

What's Going On?

Isaiah 1:1-31

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For background: If time allows, watch the 8 minute Bible Project's Overview of Isaiah.

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-isaiah/>

01 Pray and read Isaiah 1:1-31.

02 What does God mean by saying, 'I reared children and brought them up' (v.2)? Can you name some of the key moments of this 'child rearing' in Scripture?

03 What is God's overall charge against the people of Judah (v.3-9)?

04 Look over verses 13-17. What commands of God are the Israelites following? What commands are the Israelites neglecting?

05 How does God view this selective obedience of the Israelites? Look up Dt 28:1-2, 15.

06 In Mt 23:23-24, Jesus challenged people who were treating others with the same kind of selective obedience. Christians also, individually or collectively, can often show the same 'selective obedience'. What commands of God do you think Christians routinely ignore?

07 God laments in Isaiah 1:21-23. What have the people lost in their relationship with God?

08 Who in particular does Isaiah "point the finger at" as culpable (v.23)? How were these people acting in their role?

09 How is God going to respond (v.24-28)? What is the criteria for either being delivered (v.27) or broken (v.28)?

10 The path the people are heading down is found in the picture described in verses 29-31. What emotions might this prophecy have elicited from the people in Jerusalem?

11 In what ways can we make God's heart to care for the vulnerable more a part of our life?

12 As we think about Isaiah 1 and the nation's failure to uphold their covenant with God, it reminds us to think about our own relationship with God and others. Do you think there is anything that you currently delight in, that you are ashamed of before Jesus? Spend five minutes now reflecting individually in prayer, confessing if necessary and asking God for his forgiveness and strength to follow him.

13 Pray for each other.