

## WHY CONTINUE REBELLING & CALLING DOWN GOD'S JUDGMENTS?

### TEXT:

**Isaiah 1:5, 9:**

***<sup>5</sup> Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint.***

***<sup>9</sup> 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.***

Isaiah spoke fearlessly to the people of the Lord.

### HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THEIR MORALS.

It takes a man of Love and Courage to address people and call them evildoers and corrupters, especially when you know the experiences of other preachers who lost their pulpits for preaching it straight.

***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.***

- Even in Isaiah's time, folks would rather hear how good they were, or at least how much better they were than others. Ear-tickling preachers are still favored by many today.

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***2 Timothy 4:3: For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;***

- The Israelites had been called to be a people HOLY unto the Lord. More was demanded of them because they had more light. God's

people are always required to walk in the light which they have, even as Jesus is in the light.

***1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

## **ILLUSTRATION:**

In today's Churches, ministers are talking to Christians — people who have been called apart to be an elect, elite race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's Own possession.

***1 Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:***

We can't stop short and become self-satisfied with thinking of how privileged we are, but must go on to perfection.

***Hebrews 6:1: Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.***

There are some responsibilities we have:

- (1) To live before men as God's own people
- (2) We represent God to others, whether we are aware of it or not
- (3) As He Who has called thee is Holy, so be ye Holy.

***1 Peter 1:15: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;***

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The phrase, 'Everybody's doing it', means more to most folks than the phrase "Thus

saith the Lord!" Even if everybody is doing it, it doesn't make it right. God's Word says:

**Proverbs 14:12; & 16:**

***12 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.***

***16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.***

- The entertainment field is so saturated with immorality that a Christian should be embarrassed just to read the advertisements on the movie page, or just to listen to any of the world's popular songs.
- Some Church organizations are making pronouncements about divorce, sexual behavior, and abortion that are in direct opposition to the Word of God.
- When public morals slip and churches follow the popular trends, the Word of God calls His people to purity!

**Titus 2:11-14:**

***11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,***

***12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world;***

***13 Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

***14 Who have Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.***

**ILLUSTRATION:**



There is a story that when the present Queen of England was a child, her mother was passing by the nursery just as her daughter was showing some angry temper. Elizabeth stamped her foot and said crossly to the nurse, "*You listen to me! This is royalty speaking!*" The wise mother stepped into the room and softly said, "*Elizabeth, royalty*

*doesn't excuse bad manners. It demands good ones."*

- We are members of God's royal priesthood, those numbered among His Own possessions. Mind your manners and your morals so that you may show forth the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness.

***1 Peter 2:9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;***

### **ISAIAH TOLD THE PEOPLE GOD WOULD CHASTISE THEM FOR THEIR BACKSLIDING.**

- The loving parent chastises wayward children to bring them up in the way they should go.

**Permissiveness is not a true indication of love and patience.**

1. Permissiveness is not a true indication of love and patience. It can mean indifference and unconcern!
2. When you love your children, you care what they say and what they do, and you let them know it.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

If your son borrows the car and you find he has been speeding, do you say, "That's O.K. – Go on and have your fun"? Not if you love him! First, you warn him. Then you "ground" him if he persists. So it is with God. First He warns, then He chastises.

***Hebrews 12:5-10:***

***<sup>5</sup> And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:***

***<sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.***

***7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

***8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***

***9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?***

***10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His Holiness.***

***Revelation 3:19: As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.***

- Judah has been in rebellion and had been chastised many times, but had not profited by the experience. Judah was still self-centered, rebellious, and going a self-chosen way. And Isaiah asked, “Why?”

***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.***

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***Jeremiah 17:9: [God said:] The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”***

**NOTE:** The prophet Jeremiah echoed the question: “Why?”

***Jeremiah 8:5: Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.***



***Jeremiah 5:3: [And Jeremiah prayed], O LORD, are not Thine eyes upon the truth? Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.***

➤ Do we hear the Ministers asking us – Why?

1. Haven't you tried your own way long enough?
2. Haven't you suffered long enough?
3. Haven't you been miserable?

(There is an old song that goes “As day follows night, and night follows day – farther and farther you roam”.)



4. Has America rebelled enough?

Will there be more rebellion against God – against each other?

5. Have the churches rebelled enough?

Are you satisfied with your relationship with Christ – or are you still in revolt against His Will?

