

A CALL TO REPENTANCE:

ISAIAH 1:10-20:

This passage is about a vision the young prophet Isaiah saw at the beginning of his ministry. He saw the condition of Judah, the way God saw them and warned them to repent and serve the Lord with sincerity of hearts. Although the prophesy was directed towards Israel, stating the condition of the nation and the charge to the leaders for repentance; one must understand that it is a clear message to our leaders today. When I speak of leaders, I am talking to both religious and political leaders; because the issues addressed in this passage deal with both groups. It is good to know that not all the people were wicked and rejected God, there is always a remnant. When the prophet Elijah was hiding in the cave from Jezebel, he thought and told God that he was the only one left. God reminded him that He had seven thousand faithful men in Israel. (1 Kings 19:14-18.) Likewise, although wickedness prevailed in land, the Lord had some who were faithful. The land was not destroyed because of the few faithful ones. Verse nine of Isaiah chapter one reads; "Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

1. All are called to hear the word of the Lord, verse ten calls the rulers to hear the word of the Lord and to listen to His instructions. The rulers were referred to as rulers of Sodom, and the people as people of Gomorrah. Scripture teaches us that Sodom and Gomorrah were the heart of wickedness and all evil that displeased God. In fact those cities were so wicked that God destroyed them after He rescued Lot and his family, the only ones who honored Him, we can learn more by reading Genesis 19:1-29. A close examination of the United States of America, causes one to wonder if it is any different from Sodom and Gomorrah as is recorded in Genesis chapter nineteen. This causes one to ask what are the righteous in America doing, or where are

they. Are they conformed to the world instead of allowing the word of God to transform them, thereby becoming the voices speaking out against the depravity in America and directing people to turn from their wicked ways and turn to God? There needs to be a clear call back to God. Back to the principles on which this country was built and blessed by God.

2. Who is speaking for, or defending those who have no voice of their own? The millions of babies that are destroyed each through abortion which is endorsed by our government and paid for with taxpayers' dollars. Their policies support the liberal lifestyles that oppose what the Bible teaches with regards to marriage and gender. The record of creation as is stated in Genesis 1:27 clearly states that God, the creator, created male and female. After He created them, He blessed them, then He told them to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Genesis 1:28. Thus He established the family. God who is Omniscient, knew what He was doing then and has not change anything He did or said since creation; therefore, it stands to reason that no current definition of marriage and gender supersedes the definition in Genesis 1:27. The record clearly states that He created male and female and declared that, that union should be faithful and be productive. We have to be careful that we live and defend what the Bible teaches and do not bow to the name of tolerance and political correctness while violating principles that the Bible teach. We are not our own, we are bought with the price of God's only Son, Jesus Christ, and we must answer to a higher power who is Jehovah God. Parents can no longer sit back and allow the school system to teach their children things that are contrary to Biblical principles. Their first responsibility is for parents to teach their children these principles at home, then they need to be voices on school boards where they have inputs on the curriculum. It's not too late to start. You can make a difference with God's help. The worse thing we can do is to do nothing.

3. The vision in verses eleven to fifteen states that God did not accept their sacrifices, offerings

or gatherings because they were not done from sincerity and pure hearts; instead, their hands were bloody, neither would He answer their prayers. He is a just God who does not change, what He said to one, He says to all. God is merciful, therefore; the prophet had this vision and was faithful in his office as a watchman to warn the people, God was not finished with them, He loved them and did not want them to perish. He warned them of pending danger if they continued the way they were. Although they were referred to as the people of Gomorrah, their end should not be like theirs, who perished, because they did not heed their warnings, but refused to repent.

4. Verses sixteen to twenty state what they needed to do and both the outcome if they obeyed and the consequences if they did not. They should repent and start doing good. Get rid of all their evil actions and be actively pursuing justice. Be a voice for those who cannot speak. Seek the Lord's forgiveness and turn from a life of sin and turn to holiness. Their walk should be that of humility and obedience, then they would be able to enjoy the good the land produced. If they refused to heed the warnings their end would be similar to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who perished. I believe that this warning is for us. America and its people are no different from the people of Israel to whom the vision was directed. God declared that He did not accept their assemblies, their sacrifices, offerings, and He would not hear their cries. God is merciful; we must repent of the evils committed in this land, the things that are contrary to God's commandments which are promoted in America, cease from doing evil and do good. There is hope for the repented. We must seek justice and be the voice for the voiceless. Stop the killing of the unborn and defend the family and gender identity as defined in Genesis 1:27-28; then He will do what He promises in 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from

heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” He was very patient with Israel. They continued in their disobedience for a long time because He is merciful, He sent another prophet to them. This is what He said in Jeremiah chapter five verse one; “Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.” God is longsuffering, but He also has limits. Will we wake up and repent? May we heed this warning and repent. Amen.