

Isaiah 1:1-20
Come Let Us Reason Together

Position (1) – Isaiah was a prophet to 4 kings

Warning given through visions to the prophets.

Waiting over long periods of time (II Peter 3:9-10)

Problem (2-3) – Israel did not know their God (Exodus 34:6-7 / I John 4:8)

Raised by God, yet still chose to rebel (Romans 1:20 / Psalm 19)

Recognizing less than the animals (II Peter 2:12)

Punishment (4-6) – Ignoring God’s hand of discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12)

Spurned the Holy One of Israel – He is slow to anger (II Chronicles 36:16)

Setting their hearts on rebellion – no matter what it cost them (I Timothy 4:1-2)

Soundness is gone – physically and mentally (I Timothy 6:3-5; 20-21)

Persistent (7-9) – In spite of the nation’s downfall, continuing in unbelief

Stripped by foreigners – invading and overtaking the land (Leviticus 26:3-9)

Sieged city – a tiny refuge is all that remains

Surviving only because of God – His promise is kept (Malachi 3:6/Jeremiah 31:35-37)

Practice (10-14) – Invoking the name of God through empty religious ceremony

Sacrifices that have become meaningless to God (Genesis 4:3-7)

Sabbath assemblies that are evil

Soul of God is burdened by their feasts

Prayer (15) – Is not heard when sin remains (Psalm 66:18 / Psalm 24:3-6)

Plea (16-17) – Instead of continuing in sin, seek what is good

Stop doing wrong (Ephesians 4:22-28)

Seek justice for the oppressed (James 1:27)

Ponder (18-20) – Inviting to reason with God to make a right choice

Stain of sin can be removed (II Corinthians 5:21)

Setting before His people an offer of the best – if they obey (Romans 8:32)

Sword will devour those who resist and rebel (II Thessalonians 1:8-9; 2:9-12)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 1:1-20

In what way did the Israelites not know God? What does it mean to truly know Him? How can we come to know Him? (John 1:12; 5:39-40; 7:16-17; 14:6-7, 23)

What should we consider when we face many trials and hardships? (James 1:2-5 / I Peter 1:6-7 / Hebrews 12:3-11)

What happens when we persistently ignore and resist God? (II Corinthians 4:4 / I Timothy 4:1-2 / Hebrews 10:26-31)

What is meant by the phrase, "God hates religion?" (Mark 7:6-13)

What steps can we take to break habitual sin in our lives? (I John 1:9 / Romans 12:1 / Ephesians 4:20-24 / James 5:16)

Why is true reasoning impossible without God? (Psalm 119:130 / II Timothy 4:3-4)

Isaiah 1:1-20
Come Let Us Reason Together

Position (1) – Isaiah was a prophet to 4 kings

Warning given through visions to the prophets. **We must respond to His message**
Waiting over long periods of time (II Peter 3:9-10) **His patience has a limit**

Problem (2-3) – Israel did not know their God (Exodus 34:6-7 / I John 4:8) **only about Him**

Raised by God, yet still chose to rebel (Romans 1:20 / Psalm 19) **given every opportunity**
Recognizing less than the animals (II Peter 2:12) **they recognize their caregiver**

Punishment (4-6) – Ignoring God's hand of discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12)

Spurned the Holy One of Israel – He is slow to anger (II Chronicles 36:16)
Setting their hearts on rebellion – no matter what it cost them (I Timothy 4:1-2)
Soundness is gone – physically and mentally (I Timothy 6:3-5; 20-21) **w/o reason**

Persistent (7-9) – In spite of the nation's downfall, continuing in unbelief **protection is gone**

Stripped by foreigners – invading and overtaking the land (Leviticus 26:3-9)
Sieged city – a tiny refuge is all that remains **Isaiah 8:6-8 – up to the neck**
Surviving only because of God – His promise is kept (Malachi 3:6/Jeremiah 31:35-37)

Practice (10-14) – Invoking the name of God through empty religious ceremony

Sacrifices that have become meaningless to God (Genesis 4:3-7) **appeasement?**
Sabbath assemblies that are evil **showing our worth?**
Soul of God is burdened by their feasts **no longer meeting their purpose**

Prayer (15) – Is not heard when sin remains (Psalm 66:18 / Psalm 24:3-6)

Plea (16-17) – Instead of continuing in sin, seek what is good

Stop doing wrong (Ephesians 4:22-28) **replacing the sin with its counterpoint**
Seek justice for the oppressed (James 1:27) **true religion in God's sight**

Ponder (18-20) – Inviting to reason with God to make a right choice **made in His image**

Stain of sin can be removed (II Corinthians 5:21) **an offer that should not be refused**
Setting before His people an offer of the best – if they obey (Romans 8:32) **much more**
Sword will devour those who resist and rebel (II Thessalonians 1:8-9; 2:9-12)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 1:1-20

In what way did the Israelites not know God? What does it mean to truly know Him? How can we come to know Him? (John 1:12; 5:39-40; 7:16-17; 14:6-7, 23) ***They knew about Him, but they did not know Him – who He was and what He required. To enter into the relationship that He desires to have with us. (Romans 8:15-16) We become His children by faith, believing the gift offered us through Jesus Christ. We study the Scriptures to know Him more and walk in obedience to experience and confirm His truth in us. We can only know God through knowing Jesus and putting our trust and faith in Him.***

What should we consider when we face many trials and hardships? (James 1:2-5 / I Peter 1:6-7 / Hebrews 12:3-11) ***God may be disciplining us, because we are on the wrong path. He may be refining us to purify our faith and draw us closer to Jesus. He may be maturing us through the lessons learned through suffering. Whatever the case, we should rejoice in the work He is doing, knowing it is for our best (Romans 8:28) and seek to gain His wisdom concerning what He desires to teach us.***

What happens when we persistently ignore and resist God? (II Corinthians 4:4 / I Timothy 4:1-2 / Hebrews 10:26-31) ***We find ourselves blinded by the enemy. Our hearts become hardened to sin and truth. We are in danger of facing the judgment of God – indicating that we never truly belonged to Him (Matthew 7:21-23)***

What is meant by the phrase, “God hates religion?” (Mark 7:6-13) ***When our religious practices and traditions become a means of pleasing and/or appeasing God on our terms. When we begin to measure our righteousness according to our own works. (Philippians 3:7-9) When our religion replaces our true walk and responsibility with our loving God and Savior.***

What steps can we take to break habitual sin in our lives? (I John 1:9 / Romans 12:1 / Ephesians 4:20-24 / James 5:16) ***Begin by agreeing with God concerning your sin . Surrender your life to Him, allowing His Spirit to influence your thoughts, words and actions. (Romans 6:11-14) Recognize that we are new creations in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17) and walk in the newness of who we are – created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Be honest with others who will pray with you and help you to be accountable before God.***

Why is true reasoning impossible without God? (Psalm 119:130 / II Timothy 4:3-4) ***We have such a tiny perspective on reality compared to our God. If we do not align ourselves with the truth He reveals, then we are blinded to things happening around us. We fall captive to myths when we turn from the truth of His Word.***