

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 1:1-31 (NIVUK)

1 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

² Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

‘I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.

³ The ox knows its master,
the donkey its owner’s manger,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.’

⁴ Woe to the sinful nation,
a people whose guilt is great,
a brood of evildoers,
children given to corruption!
They have forsaken the LORD;
they have spurned the Holy One of Israel
and turned their backs on him.

⁵ Why should you be beaten any more?
Why do you persist in rebellion?
Your whole head is injured,
your whole heart afflicted.

⁶ From the sole of your foot to the top of your head
there is no soundness –
only wounds and bruises
and open sores,
not cleansed or bandaged
or soothed with oil.

⁷ Your country is desolate,
your cities burned with fire;
your fields are being stripped by foreigners
right before you,
laid waste as when overthrown by strangers.

Sunday 27 July 2025

**Judah’s relationship with God
has broken down horrendously**

**Scene #1: Parent-child setting
(1:2-9)**



**Andover
Bible
Church**

<u>Chapter 1-5 summary</u> How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>1:1-31</u> Judah's relationship with God has broken down horrendously	<u>2:1-5</u> God promises a future of world peace	<u>2:6-22</u> God promises to end the world, where he will humble the haughty
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⁸ Daughter Zion is left

like a shelter in a vineyard,
like a hut in a cucumber field,
like a city under siege.

⁹ Unless the LORD Almighty

had left us some survivors,
we would have become like Sodom,
we would have been like Gomorrah.

- a lone city surrounded by destruction

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD,

you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ 'The multitude of your sacrifices –
what are they to me?' says the LORD.

'I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;

I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.

New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations –
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

¹⁴ Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;

even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.

Scene #2: Relating to God via temple (1:10-20)

- even though appointed by God!

<u>3:1-4:1</u> The Babylonian exile will lead to a pitiful remnant left in Jerusalem	<u>4:2-6</u> God promises a perfect future relationship with his people	<u>5:1-7</u> God feels exasperation and frustration towards Judah	<u>5:8-30</u> Judah's vast sin will be judged very harshly by God
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¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.^a

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

¹⁸ 'Come now, let us settle the matter,'
says the LORD.

'Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the good things of the land;

²⁰ but if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword.'

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

²¹ See how the faithful city
has become a prostitute!

She once was full of justice;
righteousness used to dwell in her –
but now murderers!

²² Your silver has become dross,
your choice wine is diluted with water.

²³ Your rulers are rebels,
partners with thieves;

they all love bribes
and chase after gifts.

They do not defend the cause of the fatherless;
the widow's case does not come before them.

²⁴ Therefore the LORD, the LORD Almighty,
the Mighty One of Israel, declares:

'Ah! I will vent my wrath on my foes
and avenge myself on my enemies.

- 1st glimmer of hope
scarlet sins → white wool

Scene #3: God and his city
(1:21-31)

^a Or *justice*. / *Correct the oppressor*

²⁵ I will turn my hand against you;^b

I will thoroughly purge away your dross
and remove all your impurities.

- 2nd glimmer of hope
refined to faithfulness

²⁶ I will restore your leaders as in days of old,
your rulers as at the beginning.

Afterwards you will be called
the City of Righteousness,
the Faithful City.'

²⁷ Zion will be delivered with justice,
her penitent ones with righteousness.

²⁸ But rebels and sinners will both be broken,
and those who forsake the LORD will perish.

- But rebels and sinners will perish

²⁹ 'You will be ashamed because of the sacred oaks
in which you have delighted;
you will be disgraced because of the gardens
that you have chosen.

³⁰ You will be like an oak with fading leaves,
like a garden without water.

³¹ The mighty man will become tinder
and his work a spark;
both will burn together,
with no one to quench the fire.'

For reflection

1. To what extent do we think of sin as a breakdown of relationship with God?

2. How does Isaiah 1 help you to reframe your thinking about sin?

3. How does Isaiah 1 help you to appreciate Jesus' death on the cross more?

Next Sunday (3 August): Isaiah 2 | Packed lunch together & members' meeting | Non-match day

^b That is, against Jerusalem