

A Very Ugly Vision
- Our Sin, Plight & Worship
a study from Isaiah 1:1-17

Is. 1:1 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, O heavens! Listen, O earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

"I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knows his master,
the donkey his owner's manger,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand."

4 Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt,
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 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 The Daughter of Zion is left
like a shelter in a vineyard,
like a hut in a field of melons,
like a city under siege.

9 Unless the LORD Almighty
had left us some survivors,
we would have become like Sodom,
we would have been like Gomorrah.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

11 "The multitude of your sacrifices--
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,

of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls & lambs & goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
 this trampling of my courts?
13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
 Your incense is detestable to me.
 New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations--
 I cannot bear your evil assemblies.
14 Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates.
 They have become a burden to me;
 I am weary of bearing them.
15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide my eyes from you;
 even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen.
Your hands are full of blood;
16 wash and make yourselves clean.
 Take your evil deeds out of my sight!
 Stop doing wrong, 17 learn to do right!
 Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.
 Defend the cause of the fatherless,
 plead the case of the widow. NIV

Isaiah graphically conveys his sad vision of God's people's sins. To what are they compared (vs. 2-4)?

Of what are they guilty (vs. 2-5, 15, 16)?

What are the consequences of their sin (vs. 5-9)?

How does their sin affect God's view & acceptance of their worship & offerings (vs. 10-15)?

What should they (we) do instead (vs. 15 –16)?

What applications does this have for us / you?