

A Trek Through Isaiah 02 - Ch 1-5 Overview

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Introduction

Helicopter flight: an overview of Is 1-5.

Elements of worship

1. SEE: comprehend an aspect of God
2. KNOW: appreciate fully, experience
3. RESPOND: make a change in my walk based on my knowledge

Heading 1:1

1. Heading 1:1

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem

- a. Isaiah. Single author.
- b. Vision. From the LORD, not from him
- c. For Judah and Jerusalem

A Comprehensive Failure 1:2-31

1. Here is the introduction to the prophecy, introducing themes for the book:

- a. God's people have turned away from Him and become wicked (1:2-3, 21-23).
- b. Because of their sin, they and their land are devastated (1:5-9).
- c. Their religious practices are worthless because of their hypocrisy (1:10-15).
- d. God requires righteousness (1:16-17).
- e. God has not given up on His people; repentance will bring blessing (1:18-20).
- f. God will bring judgement on the wicked (1:24, 28-31).
- g. Zion will be redeemed and restored to righteousness (1:25-27).
- h. Her people will be ashamed of their former sins (1:29).

2. Israel's Revolt 1:2-4

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. (3) The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." (4) Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.

- a. A courtroom scene
 - i. God calls heaven and earth to judge
 - ii. The charge: children in rebellion
- b. What they were: God's chosen people
 - i. reared and brought up. Chosen and cared for to maturity by God.
- c. What they have done: rebelled and denied God
 - i. Forsaken the LORD. Once His, now departed.
 - ii. Despised the Holy One. Treated holiness with contempt.
- d. What they have become: corruption & darkness
 - i. A corrupt nation of corrupt people who are children of corrupt people
 - ii. Less understanding than brute beasts.
- e. What is the result: separated from God
 - i. Utterly estranged. Completely separated from God
- f. A glimmer of hope: not forsaken by God
 - i. Israel: Jacob's new name "a prince of God"

ii. My people: God has not given up on them.

3. National Situation: Desolation 1:5-9

a. God questions His people

Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?

b. Metaphor of an injured body illustrating the reality of a wounded people

The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. (6) From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it

Your country lies desolate...the daughter of Zion is left...like a besieged city.

c. But again, a glimmer of hope: a remnant

If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.

4. Religious Situation: Worthless Hypocrisy 1:10-17

a. A call to the people

Hear the word of the LORD

b. What they were doing: formal religion with iniquity

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? ...iniquity and solemn assembly

c. God's response: rejection

I will hide my eyes from you...I will not listen...your hands are full of blood.

d. The way back

cease to do evil, learn to do good;

though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...

e. Two choices were before them

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; (20) but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;

f. The authority

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

5. Zion's Corruption and Redemption 1:21-31
 - a. What the city was and has become
How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice.
 - b. God's response: remove impurity, restore righteousness.
I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross (26) And I will restore your judges as at the first.
 - c. Outcome for the city: redemption
Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
 - d. Outcome for the wicked: broken, ashamed, to burn forever
But rebels and sinners shall be broken together... they shall be ashamed...And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.

The Ideal Lost and Found 2:1 - 4:6

1. Heading 2:1
 - a. The word of the LORD
The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw
2. God's Ideal for His People 2:2-4
 - a. What might have been (and will be) for God's people
It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains...out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares...neither shall they learn war anymore.
 - i. God's King ruling on David's throne in Jerusalem
 - ii. The nations at peace.
3. The Present Reality 2:5-9
 - a. The reality of God's people
For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east...Their land is filled with silver and gold...their land is filled with horses...Their land is filled with idols
 - i. People full of the things of the world
 - ii. A nation depending on riches and military power
 - iii. A land full of idols

