

The main point that we want to make as we begin is that God wanted a people for his own, and they rebelled against him so that he had to turn away from them. He was very disappointed in them, and this example should cause us to use great caution in our own attitude towards God. We don't want to parallel the history of Israel; we are now the chosen people of God and we don't want to mess up what is essentially a second and perhaps final chance. In Isaiah 1 He likens his chosen people to children, that he has brought up and cared for and loved, and given everything that they needed. In spite of all of this attention, however, they have rebelled and turned away from him.

Read Isaiah 1 scripture

We see that there is a contrast made in verse three that would be somewhat humorous if it weren't so terrible. He these wayward children are compared to the dumbest animals that you could ever imagine, the ox and the ass. 'Dumb' animals have no trouble recognizing their master, but 'intelligent' humans cannot figure it out. Think of the loyalty of a dog, for instance. They are your servant and friend even if you don't treat them properly. Their devotion sees through all of that and cannot be shaken. We read a similar passage in How can we be so dumb as to not be able to recognize who our real master is? But we often find ourselves in the same boat as the audience of Isaiah.

*Jeremiah 8.7, 'Even the stork in the heavens knows her times; and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming; but my people know not the ordinance of the Lord.'*

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