**Isaiah**

*The Result and Solution for Empty Worship*

*Isaiah 1*

Background

* Chapter provides the basic theme of the entire book:
  + The sinfulness of Judah and Jerusalem (v 3-8)
  + The tender appeals of the Lord (v 16-19)
  + The certainty of the coming judgment (v 24, 25, 29-31)
  + Salvation through the Messiah to come (v 26, 27)
* 6 ¶ Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, *and* bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:6-8)

Our Actions Remind God of Sodom and Gomorrah (v 10)

* 20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. (Genesis 18:20-21)
* Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. (Ezekiel 16:49)

God is Full of Empty Worship (v 11)

* God rejects quantity that lacks quality – Paul Apple
  + And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams. (1 Sam 15:22)
  + The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight. (Prov 15:8)
  + To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings *are* not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me. (Jer 6:20)
  + 6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. 7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me. (Hos 6:6-7)
  + Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (Matt 6:1)
  + And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (Matt 6:5)

Our Attendance Doesn’t Impress God (v 12)

* Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Tim 3:5)

God Hates Our Vain Religious Acts (v 13 - 14)

* Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; *and* quicken thou me in thy way. (Ps 119:37)
* They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. (Jonah 2:8)

God Will Not Hear Our Prayers (v 15)

* He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination. (Prov 28:9)

What Should We Do?

* Confess (v 16) – wash you and make you clean
  + If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
  + O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee? (Jer 4:14)
* Forsake (v 16) – put away the evil doings from before mine eyes, cease to do evil
  + 13 ¶ If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him; 14 If iniquity *be* in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. (Job 11:13-14)
* Learn (v 17)
  + 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:8-10)

If We Do These Things, What Will Be the Result?

* God Will Cleanse (v 18)
* We Will Obey (v 19)
* We Will Eat the Good of the Land (v 19)