

## HOW GOD DEALS WITH BACKSLIDDERS

TEXT: Isaiah 1:1-31

### I. Backsliders grieve and provoke God to anger.

Isaiah 1:4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

### II. Causes for Backsliding

#### A. Rebellion and revolting against God's Word.

Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O Heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me.

Isaiah 1:5 Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

Isaiah 1:23 (rulers) Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

#### B. Spiritual ignorance of the Word of God

#### C. Failure to consider or review the why of troubles

Isaiah 1:3 The ox knoweth his power, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not now, My people doth not consider.

#### D. Sin separates us from God – described:

Isaiah 1:23 (rulers) The princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

#### E. Forsaking God is evil and sinful.

Isaiah 1:28 And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

### III. Effects of backsliding from God

#### A. Physical

1. Head sick

2. Heart faint

Isaiah 1:5 Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

3. Body illnesses, wounds, bruises, sores

**Isaiah 1:6** From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

B. Material

1. Land desolation
2. Cities burned with fire

**Isaiah 1:7** Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

3. Children of God left few in number

**Isaiah 1:9** Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

**IV. Religious performances of backsliders**

A. Still kept offering sacrifices and burnt offerings

**Isaiah 1:11** To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? Saith the LORD: AM full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

B. Still went to the House of the Lord.

**Isaiah 1:12** When ye come to appear before Me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread My courts?

C. Still observed the Sabbath and other holy days

**Isaiah 1:13-14** Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

**V. God's cure or remedy for backsliders**

- A. Washing required first
- B. Put away evil of your doings before God
- C. Cease from doing evil (sinning)

**Isaiah 1:16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil.

- D. Learn to do well or what is right
- E. Relieve the oppressed
- F. See that justice done for the widows and orphans

**Isaiah 1:17** Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the

fatherless, for the widow.

G. Come to the Lord and have a counseling session

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

H. Be willing to do God's will and be obedient

**Isaiah 1:19** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

## **VI. Calamities on those who refuse to follow these instructions.**

A. A part of them shall be devoured by the sword

B. Those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed

**Isaiah 1:20** But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

**Isaiah 1:24** Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease Me of Mine adversaries, and avenge Me of Mine enemies.

**Isaiah 1:28** And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

C. Shame shall come upon them who resort to idols

**Isaiah 1:29** For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen.

## **VII. What God will do for those who repent and turn to Him**

A. God will purge away thy dross and take away thy tin

**Isaiah 1:25** And I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin.

B. God will restore your judges as at the first, and counselors

**Isaiah 1:26** And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

C. God will redeem Zion with Judgment and righteousness

**Isaiah 1:27** Zion shall be redeemed with judgment and her converts with righteousness.