

ISAIAH SPEAKS ABOUT AMERICA

Isaiah 1:2 5:8, 11, 12, 18, 20, 21, 23

Introduction: Isaiah was never a popular preacher in his day. He never received "amen's" or applause when he preached. Isaiah spoke the truth and it hurt the consciences and threatened the lifestyles of Israel.

His messages then are frighteningly accurate in describing our own country and time. Religion was flourishing, sacrifices were offered daily, all the holy days were being observed, all religious matters were kept and observed as commanded.

However, under the eye of God, all the superficial appearances of the nation didn't hide the ugly reality of the sins of the nation. In chapter 5 of his writings, Isaiah summarizes God's grievances against His people, Israel. See how similar America has become to sinning Israel in Isaiah's time.

I. THE PEOPLE PURSUED MATERIALISH (5:8)

1. The people were motivated by temporary gain and prosperity.
2. They were never satisfied with what they had.
3. The wanted to live for "self" and be better than others.
4. They had forgotten that God was the One who allowed them to have what they did have.
5. America's way of life is consumed in satisfying it's (our) own appetites, more, more, more and things our own way.

II. THE PEOPLE PURSUED PLEASURE (5:22-12)

1. They did not have time to seek after God for they were too busy trying to please themselves.
2. They had an open disregard for the future and lived for the moment, what they could do and have right then.
3. Our country has time for television, ball games, vacations, games, entertainment of all sort but can't find time to pray and study God's Word or to discipline our children or to serve the Lord in His house.
4. They rebelled openly, blatantly and didn't even try to hide their sin. They had no sense of shame.
5. What does Jesus think about seeing Christians living in every conceivable kind of sin and seeming to enjoy every moment? Openly at that. Name it, we are doing it, and openly.

III. THE PEOPLE WERE BOASTFUL (5:20, 21)

1. Their repeated disobedience seared the conscience of the people of Israel.
2. A perverse sense of right and wrong had developed. It was impossible for them to discern between good and evil anymore. Israel found satisfaction in indulging in the things God hated. They laughed at the values of God.
3. There is no argument that our own nation has adopted values and standards contrary to those of God. Innocent blood is shed by abortion which is permitted and even encouraged.
4. God designed the family for unity, yet our society demands equality for every member, ignoring God's biblical instructions for each family member.
5. Pride and arrogance blinded Israel to their true spiritual condition. They were "self-wise" and could not see their own foolishness.
6. Our country has the answer for everything. Libraries are filled, men on the moon, people walking in space, yet we have not learned how to live with one another, having a holy, humble relationship with God.
7. We are too proud to admit our real spiritual condition. Marriages struggle, children are rebellious, uncontrollable anger, impatience rules the American people.

IV. ISAIAH INDICTED ISRAEL (5:23)

1. Perverted justice motivated by greed and personal gain became a way of life.
2. Israel paid the wages for her sin - burned with fire, strangers took the land, unacceptable worship to God so God forsook them - food and essentials taken and scarcity of men to lead them, social oppression, young people were arrogant and had no respect for authority were ultimately taken captive and chastised by God.

CONCLUSION:

1. In spite of how God is treated by America, God is still merciful, long-suffering and loving.
2. America must return to God and His Word, Repent, Restore God to His rightful place in this great nation.
3. The same God that brings justice also brings forgiveness and healing.