

Isaiah 1 opens the book by showing what is wrong in the relationship between God and His people. It is set during the time of several kings of Judah and presents God speaking directly to Israel. God describes His people as children He lovingly raised, yet they have turned away from Him. The chapter points out that religious actions mean nothing when hearts are disobedient and people ignore justice and compassion. However, Isaiah 1 is not only about judgment. God invites His people to repent, change their ways, and do what is right. He promises forgiveness and restoration to those who are willing to listen and obey. This chapter introduces God as holy, just, and merciful, calling for sincere faith lived out in daily life.

What do you find most challenging in trying to listen to God?

Read Isaiah 1:1-3 & 16-20

1. What does Isaiah 1:1 reveal about the historical and spiritual context of this prophecy?
2. What does it mean that God “reared children and brought them up”?
3. Why is Israel’s failure to “know” or “understand” God so serious?
4. What contrast is made between Israel and animals in verse 3, and why is it significant?

5. In what ways can people today “know” God yet still act in rebellion?
6. How do these verses challenge assumptions about religious identity versus faithful obedience? Read John 8:34-41
7. What commands does God give in verses 16–17?
8. Why does God connect repentance with ethical actions toward others?
9. What does “though your sins are like scarlet” suggest about the nature of sin?
10. What does verse 18 reveal about God’s character and willingness to forgive?
11. How do obedience and refusal affect the future of God’s people according to these verses?
12. What does this passage teach about the relationship between justice and worship?
13. How does the promise of forgiveness motivate obedience rather than fear?
14. In what ways can individuals or communities choose “life” (v. 19) instead of “destruction” (v. 20)?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the Goring family, as well as those we know in recent times who's loved ones have died.

Pray for the Alpha course that starts this week. Pray for the team and those attending.

Kalbassou Doubassou is a BMS World Mission worker. He has been working at Guinebor II Hospital (G2) in Chad for ten years as a nurse-surgeon and G2's Hospital Director. Let's pray for him this week. Kalbassou says he is grateful for the Lord's protection over his life and his family. Please pray for ongoing protection and good health for Kalbassou and his family, and for the right opening for his son who is seeking to enter medical school.

Sermon Notes

The C _____

The J _____

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

January 18th 2026

Isaiah: Scarlett and Snow 1:1-3, 16-20

The Book of Isaiah presents powerful prophetic visions that have helped to shape theology, especially regarding God's holiness, judgment, and redemption. Written in a time of political turmoil, Isaiah foretells both near and distant events. Many prophecies have been fulfilled in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon, the return of Israel from exile, and the rise of Cyrus of Persia by name. Most notably, Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant whose rejection, suffering, and redemptive death closely parallel the New Testament accounts of Jesus, reinforcing Isaiah's enduring significance.

This series will help us to be faithful as we renew our focus upon the Lord, and fruitful as He fulfils His word.