

Dec. 5, 2017 – Ruth Maughan

Read: Isaiah 1:6-10

Isaiah was Judah's prophet, political and religious counselor, court historian whose ministry spanned 740-685 BC. He served under the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He lived in Jerusalem, was well educated and had deep insight into human nature. He loved God and served Him faithfully.

Judah turned away from God under the wickedness of wicked kings. Isaiah summoned Judah to faith in the Lord as the only hope. He constantly called the people back to reliance on God's promises and away from vain attempts to find security in human plans and intrigues.

For Isaiah, the vision of God's majesty was so great that political and military power faded into insignificance. His relationship with God led him to insist on the ethical behavior that was required of human beings who wished to live in the presence of a holy God.

He called them "battered head to foot, covered in bruises, in ruins, everything plundered and destroyed." Beautiful Jerusalem lay in ruins and helpless. If the Lord of Heaven's Armies had not spared a few people, they would have been totally wiped out.

They were a very religious people. They who had been selected by God to be His very own people had been seduced by the lust of the eyes and the pride of life as they looked at the people around them. They forgot who and whose they were.

May we ever be vigilant to guard our own souls and spirits and bodies to serve the Living God in love of Him. He requires holiness of His church just as He did of the people of Judah so many centuries ago.

The joy of doing good, seeking justice, walking humbly with our Lord Jesus as He directs our steps is a life well lived and pleasing to Him.

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