

**Tell a story**  
**Haftara Isaiah 1:1-27**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2022-08-06**

**Comments**

The first word of the haftara is chazon. That translates as the vision of Isaiah. The shabbat when this Haftara is read, is the Shabbat before Tisha b'Av . The parsha for the week is called Shabbat Chazon because it's referred to as the Shabbat of the Vision.

There is a Chassidic tradition that on this Shabbat the soul of every single Jew is treated to a Vision of the Holy Temple. This Holy Temple will be rebuilt in the time that the Mashiach will come. This is the third of a series of three weeks of affliction. These three haftarot are read during the three weeks as we are mourning for Jerusalem. We are doing this between the time we fast the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. The prophet Isaiah tells the Jews that he experiences a vision coming from G-d. In this vision he sees the residents of Judah and Jerusalem being chastised. The reason for this is they have been rebelling against G-d. They are being criticized for their errors they keep repeating. They weren't stopping in their evil ways and weren't listening every time they had been critiqued.

Finally G-d had enough and wanted to punish them. G-d said, Woe to a sinful nation a people with inquiry, constantly doing evil, and corrupted children. They provoked the Holy One of Israel. There was an exchange of harsh words and the Jewish leaders were very much compared to the leaders of Sodom and Gomorrah. G-d states His distaste for the Jewish people's sacrifices and their offerings. These sacrifices and offerings were flavored with pagan customs. G-d compared the Jewish people to a harlot and no longer a faithful city that once was full of justice. Originally the Jewish people had righteousness, but no longer. G-d saw it as a city of murderers.

Isaiah switches over to having a gentler tone with the Jewish people. He is encouraging the people to repent in front of G-d and do this in a sincere way. He tells the people to perform acts of kindness and justice. These acts he asks the Jews to perform are leaned towards those who are needy, those who are orphans, and those who are widows. These people are promised the best land in return for their acts of kindness. They are told that if their transgressions prove to be like crimson then they will become white as snow. If they prove to be as red as crimson dye, then they shall become as wool. The haftara concludes with a promise that G-d is eventually going to re-establish the judges of Israel. This will happen when Zion will be redeemed through justice and her penitents through righteousness.