

Isa 1-2 (8)

Chapters 1 to 6

The first six chapters of Isaiah are rather general ~~section~~ in nature, instead of being connected to a specific historical situation, like most of those which follow. This section may be compared to the book of Micah with its three-fold structure, since in both books each of the three ~~large~~ passages proclaiming God's wrath upon the wicked nation is followed by one declaring His blessing for the godly.

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The first of these three ^{passages} sections is Isaiah 1:1-2:5. Chapter 1 contains ^{beauty passages, in fact, a} very few verses of blessing; the greater part of it sets forth judgment and doom upon those who have broken God's covenant and disobeyed his word. In phrases of terrible denunciation Isaiah sets forth God's disappointment over the apostasy of the nation which has been the object of his many favors, and declares his determination to punish it. The only exceptions to this general note of rebuke in the chapter are verse 18 and verses 25 to 27. Verse 18 is the wonderful evangelical promise, "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." This promise seems to enter the context so abruptly that ^{some} many interpreters ^{regard} consider it as a rhetorical question, emphasizing the sin and hypocrisy of the people. Verses 25 to 27 ² give a promise of cleansing for the city, and ¹ of renewal, freed from sin. ³ In its final verses the chapter ^{ends} ends on the note of doom.

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After this chapter comes the first great passage declaring God's plan to bring unimaginable blessing after the carrying out of the predicted judgment. This prediction of blessing includes only three verses, since verse 1 is introductory and verse 5 is a concluding exhortation. It is almost identical with Micah 4:1-3, which is followed by further elaboration of the description