

Seeing Christ in Isaiah 1

Isa 1:1-3 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. 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; the ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know My people do not consider."

As we look at this first chapter of Isaiah it is most important that we find Christ here. For if Christ cannot be found then mankind we are without hope. For in this first chapter we shall see the utter depravity of mankind. And therefore we shall also see a need for cleansing. For God commands us to wash ourselves, make ourselves clean; to put away the evil of your doings from before His eyes. Further he commands us to cease from doing evil, and to learn to do good; (Isa 1:16-17)

And if we should ask, how clean must we be? And how perfect in our refraining from evil and doing good must we be? The only answer that comes back to us this morning is that we must be without spot or wrinkle, and absolutely perfect in our obedience. And we know this from the vision of Isaiah when he saw the Lord high and lifted up and his only cry was "woe is me". For what Isaiah saw was in that vision was God in His perfect holiness and himself in a sinful lost condition unable to stand before this holy, holy, holy God.

It is with that vision in mind that we shall consider this chapter under; 1. The vision of Isaiah. 2. The sinful state of mankind. 3. The absolute necessity of cleansing. 4. And the remedy provided.

The question before us is this; can we find Christ here in this very first chapter of Isaiah's vision?

- A. The vision of Isaiah. - *The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*
 1. By vision we must understand that Isaiah has received a direct revelation from God.
 - a. This is the same as if it had been said that there is nothing contained in this book which was not made known to Isaiah by God himself.
 - b. We must acknowledge then the certainty of the doctrine contained in this book.
 2. This is the vision that Isaiah began to see in the year that King Uzziah died.
 3. Here in Chapter One the scene is a courtroom.
 - a. God is both the accuser and the judge.
 - b. He calls on the whole of His creation to be witness against sinful and rebellious people.
- B. Thus we see the sinful state of the whole of mankind.
 1. Mankind (here as Judah and Jerusalem) are describe as those who are cared for as children by God Himself
 - a. For the whole of mankind belong to and are subject to God by creation.
 - b. Care for and provided for by their Creator.

*Acts 17:25-28 Since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things**. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for **in Him we live and move and have our being**,*

2. They are shown to be in a state of fierce rebellion.
 - a. A sinful people laden with sin.
 - b. In a state of absolute corruption.
 - c. They have forsaken their Creator.
 - d. They are unthankful for His care and His love.

Ps 14:1-3 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

Isa 1:4-6 Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it.

C. The absolute necessity of cleansing and the remedy provided.

1. Our religious service is of no value.

Isa 1:11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the Lord.

Isa 1:13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me.

Isa 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

2. This is true whether it be the church today or Israel of the Old Testament.
3. Yet God says I demand you to be clean, to be pure.

Isa 1:16-17 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good;

Ps 24:3-4 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

4. The only answer we can give is "woe is me".

D. And the remedy provided. - Isa 1:9 Unless the Lord of hosts had left **to us** a very small remnant, we would have **become like Sodom**, we would have been **made like Gomorrah**.

1. God has kept **to us** a remnant.
2. Our covenant keeping God has been faithful to His promise to Abraham's seed.
3. Had He not kept His covenant of mercy we would have been destroy as Sodom and Gomorrah.
4. That is what we deserve. That is what Isaiah and all the elect deserved!

CONCLUSION: Where then do we find Christ in this passage.

*Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they **shall be as white as snow**; though they are red like crimson, **they shall be as wool**."*

And how is this accomplished?

Our sins are as scarlet, they are red like crimson.

It is not our doing.

It is here that we find Christ in the remedy provided.

*Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved**.*

*Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb**."*

It is here we find Jesus Christ in this first chapter of Isaiah.

For it was God who kept a remnant through whom the Christ could and would come.

Let us give God all the glory with a devotion of thankfulness.