4. The Day of the Lord 2:10-22
 - a. A day of reckoning is coming
For the LORD of hosts has a day ...;
 - b. The pride of men will be humbled
And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
 - c. The helplessness of men will be revealed
And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD
 - d. The worthlessness of idols will be revealed
In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold
5. Judgement and Redemption 3:1 – 4:1
 - a. Provision and Leaders Removed 3:1-7
For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply...And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them...and the people will oppress one another,
 - i. All provision removed. Masculine + feminine = totality
 - ii. Competent leadership removed
 - iii. Spirit of justice removed from the people
 - b. The Root Cause 3:8-9
For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence. (9) For the look on their faces bears witness against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.
 - i. Speech and deeds that defy the LORD
 - ii. No shame
 - c. Choices and consequences 3:8-11
Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. (11) Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.
 - i. Each person reaps the consequences of their deeds
 - ii. Good for the righteous
 - iii. Woe for the wicked
 - d. Leaders on Trial 3:12-15
The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people...What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?
 - e. Zion's Women Condemned 3:16 – 4:1
 - i. The charge 3:16
The LORD said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet,
 1. Haughty attitude

2. Wanton looks and behavior

ii. The judgment 3:17 - 4:1

therefore the Lord will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts...the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents...Instead of perfume there will be rottenness...instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty....your men shall fall by the sword...empty, she shall sit on the ground

1. All the things of beauty removed
2. Health removed
3. In slavery
4. Men gone
5. Empty and alone

6. Zion Redeemed 4:2-6

a. Appearance of the Messiah

In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious

b. Cleansing of the people and the city

when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning

- i. Internal and external cleansing
- ii. By judgment (conviction) and burning (repentance)

c. The presence of the LORD

Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy.

- i. The presence of the LORD as in the Exodus.
- ii. Canopy. Intimate marriage chamber.

d. Protection at all times

There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Grace Exhausted 5:1-30

1. The Vineyard 5:1-7

a. The parable

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines...he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes...And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

...I will make it a waste

- i. A vineyard
- ii. Well planted and well taken care of
- iii. Worthless harvest of stink-fruit

b. The application

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

- i. The vineyard represents the house of Israel
- ii. God brought them out of Egypt and planted them in the promised land
- iii. They turned away from Him and filled the land with wickedness.

2. Laments and Consequences 5:8-29

a. Description of the stink-fruit harvest

b. Two woes, two therefore

Woe to those who join house to house...Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant...ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them...they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands.

Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge

Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down

c. Four woes, two therefore

Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood,

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust;

Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people...He will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come...Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey; they carry it off, and none can rescue.

i. Here is the Babylonian captivity.

3. Storm and Darkness 5:30

They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.

- a. As mariners on the sea in a raging storm
 - b. They look to the land. No refuge, only darkness and distress
4. The section ends with despair.

Application

For each passage, discuss these questions

1. In the passage, what do I SEE about God and about myself?
2. As I come to KNOW God better through His word, how does that knowledge affect me?
3. How then can I RESPOND to Him in worship?

Isa 2:2-9 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, (3) and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (4) He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (5) O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD. (6) For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. (7) Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. (8) Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. (9) So man is humbled, and each one is brought low— do not forgive them!

Is 2:2-4 speaks of God's ideal for His people: Zion as the highest of the mountains, from which the word of the Lord goes out and brings peace over the whole earth. But Is 2:5-9 speaks of the reality: God's people full of the things of the world, and their land full of idols; they are fallen to the level of the nations around them.

Isa 5:1-7 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. (2) He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. (3) And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. (4) What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? (5) And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. (6) I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. (7) For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Is 5:1-7 contains a parable about a vineyard that was planted with choice vines and well-tended, but yielded only a worthless stink-fruit harvest, and so would be trampled down and made a waste. The parable represents God's people.

Isa 2:10-22 Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty. (11) The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. (12) For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; (13) against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; (14) against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills; (15) against every high tower, and against every fortified wall; (16) against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft. (17) And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. (18) And the idols shall utterly pass away. (19) And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. (20) In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, (21) to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. (22) Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

Is 2:10-22 speaks of the coming day of the LORD, when the pride of men will be humbled, the helplessness of men will be revealed, the idols of men will be shown to be worthless, and the LORD will be exalted.

For Next Week: Is 1:1-31

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