

Scripture

Isaiah 1:1,10-20 (NLT)

1 These are the visions that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. He saw these visions during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.

A Message for Rebellious Judah

10 Listen to the Lord, you leaders of “Sodom.”
Listen to the law of our God, people of
“Gomorrah.”

- 11 “What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?” says the Lord.
“I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
- 12 When you come to worship me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?
- 13 Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts me!

- 13b** As for your celebrations of the new moon
and the Sabbath and your special days
for fasting — they are all sinful and false.
I want no more of your pious meetings.
- 14** I hate your new moon celebrations and
your annual festivals.
They are a burden to me.
I cannot stand them!

15 When you lift up your hands in prayer,
I will not look.

Though you offer many prayers,
I will not listen,
for your hands are covered with the
blood of innocent victims.

16 Wash yourselves and be clean!
Get your sins out of my sight.
Give up your evil ways.

17 Learn to do good. Seek justice.

Help the oppressed.

Defend the cause of orphans.

Fight for the rights of widows.

18 “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

I will make them as white as snow.

Though they are red like crimson,

I will make them as white as wool.

- 19** If you will only obey me,
you will have plenty to eat.
- 20** But if you turn away and refuse to listen,
you will be devoured by the sword of your
enemies.

I, the Lord, have spoken!”