COME NOW AND LET US REASON TOGETHER

**DATE: 7/20/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 1:18-31**

**INTRODUCTION**

We continue tonight in our study of the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah name means *“salvation of the Lord”*

Isaiah is preaching in Judah during the reigns of four kings, a period of about 60-70 years

During which Samaria was captured, Israel was carried away (722 – 721 B.C.), and Judah was invaded (701 B.C.)

He was a contemporary of Hosea and Micah

Isaiah’s messages hearken back to the eternal counsels of God and the creation of the universe

He also looks forward to God’s creation of new heavens and a new earth (65:17; 66:22)

While there are many important prophecies concerning Jerusalem, Israel and Judah

Isaiah’s preaching encompass all the nations of the earth

The Book of Isaiah has had a tremendous impact on all of mankind!

**Quote:** Isaiah is described as one of “the greatest of the writing prophets” “No other prophet has written with such majestic eloquence about the glory of God…. of all the O.T. prophets, Isaiah is the most comprehensive in range. No prophet is more fully occupied with the redemptive work of Christ. In no other place, in the Scriptures written under the law, is there so clear a view of grace”

Let’s stand for the reading of the Word of God

We pick up tonight in **Chapter 1**; **v. 18** thru the end

This verse is one of the greatest gems in the entire Bible

It is a crucial principle on how to restore and maintain our relationship with God

It is the principle of Communication and Good Old Godly Sense

Let’s read **v.18** together and then pray …

Let’s think on this thought tonight …

**“Come Now and Let Us Reason Together”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

The first thought that I want to look at tonight is …

**I. COMMUNICATION – v. 18**

**Communication** is *the means by which we exchange information*

As a Nation we have loss the art of Communication

People don’t know how to Communicate

People just won’t listen anymore!

It more about what they have to say,

It just seems that everyone has to get their point across

It doesn’t matter what anyone else has to say

Especially God

Notice what Isaiah says …

**A. *“Come now”***

This phrase has the idea of walking together

**Amos 3:3 *– “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”***

We will answer this shortly

Let's stop here for a second

**1.** The Call to ***“Come”***

Jesus said in **Revelation 3:20 *– “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”***

**Matthew 11:28 *– “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”***

**Matthew 4:19 *– “And He saith unto them, (Come) Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”***

**Matthew 9:9 *– “And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and He saith unto him, (Come) Follow Me. And he arose, and followed Him”***

The Lord’s invitation is to all who will Come to Him

First Jesus is calling the world unto Salvation

Then Jesus is calling us to Sanctification / Fellowship

Accept His invitation of Salvation and call to fellowship

He wants to be close to us

Get alone with the Lord somewhere, open His Word and let Him speak to your heart and pour out your soul to Him in prayer

He wants to spend time with you, but you must open the door

**2.** Notice the Timing

When are we to respond to the Lord's invitation?

The answer is ***“Now”***

**II Corinthians 6:2 –** ***“(For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation***

***… have I succoured (helped) thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”***

**Isaiah 49:8 *– “Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;”***

Procrastination in putting your faith in Christ, can lead to eternal death in Hell

Procrastination in getting your life right with God, will lead to a loss of many blessings

The time to be saved is now before it’s too late

The time to live Holy is now before it’s too late

Isaiah continues and says …

**B. *“Let us reason together”***

The word ***“reason”*** is a word which means *to prove something or to demonstrate what is right and true*

This is what the Lord wants us to do with Him

*Reasoning together* involves Communication and Common sense

It requires that we honestly speak to the Lord and openly and freely let Him speak to us

It requires that we be available to listen to Him

So then …

**C. What is the Issue at Stake?**

Why does God need to make such a plea?

Why is there so little genuine faith found today?

