

Isaiah - Crisis of Identity - Discussion Questions - Lesson 1

Isaiah lived in a very tumultuous time in Bible history. During his ministry to four kings in the southern kingdom of Judah, their northern brothers and sister 10 tribes of the kingdom of Israel were invaded, conquered, and scattered by the Assyrians (723/722 B.C.), never to be heard from again. Reread Deuteronomy 27-30 to understand what God said about their upcoming apostasy. The Assyrians also invaded Judah (701 B.C.), and it seemed there that the same fate would overcome Judah until Hezekiah and Isaiah led the people to turn to God **AGAIN**. After Rabshakeh, mouthpiece for King Sennacherib of the Assyrians, blasphemed the name of God, (Isaiah 36; 2 Kings 18) God sent his Angel and destroyed 185,000 men of their army one night without the people of Judah fighting at all. (2 Kings 19:35; Isaiah 37:36) This completely changed the course of human history as the Assyrians, with their capital of Nineveh (think Jonah), at that point were the most powerful nation in the world. – DK edited from Dr Ken Hart, MD

1. **Sabbath. Isaiah 1; 5:1-7** – What was unique about Isaiah’s circumstances?
2. If you were a new prophet would you start out by telling people that they were more dumb than cows or donkeys?
3. What actions dragged down the people of Judah?
4. **Hear, O Heavens! 2 Kings 15–20; 2 Chron 26–32; Deut. 4:26; 30:19; 31:28** How do you define “Rebellion”?
5. The donkey "knows his owner's manger." What does that suggest about the people of Judah?
6. Have you ever tried to imagine yourself in the shoes of Isaiah during this time?
7. What is the significance of God using an ox and a donkey as a point of comparison with the people of Judah?
8. Dwell on **2 Kings 17:7-20**. What parallels do you see from Deuteronomy?
9. God made a covenant with Israel. Then they rejected him. What was Isaiah’s pleading message to Judah?
10. Parents, God is talking about His children. Anyone find anything familiar here?
11. Did God give them instructions on worship?
12. **Rotten Ritualism. Isa. 58:3, 4; Lev 1–16; 1 Kings 8:10, 11; Isa 1:16,17** God was upset about what?
13. Why did God compare the leaders and people to those of Sodom and Gomorrah?
14. What were the children of Israel supposed to learn from the sacrificial system?
15. What is the root cause of God's unhappiness with the people?
16. The Judeans thought they were living right. Do we think we too are living right? What does God say?
17. **The Argument of Forgiveness Ps. 51:7, 14; Isa 1:18; 44:22; Jer 31:31–34** God’s appeal tells us what about God?
18. Forgiveness is offered to the people of Judah. What does God ask in exchange?
19. Sometimes we rebel. Tell me what, as a practical matter, we should avoid rebelling against?
20. Would it be correct to say: “If you are not thinking, you are not worshiping”?
21. **To Eat or Be Eaten Isa 1:19-31; Luke 13:10–17**. Eat or be devoured. What did they choose?
22. **Rhetorical Question:** Are we willing to obey God? Or, will we allow sin to destroy us?
23. **Deut 30:19, 20** Look at this passage. How does it apply to us today?
24. Is it really true that there is no middle ground? No compromise between God and sin?
25. Are there really only those two extremes? Is serving God an extreme?
26. **Ominous Love Song. Isa 5:1–7; 2 Sam. 12:1–13; 1 John 4:8; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:11; Matt. 12:31, 32; Heb. 6:4–6**. So, are you cultivated or wild grapes?
27. So, why did God call this a love song?
28. Didn’t the people of Judah learn anything from the experience of Israel?