

Come Follow me
Elo Viz production
Week 37
Isaiah 1-12

For the next 5 weeks we will be studying the book of Isaiah. Now, I know you might be asking, “why so much Isaiah?” Well, I hope that you'll see after today why it is so Important for us to understand and know the teachings of Isaiah. Because he saw our day and prophesied for us. Isaiah is quoted by other prophets more than any other prophet. Nephi copies chapter after chapter for us in the book of Mormon right from the words of Isaiah. Jesus quoted him often. In fact Jesus started His ministry by quoting from Isaiah. As you recall He went to the synagogue in Nazareth and opened the Book of Isaiah to preach, He reads His own prophecy written by Isaiah in Isaiah 61 then states as he closes the book:

“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.” (Luke 4:21-22)

Here are some more interesting facts about Isaiah: The book of Isaiah has 66 chapters. The Bible as a whole has 66 books. Coincidence? Maybe... But here is what gets really interesting. There are two parts to the book of Isaiah chapters 1-39 are considered by scholars to be “Condemnation” chapters. It's the law, lots of prophecies about destruction. Then in chapters 40-66 the writings seems to change. The tone is different, the message is more about grace and love. Some believe it was a totally different writer, which we know is not true. But it is noticeably different. Why this is significant is because the old testament has 39 books, and the new testament has 27 books. Matching perfectly the pattern in the books of Isaiah.

More importantly the name Isaiah in Hebrew means “Salvation is of the Lord”, which is significant because Isaiah has more direct prophecies about the Savior Jesus Christ and specifics on his earthly ministry more than any other prophet. He is the only prophet to reveal through revelation that Jesus is to be born of a Virgin.

So let's dive in and see what marvelous gems we can find the writings of Isaiah. We begin in Chapter 1 verse 1:

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”

This verse tells us quite a bit. Isaiah's ministry lasted for a very long time. Through 4 kings. Well, Actually five, because it is mentioned that there is one more King. One of the most wicked kings in all the bible, King Manasseh is the one that actually has Isaiah killed. More than 50 year of ministering by the prophet Isaiah.

He goes on to describe in the next few verses about the current standing of the children of Israel is the eyes of the Lord.

“2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass[donkey] his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah **sinful** nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, **children** that are **corrupters**: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto **anger**, they have gone away backward.

Israel is not in a good place. The 12 tribes are split into two kingdoms, and as is the pattern they have fallen back into Idle worship and more specifically heartless worship. What I mean by that is they are going through the motions but their hearts are not in it. Verse 11-15:

“11 To what purpose *is* the multitude of your **sacrifices** unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I **delight** not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

13 Bring no more **vain oblations**; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and **sabbaths**, the calling of **assemblies**, I cannot **away with**; *it is iniquity*, even the **solemn meeting**.

14 Your new **moons** and your appointed **feasts** my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am **weary** to bear *them*.

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many **prayers**, I will not hear: your hands are full of **blood**.

Now, this can be confusing, because this was their culture, this is how they worshiped and sacrificed. They brought the goats and sheep to be sacrificed on the altars of the temple. And here God is saying: Enough! Don't do it any more. Why? It is not that He doesn't want them to do these things. But, He wants them to do it for the right reason. They were just going through the motions because that is what they always did and had to do. But they were Sunday only worshipers. Come Monday, no one could tell that they were a God fearing people. And God is fed up with it. He says; No more. Stop your faithless sacrifices, your empty prayers. Why this is significant for us is because Isaiah's prophecies are both near and far sighted. Meaning: that when he is speaking to the children of Israe, he is also speaking to us. Do we have “Sunday only Christians” today? I can assume that if you are listening to this podcast that you are properly NOT this kind of person. However, we most likely know people like this or we can fall into phases in our life that would resemble this type of attitude towards God and His Gospel.

And if this wasn't clear enough Isaish goes on:

“21 ¶ How is the faithful city become an **harlot**! it was full of **judgment**; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

22 Thy silver is become **dross**, thy wine mixed with water:

23 Thy **princes** *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth **gifts**, and followeth after rewards: they **judge not** the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.” Isaiah 1:21-23

The more we read of his prophetic vision of Isaiah the more it starts to look like our day. You can be sure that what we see happening in the world around us right now is the same situation

that Isaiah saw in his day. And the Lord spoke to us through him to warn the children of Israel and us that bad things will happen to those who remain hard hearted. And this is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Repent and come unto Him. Isaiah puts it beautifully in verses 16-20

“16 ¶ Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken *it*.

What beautiful poetry, verse 18 is one you may have heard before. I love the analogy of being cleaned and feeling white as snow from our state of sinful redness. What imagery that we have all experienced before. The pure witness that comes from forgiveness and remission of our sins. This really is the best way to describe God's desire to have us return to Him. But there is an element that I believe is commonly mis-understood. No one will go to Hell because of their sin. No need to rewind, I'll say it again...No one will go to Hell, (what the world views as Hell) because of their personal sins. Now that I have your attention please let me explain. Every single one of your sins has been paid for by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Here is some proof:

John 3:16 -”For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 -”For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

John 1:29 - John the baptist when he saw Jesus coming to him said: “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:5 - “5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Alma 34:8 - “8 And now, behold, I will testify unto you of myself that these things are true. Behold, I say unto you, that I do know that Christ shall come among the children

of men, to take upon him the **transgressions** of his people, and that he shall **atone** for the sins of the world; for the Lord God hath spoken it.”

Shall I go on? How about 1 more:

John 15:13 -”¹³ Greater **love** hath no man than this, that a man lay down his **life** for his **friends**.”

The message is clear. Christ has paid for all of your sin and my sins. Only those that refuse to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior will find themselves alone and weighed down by the burden of guilt and sin. Only those who refuse to acknowledge His great eternal sacrifice will be left void of His holy spirit. His grace is all that we need, His love is all that we need to sustain us in life. His hands are the only ones we should seek.

Brad Wilcox put it this way: “Satan doesn't win when he can get us to cross the line, but when he convinces us that there is no way back”

I join my testimony with that of Nephies:

“⁶ Wherefore, **redemption** cometh in and through the **Holy ^cMessiah**; for he is full of **grace** and truth.

⁷ Behold, he offereth himself a **sacrifice** for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto **none** else can the **ends** of the law be answered.

(2 nephi 2:6-7)

In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.