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Key themes in chapter 1 of ...

SAMAH



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- Sets the stage for the rest of the book
- Introduces and expresses the will of a Sovereign God
- Introduces and develops Israel's failure before God
- Vividly pictures Israel's failure
- Details Israel's failure in specific areas
- Explains God's response to Israel's sin
- Indicates God's desire for Israel in spite of their sin
- Speaks of God's judgment on the just and the unjust



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Sets the stage for the rest of the book**
 - Most literary works introduce key elements at the outset
 - Author • Purpose
 - Main characters and their roles
 - Main plot and its development
 - Advances problems and their consequences
 - Suggests solutions and their consequences
 - Anticipates a resolution



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- Introduces and expresses the will of a Sovereign God
 - The **Lord** - 1.2
 - Has **revealed** his will - 1.1 • Has **spoken** - 1.2 • Speaks to **heaven** and **earth** - 1.2
 - The Lord's **benevolence** - 1.2ff
 - He **fed** and **raised** children/Israel - 1.2
 - He **allowed** Israel to continue - 1.9
 - He **pleas** for Israel to ...
 - Listen - 1.10 • Worship - 1.12ff • Cleanse - 1.16 • Repent - 1.16ff • Reason - 1.18



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- Introduces and expresses the will of a Sovereign God
- He **promises** ...
 - Forgiveness - 1.18
 - To defend his name - 1.24
 - To restore Israel - 1.26
 - To redeem Israel - 1.27
 - To Punish those who forsake his will - 1.28



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Introduces and develops Israel's failure before God**
 - They **rebelled** against the Lord - 1.2
 - They **no longer** knew nor understood God - 1.3
 - They were evil, corrupt and headed away from God - 1.4
 - Their sins ...
 - **Corrupted** the land - 1. 7 • **Offended/wearied** God - 1.12ff • **Violated** God's principles of justice/righteousness - 1.16ff, 21ff, 25



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Vividly pictures Israel's failure**
 - Oxen/donkeys know who feeds them, Israel **“does not know”** - 1.2
 - Israel did **not** look/act like God - 1.2 • Israel was sin sick from head to toe - 1.5ff
 - Israel—God's garden—was desolate - 1.7ff • Israel was like Sodom/Gomorrah - 1.10
 - Their sacrifices were **abominable** - 1.11
 - Israel, not only failed to love God, they **failed to love neighbor** - 1.16-17
 - Israel as “silver” was filled with **impurities** - 1. 25



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Details Israel's failure in specific areas**
 - Did **not** hear/know God - 1.1ff
 - Did **not** live up to God's expectations/desires - 1.1-31
 - Specifically failed to **worship** God acceptably - 1.10ff
 - They tried to **"buy"** God's approval with many sacrifices - 1.11
 - They worshiped God **as they saw fit** - 1.12-14
 - They **failed** to stop evil • Learn/do good • Defend/aid the helpless - 1.16-17
 - They became a **harlot** (spiritually/physically) - 1.21



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Explains God's response to Israel's sin**
- God spoke of sin's **consequences** - 1.2-3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14
- God addressed Israel's sins (**specifically**) - 1.1-31
 - Did not hear/know • Were sin sick • Became unfruitful • Practiced vain worship
 - Failed to aid/defend the defenseless • Rebelled against God • Loved bribes
- God **warned** of judgment
 - Israel would be stricken again - 1.5 • God would not endure their sins - 1.13
 - God would hide his eyes from/not hear/devour Israel - 1.15, 20 • God will rid/take vengeance on his enemies/destroy transgressors/sinners - 1.24, 28



This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- Indicates God's desire for Israel in spite of their sin
 - **“Why”** should you be stricken again - 1.5
 - God **has** sustained/**will** sustain Israel - 1.9
 - God repeatedly pleads to be **heard** - 1.2 (3x), 10 (2x), 15, 18, 20, 24,
 - God **encourages** repentance, mercy and justice - 1.16-17
 - God **invites** Israel to come (back) to him - 1.18
 - God **promises** restoration - 1.26 • redemption - 1.27



Key themes in chapter 1 of ...

ISAIAH

This Is Just How Isaiah Starts

The first chapter of Isaiah ...

- **Speaks of God's judgment on the just and the unjust**
- God's principles of judgment are **universal**
- They assume that God has **spoken** • That God has spoken **to all**
- That those whom God addresses will **hear**
- That those who hear will **listen** • **believe** • **obey** • out of **pure** hearts
- That hearers will **trust/love/surrender** to God in **all things**
- That hearers will, as a natural part of their trust/love/surrender to God, **serve** others in **all things**



Ten Key Concepts¹ ...

Isaiah's all about ...

- Remnant theology (1.9, Rom 9.27-29)
- Isaiah's audience • Christ's audience (6.9-10, Mt 13.14-15)
- Fearless followers (8.12-13, 1 Pet 3.14-15)



Ten Key Concepts² ...

Isaiah's all about ...

- Christ's foundation • A stone of stumbling (8.14, Rom 9.32-33)
- Christ's ministry (9.1-2, Mt 4.15-16)
- Christ's redemption (11.10-13, Rom 15.9-12)
- Christ's death defeats death (25.8, 1 Cor 15.54)
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