➤ Are we living so as to make chastisement and judgment necessary?

1. His chastisement is an indication He cares and wants to lead us to the best possible life.
2. An uncaring, permissive God would let us drive our high powered car at any speed through all God's stoplights to inevitable destruction! A loving Father will warn us, then “ground” us, if it is necessary.

### **ISAIAH SAID HIS PEOPLE HAD HEAD TROUBLE AND HEART TROUBLE.**

➤ The whole head is sick.

Their outward controlling power was weak.

**Self-control is missing because Self is not surrendered to God.**

There are strained relationships within families, between friends, with acquaintances and co-workers — tensions even with strangers and among nations. Self-control is missing because Self is not surrendered

to God. You can't be neutral. You are either Christ's or the devil's property.

- The whole heart is faint.

The inward emotions are out of control and the fruit of the Spirit can't grow in these conditions. The Spirit is quenched and sometimes grieved away as was the case with Saul, Samson, Judas, Ananias and Sapphira.

Does it sound like that was too long ago to awaken you? Then I would like you to know, sin is just as deadly a killer today as it was then. Satan is just as great a deceiver, and wickedness is just as destructive to your mind, body, and soul. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Does this refer only to the Jews of Isaiah's day OR also our own? It is **both** — for each generation must find God for itself. There are many children of God, but no grandchildren. We each must find our own way to Christ. We do not inherit eternal life by being christened, baptized, or joining our parent's church.

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### ISAIAH OFFERED HOPE WITH HIS WARNINGS.

- God always has a plan to help sin-cursed mankind.

***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.***

### ILLUSTRATION:

In World War II, the people of England were justly proud of their Royal Air Force (R.A.F.), and they were told, "Never had so many owed so much to so few". They gratefully realized the R.A.F. protected them from destruction by the Nazi armies. So few protected so many.



How about the remnant that is preserving our nations, e.g., our churches? If this remnant should suddenly disappear, can you imagine the calamity? If all born-again believers were called out, only then would the "many" in this world know

how much they owed to this small minority group, and such a day *will* come.

Jesus said in:

***John 14:3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I AM, there ye may be also.***

Angels said:

***Acts 1:11a: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why do stand ye gazing up into heaven?***

Paul speaking in:

***1 Thessalonians 4:17-18:***

***17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

***18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***



➤ When the remnant is gone, God has even a further plan.

When the Church is called out, there will be those who will recall the Word, will repent, and will be converted to the Lord.

**NOTE:** In the book of Revelation we read,

***Revelation 7:13b-14b:***

***13b What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?***

***14b These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.***

This is only a dim ray of hope for some. You may die in your sins before Jesus comes, and plunge into Hell where there is no second chance to get right with God.

When the church is gone, then satan will take over this earth and all Hell will break loose. If you do not know what I mean, read Revelation chapter 6 and find

out. If you can't live for God now, you won't stand a Chinaman's chance then.

## CONCLUSION:

Isaiah spoke to a backslidden people who faced imminent destruction. He didn't sugarcoat the issues, but he held out positive hope that:

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

**REDEMPTION and RIGHTEOUSNESS.** These are two powerful words!

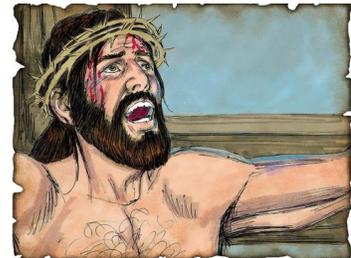
### 1. REDEEMED

***1 Peter 1:18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.***

***Luke 1:68: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people,***

***Luke 24:21a: But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel:***

***Galatians 3:13a: Christ had redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:***

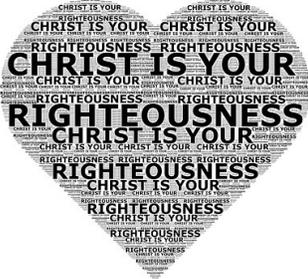


***Revelation 5:9: And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the Book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy Blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.***

### 2. RIGHTEOUSNESS

***Isaiah 64:6: But we are as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.***

***Ezekiel 33:13: When I say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.***



***Titus 3:5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit.***

***1 John 2:29: If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.***

That is the real test if you are really saved from your sins. If you are surely born again, you will live a righteous life.

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