

A Trek Through Isaiah 02 - Overview 1-5, 1:2-4

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Overview 1 - 5

General overview of Judah's reality and hope.

May be from Isaiah's early preaching.

Introduces themes that Isaiah will develop:

- God's people have failed but they will be redeemed.
- Zion will be lifted up above all the world.
- Righteousness will be rewarded; wickedness will be punished.
- God will accomplish His word.

Section structure

| <u>Author's Preface (1:1 - 5:30)</u> | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A comprehensive failure 1:2-31 | The ideal lost and found 2:1 - 4:6 | Grace exhausted 5:1-30 |

Outline

- Heading 1:1
 - Names the author
- Comprehensive failure, complete restoration 1:2-31
 - Introduction to the section (1:2a)
 - God's people have turned away from Him and become wicked (1:2b-3, 21-23).
 - V2 "Sons I have reared and raised up, But they have transgressed against Me.
 - Because of their sin, they and their land are devastated. But a remnant will be preserved (1:5-9).
 - V5 Where will you be stricken again?
 - V9 Unless Yahweh of hosts Had left us a few survivors...
 - Their religion is rejected (1:10-15).
 - V11 "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says Yahweh.
 - Yahweh desires righteousness (1:16-17).
 - V16 Wash yourselves, purify yourselves
 - God has not given up on His people; their sins will be set aside; the wicked will be destroyed but repentance will bring blessing (1:18-20).
 - V19-20 "If you are willing and obey, You will eat the best of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You will be eaten by the sword." For the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.
 - Zion is corrupt but will be redeemed and restored to righteousness (1:21-26).
 - V21 How the faithful city has become a harlot
 - V26 Afterwards you will be called the city of righteousness
 - The wicked will burn eternally
 - V31 And the strong man will become tinder, His work also a spark. Thus they shall both burn together, And there will be none to quench them.

- The ideal lost and found 2:1 - 4:6
 - What might have been (and will be) for God's people
 - Heading 2:1
 - God's ideal for His people 2:2-4
 - Jerusalem will be lifted above all, both physically and spiritually
 - V2 The mountain of the house of Yahweh Will be established as the head of the mountains, And will be lifted up above the hills...
 - Jerusalem lifted up above all.
 - The nations come to her
 - All nations will come to hear the word of Yahweh
 - V3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh
 - He will rule all nations
 - V4 And He will judge between the nations
 - There will be world peace
 - V4 Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.
- Judah's current reality 2:5 - 4:1
 - Yahweh has rejected His people because they are filled with the world. 2:5-9
 - Judah is rejected by God
 - V6 For You have abandoned Your people
 - V6 filled with influences from the east
 - V7 filled with silver and gold
 - V7 filled with horses and chariots
 - V8 Filled with idols
 - They will be humbled
 - V9 So the common man has been bowed down, And the man of importance has been made low...

- The Day of the Lord 2:10-22
 - A day of reckoning is coming
 - V12 For Yahweh of hosts will have a day of reckoning ...;
 - The pride of man will be humbled
 - V17 The loftiness of man will be bowed down, And the men who are high will be made low; And Yahweh alone will be exalted in that day...
 - The helplessness of men will be revealed
 - V19 Men will go into caves of the rocks And into holes of the ground Before the dread of Yahweh And the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth tremble.
 - The worthlessness of idols will be revealed
 - V20 In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats Their idols of silver and their idols of gold, Which they made for themselves to worship,
 - Man is nothing
 - V22 Stop regarding man
- Judgment and Redemption 3:1 – 4:1
 - Everything necessary for a civil society will be removed
 - V1 For behold, the Lord, Yahweh of hosts, is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah Both supply and support
 - All provision removed.
 - V4 And I will make young men their princes, And capricious children will rule over them,
 - Competent leadership removed
 - Anarchy will result
 - V5 And the people will be oppressed, Each one by another, and each one by his neighbor...
 - Spirit of justice removed from the people
 - This will happen because Yahweh's people have rebelled against Him
 - V8 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, Because their tongue and their deeds are against Yahweh, To rebel against His glorious presence.
 - Speech and deeds that defy the LORD
 - V9 The expression of their faces answers against them, And they declare their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it.
 - No shame

