

Series: Questions

Title: Why should ye be Stricken Anymore?

Text: Isaiah 1: 5

Date: November 30, 2017

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

This time, the question God asks sinners is found in Isaiah 1. This is God speaking in vision through Isaiah. But it is God speaking. He is speaking to the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. But this question applies to all sinners in our natural born state.

### **Isaiah 1: 5: Why should ye be stricken any more?**

If God threatens a sinner, *will* the sinner or *can* the sinner, *of himself*, hear and obey God? Can the sinner justify himself of his sin before God? Can the sinner subdue the sin of his own heart and obey God?

God answers, “No!”—**Isaiah 1: 5:...ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.**

**Proposition:** The only way sinners can be saved is for God to intervene and do all things necessary to save us.

### **ALL HAVE REBELLED AGAINST GOD**

**Isaiah 1: 2: Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. 3: The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.**

God calls heaven and earth to bear witness of what he has done—*I have nourished and brought up children*. What is said of Israel is true of every man, woman and child by creation. We are all the children of God because God created us.

Acts 17: 26: [God] hath made of one blood [of one man Adam] all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27: That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Also, in our text, God calls heaven and earth to witness of what we have done—v2: “*and they have rebelled against me.*” When Adam rebelled against God, Adam’s entire race rebelled in him.

Romans 5: 12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...19: For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners,...

Born of Adam’s corrupt seed, we have each *rebelled against God* from day one.

Psalms 58: 3: The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Our fall was so severe that we are worse than brute beasts—v3: “*The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.*” Not only do we not know God, we do not even consider these things.

Romans 3:11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Proverbs 17:11: An evil man seeketh only rebellion:

In our natural state, we are evil. And we only seek rebellion.

## ONE IN DEPRAVITY

**Isaiah 1: 4: Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.**

Before God, all men of every nation are but one nation—*Ah sinful nation*. We are one people—*a people laden with iniquity*. We are all one race—*a seed of evildoers*. We are all one family—*children that are corrupters*. We all are guilty of the same crime—*they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward*.

Romans 3: 9: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13: Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 14: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: 15: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: 16: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: 17: And the way of peace have they not known: 18: There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19: Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

So we are all one in universal total depravity, total ruin, all guilty before God.

## USELESS TO CORRECT

**Isaiah 1: 5: Why should ye be stricken any more?**

Due to our ruin, God declares it is useless for God to send correction because we can do nothing to save ourselves. God declares it is useless to strike a depraved sinner with the law of God. It is useless to strike him with God's hand of providence. It is useless to strike him with threats of hell. Why? Men like to boast that the sinner has a free will. God declares what the sinner's will is—*ye will revolt more and more*.

Left to ourselves, though God strike us, OF OURSELVES, we will only revolt more and more. Read vv13-14 and you will see that our revolt is often religious revolt—*Isaiah 1: 13: Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14: Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them*.

What is our problem?—*Isaiah 1: 5: the whole head is sick, [our judgment is corrupt] and the whole heart faint. [our affections are corrupt] 6: From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; [we have no entirety, no completeness, no character and principle in our sinful flesh] but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: [only stinking iniquity and abomination before God—and no man can cure himself] they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment*.

## HOW THEN SHALL ANY BE SAVED?

First, salvation begins with God's sovereign electing grace—**Isaiah 1: 9: Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.**

*Except the LORD of hosts had*—before we fell in Adam, the LORD of hosts chose a people in Christ—by his grace, not because of anything in us. *Except the LORD had chosen a remnant*, he would have destroyed Adam and the whole human race when Adam sinned—like he did Sodom and Gomorra. *Except the LORD had chosen a very small*

remnant in Israel, God would have destroyed them like Sodom and Gomorra. So what is keeping God from destroying this world today? It is because

Romans 11: 5: Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Secondly, God's elect remnant are saved by God sending his own Son to redeem his people in judgment—**Isaiah 1: 24: 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: 25: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: 26: And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. 27: Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.**

Before God could *turn his hand upon his chosen remnant and convert us with righteousness*, he turned his hand upon his own Son and *redeemed his people with judgment*.

Zechariah 13: 7: Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep [the elect remnant] shall be scattered: [into all the world] and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

It did not good to strike his elect anymore. Therefore, God sent his Son and God smote Christ in our place. In order to *purge away our dross* and in order to manifest the righteousness of God, the sinless Lord Jesus Christ willingly gave himself to bear our dross in his own body on the tree as the Head, the legal representative, of all God's elect remnant. Then God in righteousness smote him in justice instead of his people. By his blood, by his death, Christ *purged away all the dross of God's elect remnant and he did it in righteousness*.

Hebrews 1:3: Who...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Isaiah prophesied of the future when he said in verse 27: "*Zion*"—all God's elect, his true Israel, his true church, his remnant—"*shall be redeemed with judgment!*" Now, it has been accomplished! Christ said, "It is finished!" So salvation is first by the LORD of hosts electing a remnant in Christ before the world was made. Secondly, salvation is by Christ being smitten in place of his people.

Thirdly, from God's right hand, Christ, as Head of his church did as Isaiah prophesied—*restored our judges and counsellors*. He restores our judges and counselors by sending forth his gospel out of heavenly Zion, from heavenly Jerusalem, from his throne of grace; by sending forth his apostles and preachers to preach this gospel of his wonderful works and by sending forth the Holy Spirit to regenerate his people and guide his people into all truth. Through the gospel by the Holy Spirit Christ *purges away our dross inwardly*, creating in his elect a new nature and causing us to behold what Christ has done for us.

Hebrews 9:14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

So Christ *makes his converts with righteousness*. He makes each of his redeemed, regenerated people *willing* to confess that which is right, that we are only sinners incapable of adding one thing to his work. He makes us *willing* to confess that which is right, that Christ alone is our Righteousness!

Salvation is by God electing his people in Christ by his grace; by Christ redeeming us with judgment on the cross; by Christ converting us with righteousness in regeneration. So he that glories let him glory in the Lord!

## GOD'S WORD TO YOU

**Isaiah 1: 18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19: If ye be willing and obedient, ye**

**shall eat the good of the land: 20: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.**

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD.* Has Christ sent this word to you now and made you willing and obedient through this gospel? Are you willing to confess your sins are red like scarlett—from the top of your head to the sole of your feet—no soundness in you, only wounds and stinking sores? Are you willing to confess you are saved by God’s electing grace apart from yours works? Are you willing to confess you been born again by the grace and power of God? Are you will to confess Christ is all your Righteousness, all your hope and stay? *If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.* The good of the land is that *though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

*But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword.* Christ bore that sword of justice for all his people. His righteousness is freely given to all who cast their care on him. Justice demands we shall never be devoured with that sword. But if it is your will to refuse and rebel—if you go on taking God’s daily nourishment while you go on revolting more and more against God and his Christ then why should you be stricken anymore? You will revolt more and more, ye shall be devoured with the sword.

How do I know these things are sure and certain?—“*for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*”

**Amen!**