### Isaiah

## Chapter 1

1These are the visions that IsaiAh (son of Amoz) saw during the reigns of UzziAh, JoTham, Ahaz, and HezekiAh, (the kings of Judah) about things that were to come upon Judah and JeruSalem [in the future].  
  
  
2Hear, O heavens, and [pay attention] O earth,  
 For Jehovah spoke and said this:  
  
 ‘I fathered sons and I raised them,  
 But, they’ve paid no attention to Me.  
  
 3‘Although every ox knows its owner  
 And every burro knows its own master’s barn;  
 By IsraEl, I am unknown,  
 And My people do not understand.’  
  
4So, woe to you, sinful nation;  
 For, you’re a people that’s filled with its sins…  
 You’re an evil offspring and lawless sons,  
 Since you have abandoned Jehovah,  
 And IsraEl’s Holy One, you have provoked…  
 So now, you’ve been pushed to the rear!  
  
5Why be struck down for [your] lawless ways?  
 For your head is in a miserable condition  
 And your heart is in great distress…  
 6Nothing is healthy from your head to your feet.  
  
Your wounds and contusions are inflamed and unhealed,  
 Since no one has dressed them or applied oil,  
 Nor have they come here to wrap them.  
  
7Your land has been completely destroyed  
 And all of your cities are burned.  
 They’ve devoured the [land] that’s before you…  
 By strangers, it has been destroyed,  
 And foreign peoples have wiped it away.  
  
8For, the daughter of Zion has now been abandoned  
 Like an old shack in a vineyard  
 Or a shed in a cucumber garden,  
 Or like a city that is under attack.  
  
9So unless Jehovah of Armies  
 Should choose to leave us an offspring…  
 Like Sodom and GomorRah, we will be!  
  
10Therefore, hear the word of Jehovah  
 O you rulers of Sodom  
 And you people of GomorRah…  
 Pay attention to the Laws of our God;  
 11Because, He is asking you this:  
  
 ‘What good are the things that you offer to Me?  
 For, of your whole-burnt-offerings of rams,  
 I’ve received more than enough…  
 And too much fat from your lambs!  
  
 ‘Yet, I never asked for the blood of your bulls,  
 Or the blood of your goats…  
 12And I don’t want you coming to stand before Me!  
 Who asked for your hands to contribute such things?  
  
 ‘So I’ll not let you trample My courtyard again;  
 13And if you should bring fine flour to Me,  
 You will do it in vain…  
 Since I find your incense disgusting!  
 Nor will I accept your New Moons,  
 Or your Sabbaths or holiday feasts.  
  
 14‘With My whole soul, I’ve come to detest  
 All of your fasts and your Sabbaths…  
 As well as your holidays and your New Moons!  
 For with you, I am filled [to the brim],  
 So I’ll not [overlook] your sins anymore.  
  
 15‘Then I’ll turn My eyes when you hold out your hands  
 And not listen, no matter how often you pray,  
 Because your hands are so filled with blood!  
  
 16‘Why not bathe yourselves and get clean…  
 Then, remove your wicked [ways] from My eyes?  
 Stop being bad and 17learn to do good…  
 Insist on [judgments that are] fair!  
  
 ‘If you’ll rescue those who’ve been wronged,  
 Decide [in favor of] orphans,  
 And give justice to widows…  
 18Only then, can you come and plead before Me,’ says Jehovah!  
 And if your sins should be crimson red,  
 As white as snow, [I will make them].  
 Even if they are like scarlet,  
 I’ll make them as white as fine wool!  
  
 19‘If you should choose to listen to Me,  
 You’ll eat good things that come from the ground.  
 20But if you choose to not listen and to rebel,  
 I’ll send the sword to consume you.’  
  
[Yes, Jehovah actually] said these things.  
  
  
21How did Zion, that city of faith,  
 Become a whore so worthy of judgment?  
 For, murderers exist where justice once slept;  
 22All of your silver is tainted;  
 And your merchants all water their wine.  
  
23Your rulers resist all persuasion  
 And they serve as partners to thieves.  
 They are also lovers of bribes…  
 None will stand up for orphans,  
 And none will give justice to widows!  
  
 24‘Because of this,’ says Jehovah of Armies;  
 ‘Woe to you, O IsraEl’s mighty!  
 For My rage against the contrary won’t cease,  
 And on My enemies, I’m now passing judgment!  
  
 25‘Against you, I’ll be raising My hand,  
 And I’ll scrub you until you get clean!  
 I’ll destroy those resisting persuasion;  
 I’ll remove all the lawless among you;  
 26And I will cut down your proud.  
  
 ‘Then I’ll give you judges like those in the past,  
 And counselors like those who lived long ago.  
 Then, the Righteous City, you will be called…  
 The trusted mother-city of Zion.  
  
 27‘Through justice and mercy, she will be saved,  
 28When I break the lawless and sinners  
 And those leaving Jehovah are gone.  
  
 29‘Of the idols that they have preferred  
 And those [sacred] gardens, which they have loved,  
 They will then be ashamed.  
 30For they’ll be like fallen pine needles…  
 Like parks that don’t have any water.  
  
 31‘Their strength [will be weak] like the stubble of hemp,  
 And the things that they do will then be the sparks  
 That burn the lawless and sinners…  
 Flames that no one can extinguish.’