

Firestarter 1

Scripture: Isaiah 1-2

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark in your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the words you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand
 - Second, read to notice
 - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then Choose three questions from the observation section and find answers to them.
 - Fourth, mark all the words that refer to a garden/vineyard and any word that refers to things the Lord dislikes.

READ: Isaiah 1-2

OBSERVATION:

Where did Isaiah's message come from, and how did he receive it? (See 1:1 first note.)

In what ways did Judah and Israel rebel against God, and what happened? (See 1:2 note.)

Why does Isaiah frequently refer to the Lord as "the Holy One of Israel" (v. 4)? (See 1:4 note.)

Why did God allow Judah to be raided and robbed by other nations (1:7-9)? (See 1:7 note.)

Why were the people's offerings meaningless (1:13), and why did God refuse to listen to their prayers (1:15)? (See 1:11 and 1:15 notes.)

What did God expect of His people (1:16-17)?

What did God offer His people if they turned from their rebellious ways and followed Him (1:18)? (See 1:18 note.)

When are “the last days” (2:2)? (See 2:2 note.)

When will the events described in 2:1-5 be fulfilled? (See 2:2-5 note.)

Why did Isaiah pray that God would not forgive the people? (See 2:6-9 note.)

What is the “day of reckoning” that Isaiah refers to in 2:12? (See 2:12 note.)

Why do you think Isaiah used metaphors like garden/vineyard and purifying metal in his message?

What did the nation trust to protect them in chapter 2? Why does this seem like a good place to put trust?

APPLICATION:

It doesn't matter what we try to do for God, how much time we put into church activities, or what religious routines we go through if we aren't in a relationship with Him. The people of Judah, just like their sister nation Israel, rebelled against God, but they kept up their religious rituals, sacrifices, and offerings. The religious actions were meaningless to God (1:13). Because evil and injustice were rampant among the people, if we aren't careful, our praises and prayers can also be pretentious, ineffective, and disgraceful to God if our hearts aren't sincerely devoted to Him.

What comparisons can you draw between chapter 1 and believers today?

How would you word it if you were to rewrite chapter 1 vs. 17 for today's culture?

Action Step: Is there an aspect of your life, character, or behavior in which you're being hypocritical—pretending to be something you aren't, saying one thing and doing another, or acting one way in public and another in private? If you realize you have been doing this, repent and make a change so your praise and practice are spiritually authentic and pleasing to God.

PRAY:

Praise the Lord for His purity and holiness. Confess and turn from anything in your life that could keep you from developing His character and following His plans.