

**"Come now,
let us reason together,"**

Isaiah 1:1-20

Isaiah son of Amoz

Isaiah 1:1-9

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.

Isaiah son of Amoz

“Isaiah was a prophet during the time when the original nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms...The northern kingdom had sinned against God, and the southern kingdom was headed in the same direction- perverting justice, oppressing the poor, turning from God to idols, and looking for military aid from pagan nations.”

“They have forsaken the LORD”

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.

“They have forsaken the LORD”

“At its heart, this passage is about rebellion and ignorance-rebellion that brings about certain consequences and the failure to see the connection between an action and its consequences...if we rebel against the Creator of the universe and reject His ways, spiritual corruption and death will follow.”

John N. Oswalt

“Stop doing wrong”

Isaiah 1:10-17

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 and lambs and 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.

“Stop doing wrong”

Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? **7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has showed you, O man,
what is good. And what does the
LORD require of you? To act
justly and to love mercy and to
walk humbly with your God.

“Stop doing wrong”

Hosea 6:6

**For I desire mercy, not
sacrifice, and
acknowledgment of God
rather than burnt offerings.**

“Stop doing wrong”

James 1:27

**Religion that God our Father
accepts as pure and faultless is
this: to look after orphans and
widows in their distress and to
keep oneself from being
polluted by the world.**

“Stop doing wrong”

Matthew 9:11-13

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" **12** On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

“Stop doing wrong”

“Examine your own worship experience. Is it just entertainment as you enjoy the music and go along with what others do? Or is it a genuine heartfelt praise to God? God does not take pleasure in our outward expressions if our inward faith is missing.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

"Come now, let us reason together,"

Isaiah 1:18-20

18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; **20** but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.'" For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

"Come now, let us reason together,"

Psalm 51:1-7

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash
away all my iniquity and cleanse
me from my sin. **3** For I know my
transgressions, and my sin is
always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. **7** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

"Come now, let us reason together,"

Romans 3:21-26

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

"Come now, let us reason together,"

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Applications

- **Truly worship The Lord**
- **Demonstrate true faith by our actions**
- **Understand judgment is coming**

Final Thoughts

“There is no question that we today are as guilty of trying to use religious behavior to manipulate God as any Israelite was. How easy it is to think that when we go to church regularly, read the Bible, pray, tithe, and don’t engage in substance abuse, God somehow owes us something.”

John N. Oswalt

Final Thoughts

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."