

A Trek Through Isaiah 03 - Is 1:2-4

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Prayer

Intro (to 9:35)

- Is 1:1-31 is an introduction to the entire prophecy.
- Matthew Henry's summary
 - A high charge against the Jewish church and nation
 - A sad complaint of the judgments of God
 - A just rejection of shows and shadows of religion
 - An earnest call to repentance and reformation,
 - A threatening of ruin to those that would not be reformed
 - A promise of a happy reformation at last
- Echoes Dt 32 Moses' song
 - Deu 32:1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
- Outline
 - 1:1 Introduction
 - 1:2-4 God's people called into judgment
 - 1:5-9 Desolation of the Land
 - 1:10-20 True religion
 - 1:21-31 God's city: corrupted, to be redeemed.

Waking up (To 9:50)

1. Elements of worship: see, know, respond
2. Know = impact. Why does the word of God often have so little effect?
3. Object lesson:
 - a. Volunteers
 - Mr Self-Secure, an unbeliever
 - One to read Eph 4:17-19
 - b. Play
 - On stage: chair, table with Bible open to John 3:16.
 - Self-Secure sits on stage in chair, reads.
 - Leader says the verse then shares the gospel with Self-Secure
 - Self-Secure makes no reaction. Before the Leader finishes speaking, he looks at his watch, stretches, closes the Bible, gets up and leaves the stage.
 - c. No response. What happened?
 - Mr Self-Secure is spiritually dead. He does not respond to spiritual things.
 - He is not inert but active. Even doing religious things.
4. Read Eph 4:17-19

Read Eph 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (18) They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. (19) They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

- a. We will look at this passage more in weeks upcoming.
- b. Note two things
 - The condition of the unbeliever: darkened understanding, no life.
 - Eph 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
 - Psa 115:6-7 ...they have eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear...
 - Dead people have no senses, no feeling, no response.
 - The warning to us: don't act like them!
 - Shows that we can act like unbelievers
 - Not a salvation issue...unless it is habitual behavior
 - Not what a believer should do
 - Does not please the Lord.
 - Does not result in growth.

1:2-4 God's people called into judgment (to 10:00)

Read Isa 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.

1. V2a: Summons
 - a. Courtroom scene: God confronts His people.
 - b. Heaven and earth called as witnesses.
 - i. CALVIN: God calls nature because His people are senseless. Nature obeys God but men do not.
 - c. The Lord has spoken. These are the very words of God.
2. V2b: What they were:
 - a. God's chosen people
 - b. Four nouns of privilege (nation, people, offspring, children)
 - c. Rom 9:4-5 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. (5) To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
3. V2c, 4b What they have done:
 - a. forsaken the LORD. Once with Him, now departed.
 - b. Despised the Holy One of Israel. Counted as worthless and of no account the Holy God.
 - c. Deu 32:15 (Moses song): "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.
4. V3, 4a: What they have become:
 - a. Four descriptions of falling short of the ideal (sinful, laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, acting corruptly)
 - b. God's people are compared with beasts, and found to have less understanding
5. V4b: What is the result: separated from God
 - a. utterly estranged.
 - b. Deu 32:19-20 (Moses' song) "The LORD saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. (20) And he said, 'I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness.
6. Henry: And all this is to be applied by us, not only to the communities we are members of, in their public interests, but to the state of our own souls.

Application (to 10:15)

1. See: What do we see about God in this passage?
2. Know: What is the effect?
3. Respond: What can we do?

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