

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**The  
Mess  
They  
Were In**

**Isaiah 1:4-9**

**Lesson Two**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## The Mess They Were In

Today we look at a terrible picture. Read Isaiah 1:4-9

The first word we read in verse three, is “Ah” in many translations of the Bible. That is a very weak translation of a strong Hebrew word which means something like “Shame!” It is a word of disrespect, even ridicule. It could be written, “Shame on you!” Then Isaiah listed four kinds of human relationships: Nation, people (sort of like a clan or family), brood (offspring), and sons (children). The nation is sinful, the people are bowed down with guilt, the clan is involved in criminal activity and the children have become immoral. That is a terrible charge.

Then the message gets much more personal in verse four. Isaiah told them why. He said that they have forsaken (abandoned all relationship) with the Lord (God). They have spurned (despised) “The Holy One of Israel.” That is a serious charge. Despise means to dislike someone intensely, even hate someone. This is the first use of the phrase, “The Holy One of Israel” in the Bible. It is one that Isaiah likes. Holy, of course, means different. God is different from anyone else. It means a different way of living...for Christians it means living like Jesus.

Then Isaiah said that “they have turned their backs on Him.” This is also translated as they are “utterly estranged,” which means that there is no more relationship with God. Literally, they were strangers to God. That is a terrible picture.

Isaiah asks them why they should continue to take a beating. The picture is of a slave being beaten for continuing to do wrong things. They keep on doing things and getting punished for them, like a child who just doesn’t get it. What a sad picture. They are sick in the head. Their hearts are not right.

Then, Isaiah adds more to this awful picture in verse six. He asks where is there a place on your body for more beating. He says there is no healthy spot on you. You are already covered with bruises, welts and open sores.

He says that no one has cared for the injuries. There is no disinfectant applied, no medicine smoothed on the sores and no bandage covering them to prevent infection. It’s like someone was left for dead after a terrific fight. What a sad picture.

And he just continues to add things that make it even worse. In verse seven, he describes the

# Isaiah

## The Lord Is Salvation

situation in their country. He said that their lands were without crops and vineyards; their cities were burned to the ground; that what was left in the fields was being used up by strangers in front of their very eyes. He said that their homeland was lifeless, like it had been destroyed by strangers; people who didn't care.

Most scholars attribute this picture to what Judah looked like after the invasion of the Assyrians in 701 BC. The great Assyrian king and general, Sennacherib (sin-ak'-er-ib) wrote about this later. He said that he led his troops to "destroy 46 walled cities of Judah, deport over 200,000 of her citizens and shut King Hezekiah up in Jerusalem like a bird in a cage."

In verse eight, Isaiah pictures Jerusalem as a young, defenseless girl. "The daughter of Zion" uses the name of a hill, Zion, in Jerusalem which David conquered and on which Solomon built the Temple. Then in three pictures shows the complete isolation of the City. He said it was like a shelter left in a vineyard and like a hut in a field of cucumbers or melons. These two pictures show a familiar scene to the people of Israel. When it was harvest time, the land-owner would build a temporary shelter in the field during the harvest, but when the field had been stripped of its crop, the shelter was abandoned and just sat there unused and unkempt for months. One final picture is of a city under siege. When an enemy army surrounded a city, no traffic was allowed in or out. It stood alone and without connection to the rest of the world.

The people of Judah were in as bad a condition as they could be. It looked hopeless. But, because of God's grace, there is always hope. Isaiah said that God had left a remnant, a small group of survivors. God had not given up on Israel. He was faithful to His covenant even if they were not. Like a parent who is forced to discipline a child, God's love does not change. Isaiah said that if it were not for that faithful few, Israel would be like the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which were totally destroyed.

So, there were a few people who remained, and some who were taken captive to Syria, who continued to love and serve God.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "My people walked out on me, their God, turned their backs on The Holy of Israel, walked off and never looked back." Isa. 1:4b *The Message* translation

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to see hope even in the darkest times.

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## Student Worksheet

As the teacher goes through the lesson, look for answers to these:

1. What were the four kinds of relationships Isaiah mentioned as sinning?
2. In verse four, what were the three things that Isaiah said the people had done?
3. How is the body described in verse six? What does it look like?
4. Who attacked Judah in 701 BC and who was their general?
5. What is a remnant, as described in today's lesson, and what did that mean to Israel?

**Scripture Memory:** "My people walked out on me, their God, turned their backs on The Holy of Israel, walked off and never looked back." Isa. 1:4b *The Message* translation

### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.