- Each person will reap what they sow
 - v10-11 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he has dealt out will be done to him.
- Zion's leaders are condemned 3:12-15
 - V16 "What do you mean by crushing My people And grinding the face of the afflicted?"
- Zion's Women are condemned 3:16 – 4:1
 - V16 Moreover, Yahweh said, "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty And walk with outstretched necks and seductive eyes, And go along with mincing steps And tinkle the bangles on their feet...
 - The charge
 - V17 Therefore the Lord will smite the skull of the daughters of Zion with scabs...
 - The judgment
 - V26 And her gates will lament and mourn, And deserted she will sit on the ground.
 - View expands to the city: Zion empty and alone
- Zion redeemed 4:2-6
 - Just when it appeared that all was lost...
 - The Messiah will appear
 - V2 In that day the branch of Yahweh will be beautiful and glorious
 - A remnant will remain in Zion
 - V3 It will be that he who remains in Zion...
 - The city will be cleansed
 - V4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and rinsed away the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning,
 - Internal and external cleansing
 - By judgment (conviction) and burning (repentance)
 - Yahweh will dwell with His people
 - V5 then Yahweh will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her convocation a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.
 - The presence of Yahweh as in the Exodus.
 - Canopy. Intimate marriage chamber.

- Grace exhausted 5:1-30
 - The prophet returns to the present situation
 - God's people must be judged.
 - The vineyard 5:1-7
 - The story
 - V1-2 Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard.
 - A vineyard
 - Well planted and well taken care of
 - Worthless harvest of stink-fruit
 - To be destroyed
 - The application
 - V7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts is the house of Israel...
 - The vineyard represents the house of Israel
 - God brought them out of Egypt and planted them in the promised land
 - They turned away from Him and filled the land with wickedness
 - Implied: they will be destroyed
- Laments and consequences 5:8-29
 - Description of the stink-fruit harvest
 - Two woes dealing with misuse of material things
 - V8 Woe to those who add house to house ...Surely, many houses shall become desolate...
 - V11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink...But they do not look upon the deeds of Yahweh, Nor do they see the work of His hands.
 - Two consequences
 - V13 Therefore my people go into exile for their lack of knowledge
 - V14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without limit; And Jerusalem's majesty, her multitude, her rumbling, and the exultant within her, descend into it.
 - Four woes dealing with moral & spiritual issues
 - V18 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of worthlessness...
 - V20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil
 - V21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
 - V22 Woe to those who are mighty men in drinking wine...Who declare the wicked righteous for a bribe, And remove the righteous standing of the ones who are righteous!

- Two consequences
 - V24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble And dry grass collapses into the flame, So their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust;
 - V25 On this account, the anger of Yahweh has burned against His people... V26 He will also lift up a standard to the distant nations, And will whistle for it from the ends of the earth; And behold, it will come with speed swiftly...V29 Its roaring is like a lioness, and it roars like young lions; It growls and seizes the prey And carries it off with no one to deliver it.
 - Here is the Babylonian captivity.
- Storm and darkness 5:30
 - V30 And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea. If one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness and distress; Even the light is darkened by its clouds.
 - As mariners on the sea in a raging storm
 - They look to the land. No refuge, only darkness and distress
 - The section ends with despair.

Heading 1:1

Is 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he beheld in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

- of Isaiah
 - A single real person
 - Name means “Yahweh saves”
- The son of Amoz
 - No Bible information. Jewish tradition says Amoz was a brother of Amaziah, king of Judah. Isaiah seems to have had easy access to the court.
- Concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
 - As typifying God’s people
 - Sometimes refers to them as Israel
- Vision...which he beheld.
 - Not from him; received from God
- in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
 - About 60y
 - During the reigns of four kings.

Comprehensive failure, complete restoration 1:2-31

1:2-4 Failure of God's people

Isa 1:2-4 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; For Yahweh speaks, "Sons I have reared and raised up, But they have transgressed against Me. "An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know; My people do not perceive." Alas, sinful nation, People heavy with iniquity, Seed of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have forsaken Yahweh; They have spurned the Holy One of Israel; They have become estranged from Him.

