



June 15

Passage: Isaiah 1

This week we are continuing to work through a book of the bible that we are going through in our Elevate series in the Rock on Wednesday night. This week we are working through a couple of high points in the book of Isaiah. This book may be little bit different than what you are used to going through, but don't be scared. Let's take our tools and dig a little bit to see what God wants to show us through the prophet Isaiah.

## **READ & DIG.    Read Isaiah 1**

### **Sin, Rebellion and Wickedness (1-17)**

In these first 17 verses, God is telling through Isaiah how far the people of Judah, or "God's Children" (2), have turned from him and his ways. Again in vs. 2 he says, "Children, have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me." It's like a Father that raises his kids in the best way possible... Giving them everything they need... loving them unconditionally and perfectly... teaching them the righteous way and then his kids turn against him and rebel and forsake their father. This would be heartbreaking for any father... but it is definitely heartbreaking for Judah's heavenly Father! He goes on to continue explaining their wickedness by saying things like sinful nation (4), offspring of evildoers (4), utterly estranged (4). These are some terrible descriptions aren't they... well this is how serious the Lord takes sin. Sin sets people apart from God!

### **There is Hope (10-31)**

It doesn't stop at verse 17 though. God gives hope to his people in the next few verses. Vs. 18-20 gives the people a very clear message... or really two options. "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land" (vs. 19) or "if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword." The grace and mercy of the Lord is shown so greatly through these verses. As Lord, he has the right to destroy them like Sodom and Gomorrah (9), yet he does provide forgiveness and redemption through repentance and obedience. Then again in vs. 27 he states that Zion will be redeemed and those in her that has repented and turned to righteousness... this is HOPE. The ones that don't repent though and don't turn from their wicked ways will be judged and ultimately have no hope.

## **Apply & GO**

You may be asking, "What does this have to do with me?" We live in a culture and time where vs. 1-17 seem to show more than the hope we see in the second half of the chapter don't we? Well here is what it has to do with us... we know the hope... I pray that you have that hope in Christ. If you do, we are called to share that hope and to call people to repent and be obedient to God! If you don't have this hope and feel as if you are apart from God, rebelling, running or just discouraged... know that God will forgive you and will accept you as his child. The grace and mercy of God completely overshadows the judgement of God and we need to know that and find peace in that!