

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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A Nation That Rejects Christ Part 2 – Isaiah 1-6

A Devotion for Families by *Dr. Jim Smyrl*

Rebellion against God in a nation reveals the laxity of the body of Christ within that nation. We are called to engage the culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ in order for the culture to undergo a spiritual transformation. Such a transformation reveals itself in many ways, one of which is the birth of a people who acknowledge that all provisions necessary for life flow from the Father. As believers engage neighbors, coworkers, and new friends with the life-changing message of the gospel, evidence will emerge that our nation trusts God for all our needs.

Isaiah's prophecy begins with a call to the nation to see that in their rebellion they have reversed the created order. In 1:3, Isaiah condemns the rebellious nation by contrasting their behavior with that of animals. Two relatively ignorant animals are presented as being fully conscience of their owner and master. The Ox and the Donkey live in such a way to reveal to all who see that they know who cares and provides for them. In contrast, the people, whom God gave dominion over the animals, live in such a way to reveal that they do not seem to know who provides for them, nor do they consider that all their needs are met by the Master. Animals are lower than man in the created order, yet sin causes man to live lower than animals thus defiling the very order in which God placed man in creation.

Early in his prophecy, Isaiah places the burden of guilt on the shoulders of God's people. Notice the confrontational tone of God in verse 4. Three times He says, "They have." Did you notice that all of their sin is against God? So is all of our sin. Just as God confronts Israel with their personal sin against Him, He confronts us with our sin. When we turn our backs on God that deep sense of absolutely depending on Him subsides and we begin searching to provide for all our needs. We seek to be God by rejecting Him as the source of all that sustains life and believing our efforts are the reservoir from which all our needs are met.

Last week our President stated that America is no longer a Christian nation. Many believers were outraged at such a statement. The burden of proof as to the nature of our nation rests in the hands of the church. If we, the church, were more outraged over our personal sin of self dependency as we are over a Presidential removal of an unjustified nomenclature, perhaps contemporary evidence of our nation's heritage would not be so easily dismissed. God's confrontation of a nation that rebels against Him is not directed at a politician or a secular institution, but rather at each believer who rejects the truth that God alone meets our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.