Call to hear

- V2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth.
 - Similar to the opening of Moses' address to the people: Dt 32:1 "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
 - Heaven and earth called since they witness continually to the truth about God.
 - Ps 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And the expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
 - Ro 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...
 - CALVIN: God calls nature because His people are senseless. Nature obeys God but men do not.
- V2 Yahweh speaks.
 - Divine lament
 - Personal: to touch the conscience
 - Yahweh laments to the heavens and earth, but His people hear His words through the prophet.

What they were: Beloved children

- V2 Sons I have raised and reared up
 - Appealing as a Father to His children
 - Nurtured.
 - Ez 16:3-14 'Thus says Lord Yahweh to Jerusalem, "Your origin and your birth are from the land of the Canaanite; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. "As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths. "No eye had pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather you were thrown out into the open field, for your soul was abhorred on the day you were born. "Then I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood. So I said to you while you were in your blood, 'Live!' Indeed I said to you while you were in your blood, 'Live!' "I made you numerous like plants of the field. Then you grew up, became tall, and came into the age for fine ornaments; your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown. Yet you were naked and bare. "Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares Lord Yahweh. "Then I washed you with water, rinsed your blood off from you, and anointed you with oil. "I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. "I also adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. "I also put a ring in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a splendid crown on your head. "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey, and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. "Then your name went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My majesty which I set on you," declares Lord Yahweh.
 - Jerusalem dead in her blood
 - Yahweh raised her to a queen
 - Privileged.
 - Rom 9:4-5 ...who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises...

What they have done: spurned their God

- V2c: Transgressed against Me. Once with Him, now departed.
- V4b: Spurned the Holy One of Israel. Counted as worthless and of no account the Holy God.
- Deu 32:15 (Moses song): "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.
- Ez 16:15-34 "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your name, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing. "You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors, and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen. "You also took your splendid jewelry made of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them. "Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them and gave My oil and My incense before them. "Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil, and honey with which I had you eat, you gave before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened," declares Lord Yahweh. "Moreover, you took your sons and daughters, whom you had borne to Me, and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? "You slaughtered My children and gave them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire. "Besides all your abominations and harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare—you were squirming in your blood! "Now it happened after all your evil—'Woe, woe to you!' declares Lord Yahweh— that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every square. "You built yourself a high place at the head of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry. "You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and you multiplied your harlotry to provoke Me to anger. "Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and cut off your rations. And I gave you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd way. "Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. "You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied." "How languishing is your heart," declares Lord Yahweh, "while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot. "When you built your shrine at the head of every way and made your high place in every square, in disdain your earnings, you were not like a harlot. "You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband! "Men give gifts to all harlots, but you give your gifts to all your lovers to bribe them to come to you from all around for your harlotries. "Thus you are the opposite of those women in your harlotries, in that no one plays the harlot as you do, because you give away your earnings and no earnings are given to you; thus you are the opposite."

What they have become: without understanding

- V3: does not know: God's people are compared with beasts, and found to have less understanding, even though they had the witness of creation, and Yahweh's word, and their national experience of Him.
- V4 Four descriptions of falling short of the ideal: sinful, heavy with iniquity, seed of evildoers, acting corruptly

What is the result: separated from God

- V4 Forsaken: used of divorce.
- V4 Spurned. Rejected. Intentional by Israel.
- V4 Holy One of Israel. Emphasizing Yahweh's worthiness, uniqueness, and His faithfulness to His people.
- V4 They have become estranged.
 - Deu 32:19-20 (Moses' song) "And Yahweh saw this and spurned them Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters. "Then He said, 'I will hide My face from them; I will see what their end shall be; For they are a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no faithfulness.
- Henry: And all this is to be applied by us, not only to the communities we are members of, in their public interests, but to the state of our own souls.

Application

- Israel did not know their God and what He wanted of them. Do we know the gospel?
 - What is the gospel?
 - God, man, Jesus, you
 - 1 Cor 15:3-5 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared...
 - How can we "know" the gospel day to day in our lives.