HOW TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Isaiah 1:1–31

Key Verse: 1:18

1. How is the entire book of Isaiah described? (1) What is the significance that it was a “vision”? Why does he summon heaven and earth to listen to him? (2a) What does God declare? (2b–3) Why was Israel’s rebellion so unjust and even foolish? What did they not “know” or “understand”? (3) How do we rebel against God, and why do we do so?

2. How is Israel described, and what was at the root of all their problems? (4) What is the author’s tone in verses 5,6? In light of this, what does rebellion against God do to us? How else is the country described, and why did this happen? (7,8) What did God in his mercy do? (9) What does it mean to be a “survivor”?

3. What shocking language does the author use to describe Israel? (10) How is their religion described, and why does God not like it? (11–15) What does he tell them to do instead? (16,17) Why is this more important than rituals and sacrifices?

4. Read verse 18. Despite all their sins against him, how does God propose to “settle the matter”? (18b) What does it mean for our sins to become “as white as snow” and “like wool”? What can we learn here about God and about having a relationship with him? (44:22; 55:7; cf. Ps51:7; Mic7:18,19) What two options does he give us? (19,20)

5. Read verses 21–23. What had happened to the once faithful city of Jerusalem? Why does God repeatedly mention the fatherless and the widow? (17b,23b) Read verses 24-31. What does God promise to do to purify and restore his people, and what happens to unrepentant rebels and sinners?