

## Notes on Isaiah 1

The time frame of Isaiah's prophetic work ranges from kings Uzziah to Hezekiah. We might infer from chapter 6:1 that Isaiah's prophetic commission was given in the year of Uzziah's death (740 b.c.). It represented a significant event turning point in the history of Israel. The reigns of both Jeroboam II in the northern kingdom and Uzziah in the southern kingdom has restored Israel to prosperous times similar to the time of Solomon.

Even this prosperity for the northern kingdom was a blessing from the Lord who had seen the oppression of His people, it seems, mainly by the Syrians (Cf. 2 Kg. 14:23-27). However, the people had refused to glorify the Lord for their blessings. Rather it became the occasion for the luxury and moral laxity that was rebuked by Amos and Hosea.

In a similar way Uzziah with God's blessing brought expansion of territory for Judah. Yet, the southern kingdom too had failed to be appreciative of God's blessings. Thus, Isaiah begins with a prophecy of the situation in Judah.

v. 2-4 Describes the ingratitude of Israel for their blessings from God.

v. 5-6 Describe Israel as a flogged man, bruised but impenitent. This portrayal of invasion seems to identify this chapter with a time perhaps after the war between Syria and Judah.