Why of course, it is our old nature, our sin

That is the big issue and is always the big issue when it comes to walking with God

**Amos 3:3 –** ***“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?***

The truth is we won’t admit that

It is our sinfulness that ruins our life, leaving us like a shriveled tree or a scorched garden

A Godly Sense acknowledges that we are all sinners,

That we cannot cure ourselves in our own power, and the fact that we need help

We need a Saviour to forgive and cleanse us

***“Come now let us reason together”***

It is the desire of God's heart that we be united or together with Him

But that can only be based upon the Truth of God’s Word

It’s not getting God to see it our way

But all of us seeing it God’s way

**D. The Outcome of Communication**

***“though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool”***

In this statement we find a picture of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ

Let me explain …

The word ***“crimson”*** is from the Hebrew word ***tola*** which means *a worm*

In fact, in **Psalm 22**, which is a Messianic psalm of Jesus Christ, the Lord refers to Himself as a worm, a ***tola***

**Psalm 22:6 *– “But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people”***

**Illustration:** In Israel, purple and red dyes that were used to color clothing came from certain kinds of worms. The crimson tola worm is referred to here. This worm is only the size of a pea, and is of a violet black color. This worm is covered with a whitish powder, adhering to plants, chiefly various species of oak. This worm reproduces only once in its lifetime. When this worm reproduces, it climbs to a branch of a tree or a wooden post. It rigidly attaches itself to the tree in such a way that it can never be removed without tearing its body apart. …

The tola then lays its eggs on the tree. When the young arrive, they feed upon the living body of their mother. It is a very painful sacrifice for the mother to make. In essence, the mother becomes a living sacrifice. When the young are able to survive apart from the mother, the mother dies on the tree. As it dies, it exudes a scarlet dye, which stains her young ones. They are completely covered by the mother's scarlet dye and remain so for the remainder of their lives. When the worm dies, it also leaves a crimson spot on the branch of the tree, but after three days it dries out and changes color that is as white as snow. It then falls off, and flakes away.

What a reminder of the atonement of Christ, His work on the cross, and our sins being made white as snow

If you have never put your faith in Christ, and Christ alone, then you need to do that now

If you are a Christian and your life is not right with God

Then spend time with the Lord and get matters right with Him now

***“Come now and let us reason together!”***

**“COMMUNICATION”**

**II. “COMPLIANCE” – v. 19**

***“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:”***

The next principle that is essential in turning our lives toward the Lord is the principle of having a Willing, Obedient Attitude / Heart

Willingness is the Foundation of Obedience

Without a willing attitude, our desire to obey will be almost completely extinguished

For example, Jonah did not obey the Lord at first in going to Nineveh because he was unwilling to go

When God gave him an attitude adjustment, he went and God used him

Obedience to the Lord leads to blessings, ***“to eating the good of the land”***

Obedience may be difficult at times, it may be scary, it may cost you friendships, but it always leads to God's blessings no matter what the cost

Obedience is a big deal to the Lord,

In fact, it was the Lord Himself who told us that our obedience is proof of our love for Him

**John 14:15 –** ***“If ye love Me, keep My commandments”***

**I John 5:3 –** ***“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous”***

When we are willing and submitted to the Lord,

Then we learn to trust His guidance and care, wherever it may lead us and whatever may come

We trust Him because we love Him

**Story:** Early on the morning of May 27, 2001, missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham were seized at gunpoint by terrorist while celebrating their wedding anniversary at an island resort in the Philippines. Some 377 days later, the terrorists killed Martin when government forces raided their hideout. Though it was an extraordinary painful ordeal for Gracia, she has grown in wisdom from the event. She writes, "Sometimes I wonder, 'Why did Martin die when everyone was praying he wouldn't? Why does Scripture lead you to believe that if you pray a certain way, you'll get what you pray for?' People all over the world were praying that we'd both get out alive, but we didn't." Her questions made her realize it isn't always easy to comprehend God's nature. She said, "I used to have this concept of what God is like, and how life's supposed to be because of that. But in the jungle, I learned I don't know as much about God as I thought I did. I don't have Him in a theological box anymore. What I do know is that God is God—and I'm not. The world is in a mess because of sin, not God. Some awful things may happen to me, but God does what is right, and he makes good out of bad situations."

