



The Book of Isaiah: Judah as Rebellious Children ~ Isaiah 1:1-3

- **Introduction** : Again, we are not in a hurry! So, tonight we will look at the first 3 verses of Isaiah 1 and see what we can learn.

- Isaiah’s prophecies focus on Judah and Jerusalem. His book is called a vision, which suggests that the prophet “saw” (cf. 2:1) mentally and spiritually as well as heard what God communicated to him. This word “vision” also introduces the books of Obadiah, Micah, and Nahum. Isaiah was familiar with the city of Jerusalem and its temple and royal court. By this time the Northern Kingdom (Israel) was in its final years. The Northern Kingdom fell in 722 B.C. to the Assyrians who were seeking to conquer the entire Syro-Palestine area. Isaiah wrote specifically for the Southern Kingdom (Judah) which would fall to Babylon a little more than 100 years later in 586 B.C. ~ **Bible Knowledge Commentary**, John A. Martin

English Standard (ESV)	Passion Notes	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>1 These are the visions that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. He saw these visions during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.</p> <p>2 Listen, O heavens! Pay attention, earth! This is what the LORD says: “The children I raised and cared for have rebelled against me.</p>	<p>a 1:1 Or “prophecy.” This refers to the entire book as a divine revelation from God. The Hebrew word <i>chazown</i> means to see spiritually, to have a revelation or dream, or to receive an oracle. This word was commonly used to describe how the prophets received divine communication.</p> <p>b 1:1 It is believed that Isaiah was an aristocrat, a member of the royal family and the nephew of King Uzziah. His father, Amoz, was the brother of King Amaziah.</p> <p>c 1:1 Even the names mentioned in v. 1 have something to teach us. Isaiah means “Yahweh is salvation (victory).” Amoz means “to be made strong or courageous.” Judah means “praise.” Jerusalem means “the teaching of peace (wholeness).” Isaiah prophesied during the reign of Uzziah (“the power of Yahweh” or “mighty is Yahweh”), Jotham (“the one Yahweh makes perfect” or “Yahweh is upright”), Ahaz (“possessor” or “to lay hold of”), and Hezekiah (“strengthened by Yahweh” or “the one Yahweh makes firm”). Here is what the meanings of the names of v. 1 teach us: We can see that prophetic vision from a courageous prophet imparts the power of Yahweh, which releases those whom Yahweh makes perfect to maturity. They will be possessors and those who lay hold of heaven’s promises until they are strengthened by Yahweh and made firm in all their ways! All of this will take place in the land of praise and in the teaching of peace.</p> <p>d 1:2 The Hebrew is literally “ear me.”</p> <p>e 1:2 God summons into his courtroom his two witnesses (Deut. 19:15), the heavens and the earth, concerning God’s seven-count indictment against Israel for breaking covenant with him. See Deut. 4:26; 30:19; 31:28; 32:1; Ps. 50:4; Jer. 2:12.</p>	<p>1 Here is the vision ^a that Isaiah,^b the son of Amoz, received by divine revelation concerning what was going to happen to Judah and Jerusalem during the times of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.^c A Nation in Rebellion</p> <p>2 Listen, O heavens! Hear,^d O earth! For the Lord Yahweh has spoken:^e “I tenderly nurtured children and made them great,^f but they have rebelled ^g against me!</p>

English Standard (ESV)	Passion Notes	Passion Translation
<p>² Listen, O heavens! Pay attention, earth! This is what the LORD says: “The children I raised and cared for have rebelled against me.</p> <p>³ Even an ox knows its owner, and a donkey recognizes its master’s care—but Israel doesn’t know its master. My people don’t recognize my care for them.” (Is. 1:1–3 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>f 1:2 Or “raised them up high (exalted).” The words translated as “nurtured” and “made them great” are two Hebrew synonyms that could be translated “exalt, advance, set on high, mature, increase, magnify, promote, raise up, and cause to grow.” This is what Father God will do for his children. In the book of Isaiah, God’s love toward Israel is displayed in a threefold way: He is Father (Isa. 1:2–3; 63:16; 64:8), a nursing Mother (66:12–13), and a Husband (54:5). God was Israel’s Father, Mother, and Husband.</p> <p>g 1:2 The Hebrew word for “rebelled” (pasha’) indicates the breaking of a contract. The covenant Israel entered into with Yahweh was broken by their idolatry and unbelief. It was as though God’s children disowned their Father.</p> <p>i 1:3 Although implied in the Hebrew, both the Latin Vulgate and the Septuagint (LXX) have “know me.” The Hebrew word for “know” is yada’ and refers to having a personal, intimate relationship with someone. God’s people had no intimacy with God, seemingly unaware of the incredible opportunity to be intimate with the God of heaven. At least the donkey knows where his master will feed him, while God’s people do not understand where they can be fed and strengthened by the Word and by the Spirit. It is time to know the Master and his manger. Isn’t it interesting that Jesus was laid in a donkey’s manger at his birth? The “owner’s manger” is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has come to feed us his living Bread.</p> <p>j 1:3 That is, “My people neither understand my ways nor how kind I am.”</p>	<p>² Listen, O heavens! Hear,^d O earth! For the Lord Yahweh has spoken:^e “I tenderly nurtured children and made them great,^f but they have rebelled^g against me!</p> <p>³ Even a dumb ox instinctively knows its owner and the stubborn mule knows the hand that feeds him,^h but Israel does not know meⁱ nor do my people understand.”^j (Is. 1:1–3 TPT)</p>

- Context:

- This period of Israel’s history is told in 2 Kings 15 through 21 and 2 Chronicles 26 through 33. Isaiah was a contemporary of the prophets Hosea and Micah. By the time of Isaiah, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, and Amos had already completed their ministry.
- By this time, Israel had been in the Promised Land for almost 700 years. For their first 400 years in Canaan, judges ruled Israel. These were spiritual, military, and political leaders whom God raised up as the occasion demanded. Then, for about 120 years, three kings reigned over all Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. But in 917 B.C. Israel had a civil war, and remained divided into two nations, Israel (to the north) and Judah (to the south) up until the time of Isaiah.
- Up until the time of Isaiah, the northern nation of Israel had some 18 kings – all of them bad, and rebellious against the LORD. The southern nation of Judah had some 11 kings before Isaiah’s ministry, some good and some bad.



- In the time of Isaiah, Israel was a little nation often caught in the middle of the wars between three superpowers: Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon.
- As Isaiah's ministry began, there was a national crisis in the northern nation of Israel. The superpower of Assyria was about to engulf the nation of Israel. During the span of his ministry as a prophet, the southern nation of Judah was faced with repeated threats from the larger surrounding nations.

- Discussion Questions:

1. From everything we've talked about these first 3-weeks, do you think the Lord had been preparing Isaiah to receive these "visions" from God? Why?
2. Have you ever had a "divine revelation" that was intended by God to be given to a group of people (family, church, group of churches, region, etc)? How did you process that revelation from the Lord and did you ever "deliver the mail?"
3. Isaiah started his prophecy out with, "Listen..." Jesus many times started with, "He who has ears..." What do you think God is trying to communicate through this type of introduction?
4. The Lord starts by saying, "The children I raised and cared for have rebelled against me." God is obviously starting with a rebuke. Besides getting their immediate attention, why is it you think God decided to kick things off with a rebuke?