



SOLUTIONS TO INJUSTICE (PT. 1)

Isaiah 1-5

WAY JERUSALEM IS

1. PROBLEM: JERUSALEM IS FILLED WITH THE SIN OF INJUSTICE

- a. **Isa 3:14-15** *The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: "It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?" says the Lord GOD of hosts.*
- b. **Isa 5:8** *Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.*
- c. **Isa 10:2** *...to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!*

2. SOLUTION: DO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE

- a. **Isa 1:16-17** *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.*
- b. **Isa 1:25-26** *I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy. And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.*

WAY JERUSALEM COULD BE

Isa 2:1-5 *The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

1. WORLD FLOWS TO JERUSALEM BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME A CITY OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

- a. Isaiah is a visionary
- b. **Isa 11:1-9** *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

2. JERUSALEM IS A RESOURCE FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD

- a. **Amos 5:5-6** *...but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nought. Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel*
- b. **Isa 2:5** *O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

3. RESOURCES FOR A COMMUNITY OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

- a. **Isa 2:7** *Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.*
- b. **Isa 2:4** *...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

4. WHEN/DID THIS HAPPEN?

HOW TO ADDRESS INJUSTICE AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS?

1. RELIEF

- a. **Isa 58:7** *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*
- b. **Matt 25:34-36** *Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'*

2. DEVELOPMENT

- a. **Deut 15:1-8** *At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD's release has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it; but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release. But there will be no poor among you (for the LORD will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you for an inheritance to possess), if only you will obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment which I command you this day. For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you. If there is among you a poor man, one of your brethren, in any of your towns within your land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him, and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.*
- b. **Luke 4:18-19** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

3. STRUCTURE

- a. **Isa 10:1-2** *Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!*
- b. **Isa 58:6** *Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*
- c. **Isa 5:8** *Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.*

4. FISH STORY