him.

**James 1:13-15 New International Version (NIV)**

**13**When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14**but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15**Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Dragged away - taken away when you don't want to be taken away.

American soldier - who was dragged off of his military vehicle

Turned their backs on the Holy One of Israel.

Holy One of Israel - Used 26 times Isaiah, used more than any other book in the Bible.

* As Holy He is separate from Israel in character and nature
* Yet He is ‘of’ Israel; He still was associated and connected to Israel, He still loved Israel, He still was in covenant relationship with Israel, He still had a plan for Israel.
* The one who contended with Israel; God cared enough to fight for Israel and cared enough to confront Israel.

**5**

Why should you be beaten anymore?

    Why do you persist in rebellion?

Your whole head is injured,

    your whole heart afflicted.

**6**

From the sole of your foot to the top of your head

    there is no soundness—

only wounds and welts

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not cleansed or bandaged

    or soothed with olive oil.

**7**

Your country is desolate,

    your cities burned with fire;

your fields are being stripped by foreigners

    right before you,

    laid waste as when overthrown by strangers.

**8**

Daughter Zion is left

    like a shelter in a vineyard,

like a hut in a cucumber field,

    like a city under siege.

If you turn your back on the Lord, what can you expect to happen?

You walk away from God’s protection, you can expect bad things:

beaten, head injury, affliction of the heart

* You won't have the upper hand in your struggles
* mental illness
* distractions, self centeredness, harmful desires, love for this world and idolatry
  + wrong and detrimental desires

If you live close to Jesus, you will enjoy His perfect protection!

**Psalm 91**

**1**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High

    will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[a]

**2**

I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,

    my God, in whom I trust.”

**3**

Surely he will save you

    from the fowler’s snare

    and from the deadly pestilence.

**4**

He will cover you with his feathers,

    and under his wings you will find refuge;

    his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

**5**

You will not fear the terror of night,

    nor the arrow that flies by day,

**6**

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,

    nor the plague that destroys at midday.

**7**

A thousand may fall at your side,

    ten thousand at your right hand,

    but it will not come near you.

**8**

You will only observe with your eyes

    and see the punishment of the wicked.

**9**

If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,”

    and you make the Most High your dwelling,

**10**

no harm will overtake you,

    no disaster will come near your tent.

**11**

For he will command his angels concerning you

    to guard you in all your ways;

**12**

they will lift you up in their hands,

    so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

**13**

You will tread on the lion and the cobra;

    you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

**14**

“Because he[b] loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him;

    I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

**15**

He will call on me, and I will answer him;

    I will be with him in trouble,

    I will deliver him and honor him.

**16**

With long life I will satisfy him

    and show him my salvation.”