The key to **v. 19** is the very first word … ***“If”***

The core meaning of the Conjunction *if* is used to indicate *the circumstances that would have to exist in order for an event to happen*

**“COMPLIANCE” / WILLINGNESS**

**“COMMUNICATION”**

**III. “CONSEQUENCE” – vs. 20-31 …**

We need to Correctly Conclude the Effects / Consequence of either Rebellion or Repentance

Israel needed to get themselves back on the right track

Getting a life back on track involves the wisdom that comes from understanding clearly,

…the Effects or Consequences of Rebellion or Repentance

Actions have Consequences

Obedience brings blessings, in spite of difficulties

Rebellion brings a boat-load of problems

Isaiah clearly lays out the effects of Rebellion and Repentance in **vs. 20 – 31**

**A. The Effects of Rebellion**

**1.** Destruction **– v. 20**

***“But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”***

***“Devoured with the sword”***

Refusing to obey the Lord and rebelling against Him lead to Destruction

Isaiah warned that the Israelites would be destroyed by the weapons of their enemies

Rebels don't believe this, however

They have a tendency to believe they are invincible

This is why they end up being Destroyed

The sin of pride is their downfall

**Proverbs 16:18 *– “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”***

-- David fell flat on his face when he rebelled against God, committed adultery, and murdered Uriah

-- Absalom was destroyed because of his rebellion against his father

-- Samson lost his eyesight, his freedom, and his life because he rebelled against his father's wishes and because of his immorality with Delilah

 -- The human race was plunged into sin and death because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve

**2.** Dereliction and Desertion – **v. 21**

***“How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers”***

There had been a time when Israel lived right

They desired to please God / Faith

But now, because of their rebellion and sinfulness, they were not!

Isaiah referred to them as a ***“harlot”*** (strong)

Spiritually they deteriorated and became derelict in their responsibilities not only to God, but to one another

Justice was replaced with injustice

The people became so corrupt they were bloodthirsty / ***“murderers”***

The nation became violent, selfish, full of crimes

The whole nation deteriorated into depravity

They deserted God and His Word and became Derelict in their Duties

Sounds a lot like America today

At one time we were a great nation, but now life is cheap

We have legislated the slaughter of babies and our children have learned to slaughter each other

Deserting the Lord has led to rampant immorality, violence, oppression, theft, and murder

There are serious Consequences to Rebellion

**3.** Ravished Economically **– v. 22**

***“Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:”***

There are several thoughts about the meaning of this verse

I believe the right application is the obvious one

Often when the Bible speaks about silver and wine it is describing the economics of a Nation

**Revelation 6:5, 6 *– “And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand” “And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine”***

When a nation becomes rebellious toward God, it affects its economy

John / Isaiah was describing was happening to Israel’s economy

Their economy was being Ravished

Why would silver become dross or worthless?

One reason would be from people being dishonest in their commerce

To stretch their wine, they would water it down

Silver becomes dross when it is mixed with other alloys and has impurities in it

It was a common practice for crooks to tamper with the coinage in Bible times

Metals would be mixed with silver to stretch the silver or increase its weight

America is experiencing economic trouble because of our sinfulness and greed

The devaluation of the Dollar

The entitlement programs that we cannot afford

The heavy taxes being levied to pay for such programs are troubling our country

Uncontrolled spending by the Federal Gov’t to play God

Inflation and run away debt

It is unsustainable! It gonna blow up in their faces

**Proverbs 15:27a *– “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house;”***

**Proverbs 15:6 *– “In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble”***

When Biblical principles are violated, it will affect our finances

On the other hand, when we do what God commands us to do, we will enjoy His blessings

**Proverbs 10:22 –** ***“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it”***

**Proverbs 22:4 –** ***“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”***

**Proverbs 3:9, 10 – *“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:” “So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine”***

**4.** Corruption in Leadership **– v. 23**

***“Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them”***

When we think of rebellion, we usually think of it in the young people toward those in authority

Rebellion, however, can corrupt those who are in authority, too

When this happens, you have a major problem!

