

SEE THE KING!

with Isaiah

'Your eyes will behold the King in his beauty (Is. 33:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

1st Session **THEME: Isaiah's wake up call**

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

'How is it possible?!' Sometimes you are suddenly shocked, amazed with a situation, a crisis that suddenly has come, amidst of which you may find yourself, or those whom you love. Do you currently experience something like that?

Introduction to Isaiah 1:

Isaiah is called as a prophet in the year that king Uzziah (s. II Chr.26) died. (s. Ch. 6). During Uzziah's reign, the Judah and Jerusalem's wealth had increased, though not for all. They still served the Lord, though not wholeheartedly. When Uzziah got ill and died, suddenly the times changed. The Assyrians, who had done invasions in the Northern part (Israel), now invaded Judah in a terrible way. People wondered: 'how is it possible'. Then Isaiah is sent to preach. The Lord also wonders how it is possible that his people left him, though He had given them his Torah (1:10 'teaching') and done so much for them.

2. Read Isaiah 1 30 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 1:1-9 Isaiah's lament on behalf of the LORD

- What strikes you in this passage?
- Looking at what happened, the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem may have wondered why all these things happened, how it was possible. What should they learn from the lament in these verses?
- Verse 9: they are not completely like Sodom and Gomorrah now. What is the difference?
- Are these verses still relevant for our times as well?

Look again at 1:10-20 Isaiah's preaching on behalf of the LORD

- What strikes you in this passage?
- The topic is Israel's religion at that time. What is Isaiah's message about that topic in these verses?
- Verses 16-17 contain 9 commands. If you also take 'bring no more' in verse 13 as a command, then we have 10 commandments here. Would they (and would we) simply be able to start doing these things?
- Verse 18: this is an amazing promise. How is it possible that a righteous God can forgive it all? (See also Isaiah 53)

Look again at 1:21-31 Isaiah's prophecy concerning the future

- Whatever people may or may not be able to imagine, God has a plan for the future and He will surely realise it. How could you summarise this plan, as made known in these verses, in your own words?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Difficult times are warning signals for the unregenerate. But for God's children they are a purifying fire. Do you currently experience something of that? Take some moments of silence to think about this. Share and pray for one another.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Moses' song in Deuteronomy 32 and compare it with Isaiah 1. What do you learn?