

**“Though your sins are as scarlet,
they will be white as snow”**
Isaiah 1—2

Why should we study this book?

Because Isaiah was a prophet, which means he wrote the very words of God (Isa 37:2).

Because God had Isaiah write this book for us today (Rom 15:4).

How was Israel sinning against God?

They were forsaking and despising the Holy One of Israel (1:2-4).

They piled up money and neglected the fatherless and widows (2:7; 1:23).

They murdered people (1:21).

They bowed down to idols (2:8).

They tried to make up for their sin by going to church (1:13-14).

What did God call Israel to do?

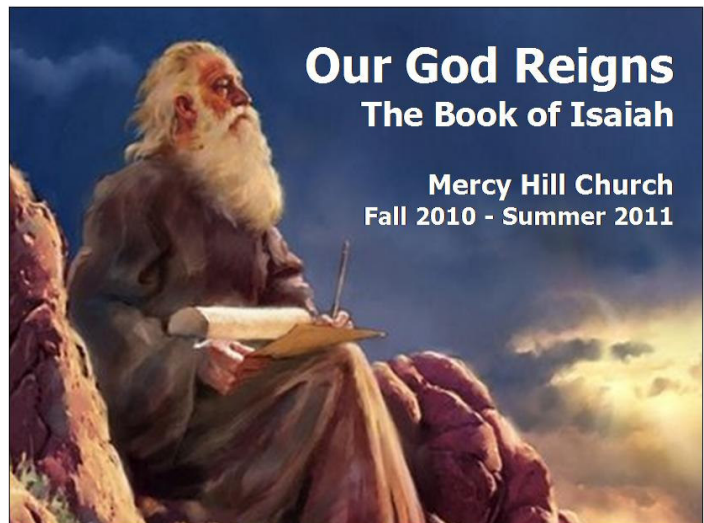
Wash herself and make herself clean (1:16-17). Not by works (will-power) but by faith (turning to God in genuine repentance and trust and from this trust choosing to obey God).

This will make them and us perfectly clean (1:18). Not by our own sinlessness (we won't be sinless in this life). But by being connected through faith to Jesus' blood-bought forgiveness and white-as-snow sinlessness.

Why should Israel (and we) do this?

Because at the end of history God will cause all the nations to repent and turn to Him, and the world will be free from war and full of peace forever (2:1-4).

Because at the end of history God will pour His wrath upon all who proudly held to their idols (2:10-12, 17-19).



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

What sins was the Holy Spirit pinpointing in your life through Isaiah 1 and 2?

What gets in the way of you washing yourself clean from these?

Does it make sense that we wash ourselves clean by faith (trusting Jesus to forgive, cleanse, change us) not by works (gritting our teeth)? Why or why not?

How does it encourage you to know that when you turn to Jesus in genuine faith and repentance — you will be white as snow before God? How does that help?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