Those in leadership escalate and compound the trouble by becoming an example of corruption to those who look up to them or are under their authority

This is what happened in Isaiah's day

The princes or leaders were rebellious and crooked

They were thieves and companions of thieves

Justice was corrupted by bribes and graft

Orphans and widows suffered from injustice and vulnerability

The sole providers and protectors of their families were gone

Through confiscation, taxation, conscription, excessive interest rates, and other oppressive governmental measures and policies

They were gradually disenfranchised and lost their property, and with it, their rights as citizens

The Gov’t elite are strangling out the working class

Only to their own demise

**5.** Retribution **– vs. 24, 25, 28**

***“Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:”
“And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:”***

***“And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed”***

There is a price to pay for rebelling against God

The Lord does not ignore the sin of His people

He chastens us when we are disobedient toward Him

He does this for the purpose of removing the filth, the dross from our lives / the harm

**Hebrews 12:5, 6 *– “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:” “For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth”***

**Hebrews 12:10, 11 – *“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness” “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”***

**6.** Humiliation and Confusion **– v. 29**

***“For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen”***

After years of Disregard for God

The people of Israel were entrenched into idolatry

The worship of idols usually took place in secret among clusters of trees or private gardens dedicated for this purpose (The High Places)

God, however, saw what they were doing and warned them they would be ashamed and confused for their behavior

Rebellion leads to *Humiliation & Confusion*

That is what happens when you put something else before God

You eventually find that those things you place above the Lord are of no value

They do not satisfy your needs

They only tend to add more trouble in your life

You become ***“confounded”*** – *confused*

I think of Samson again at this point

After he lost his strength, he was blinded and bound by the Philistines

The people mocked him and his helplessness

His sinfulness led to humiliation and confusion

And eventually Death

**7.** Disintegration – **vs. 30, 31**

***“For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water” “And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them”***

God warned His people that their rebellion would destroy them

God’s judgement is always associated with Fire

Even the strongest of them would become like straw or tinder wood, (***“tow”***) and their wickedness would be the spark that would set them both afire

No one would be able to quench the flame of God's judgment

The same holds true for today

Christians who will not walk according to His Word are asking for Trouble

You will become a stumbling block to others instead of a spiritual stepping stone

If you reject Christ as your Savior, your rebellion against God will lead to an eternal Hell

No one will be able to put out the flames of God's eternal judgment then

**Revelation 21:8 – *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”***

**Luke 3:17 –*“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable”***

We have seen the effects of Rebellion and now let’s look at the effects of Repentance

**B. The Effects of Repentance**

Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of direction / action

**1.** Repentance leads to Restoration **- v. 26 a**

***“And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning:”***

If God's people would repent, He would restore the leadership of the nation with good judges and counselors

That is important because the decisions of leaders affect the direction of a nation

Rebellion robs your life, but repentance begins to restore what has been lost through rebellion

God in His mercy will restore the damage of rebellion if we will turn back to Him

This truth was also taught by the prophet Joel

God's people had rebelled and the land was ruined by the judgment of God

Pestilence was sent by the Lord to destroy the crops

God's promise to His people was he would restore what was lost if they would repent

**Joel 2:25, 26 - *“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, …***

***…and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you” “And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed”***

People who are away from the Lord, need to turn back to Him

They’ll find forgiveness and times of refreshing

**Acts 3:19 – *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”***

**2.** Repentance leads to Revival **– vs. 26 b, 27**

***“… afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city” “Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness”***

The result of repentance is revival

God told His people that Jerusalem would once again become a faithful city characterized by righteousness

**CONCLUSION**

***“Come Now and let Us Reason Together saith the LORD”***