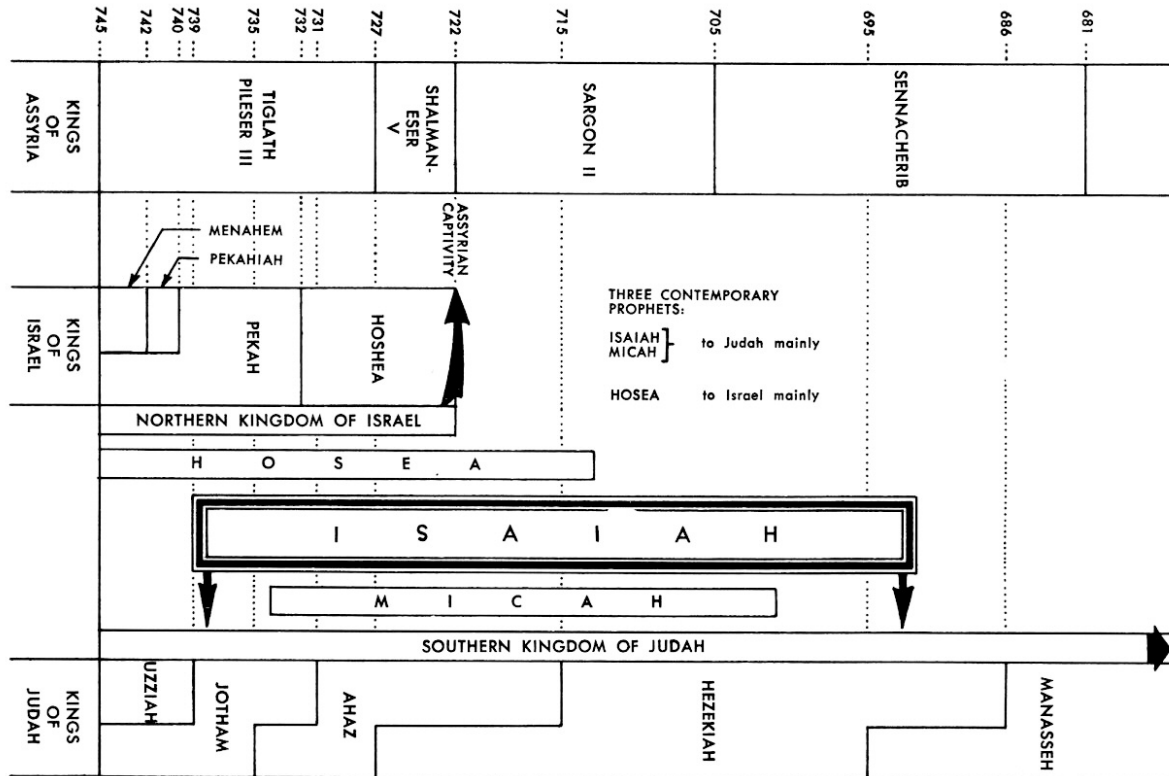


# CITYWEST CHURCH

## ISAIAH PART #1

### 02.03.2025 - 10 AM

### A CALL TO RENEWAL (ISA 1-5.)



*So first a little about Isaiah the book and the man.*

*The name Isaiah means Yahweh is salvation.*

*His book has 66 chapters, the same number of books in the Bible.*

*The first 39 chapters are like the first 39 books of the Bible (The OT) filled with God's wrath and judgment. The second 27 like the NT declare a message of hope.*

*Isaiah served as a prophet for 40-60 years.*

*Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the NT.*

*He is known as the messianic prophet, the Paul of the OT, and the Shakespeare of prophets. (He was brilliant in the Hebrew language.)*

*God used him to be a powerful voice to Judah( while Assyria plundered the Northern Kingdom) and also to us today.*

*Talmudic tradition says Isaiah's persecutors sawed him in two during the reign of Manasseh.*

## 1. TRUE WORSHIP REQUIRES A PURE HEART.

“Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.”

### Isaiah 1:16-17 (NLT)

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.”

### Matthew 15:8-9 (NLT)

- *God condemns **empty religious rituals** without true obedience and justice.*
- *Worship is not just about ceremonies but about **living righteously** and caring for others.*

### **Life Application:**

- *Are we worshiping God with a **genuine heart**, or just going through the motions?*
- *We must **align our actions with our faith**, seeking justice and compassion.*

## 2. WILLING OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING, BUT REBELLION LEADS TO JUDGEMENT.

In the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s house

will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth.

It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

3 People from many nations will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob’s God.

There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.”

For the Lord’s teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.

4 The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

5 Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

### Isa 2:1-5 (NLT)

*After painting the picture of the glory of the Messiah's reign, Isaiah then challenges Judah (**house of Jacob**) to live in the Messiah's reign right now.*

“But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”

### **James 1:22 (NLT)**

- *Isaiah contrasts those who walk in God's light with those who trust in human strength and idols (Isaiah 2:6-8).*
- *Obedience to God leads to blessing, while pride and idolatry bring downfall and shame.*
- *Are we truly walking in God's light, or relying on our own wisdom?*
- *Obedience is not just knowing God's word, but living it out daily.*

### **3. PRIDE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION.**

“The Lord says, ‘Beautiful Zion is haughty: craning her elegant neck, flirting with her eyes, walking with dainty steps, tinkling their ankle bracelets. So the Lord will send scabs on her head; the Lord will make beautiful Zion bald.’”

### **Isaiah 3:16-17 (NLT)**

*King Uzziah in his pride because of the blessing God had given.*

“Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.”

### **Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)**

*Isaiah rebukes the arrogance and self-indulgence of Jerusalem's leaders and women.*

*Pride leads to judgment and humiliation, not success.*

*Are we more focused on our appearance, status, and comfort than on humility and service?*

*We must repent of pride and live with humility before God.*

#### **4. GOD EXPECTS A FRUITFUL LIFE.**

“The nation of Israel is the vineyard of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. The people of Judah are his pleasant garden. He expected a crop of justice, but instead he found oppression. He expected to find righteousness, but instead he heard cries of violence.”

##### **Isaiah 5:7 (NLT)**

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

##### **John 15:5 (NLT)**

*God compares Israel to a vineyard that was supposed to bear good fruit (justice and righteousness) but instead produced injustice and sin.*

*Jesus later teaches that a true disciple must bear fruit by staying connected to Him.*

*Are we producing spiritual fruit in our lives—justice, righteousness, love?*

*We must stay connected to Jesus and allow Him to shape our character.*

#### **5. BEWARE OF SPIRITUAL COMPLACENCY**

“What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.”

##### **Isaiah 5:21 (NLT)**

“But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”

##### **Revelation 3:16-17 (NLT)**

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

### **Matt 7:21-23 (NLT)**

Isaiah warns against self-reliance and arrogance, where people think they don’t need God.

Jesus rebukes the lukewarm church in Laodicea, showing that spiritual complacency leads to rejection.

Are we spiritually lukewarm, relying on ourselves instead of seeking God daily?

We must stay humble, dependent on God, and passionate about our faith.

### **CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:**

- 1. HOW DO WE CULTIVATE A PURE HEART?**
- 2. HOW DO WE RECOGNISE AND DEAL WITH PRIDE IN OUR OWN LIVES?**
- 3. DISCUSS THE IDEA OF GOD THE GARDENER, AND WANTING OUR LIVES TO BE FRUITFUL.**