

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 27, 2022

Passage: Isaiah 1:21-31

Memory Passage: Isaiah 1:27-28

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Isaiah 1:21-31.** If 1:2-9 addressed the national situation in Jerusalem, and 1:10-20 addressed the religious situation, what does Isaiah address in these verses?

(b) When Isaiah refers to once-faithful Israel as a “whore” in v. 21, of what is he accusing her?

(c) According to v. 21c-d, what characteristics did Jerusalem possess when she was a faithful city?

(d) According to vs. 21e-23, what characteristics does Jerusalem now reflect that Isaiah has made her an idolater (“whore”)?

(e) Explain the word picture Isaiah uses in v. 22. What is he conveying about the people of Jerusalem?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 1:21-31.** What do you learn from the names of God found in v. 24: Lord (Adon), of LORD Hosts (Yahweh Sabaoth), and Mighty One of Israel?

(b) Who are the “enemies” and “foes” upon which Yahweh will “get relief” from and on whom He will “avenge” Himself?

(c) How will God carry out this judgment (v. 25), and what will be the result (v. 26)? Explain why these verses do not contradict each other.

(d) In what ways does v. 26 reverse the activities in which the people of Jerusalem were involved (vs. 21-23)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 1:21-31.** According to vs. 27-28, who will be redeemed and who will be consumed by the fire of v. 25?

(b) Images using trees figure prominently in Isaiah. Are the images of a tree and a garden literal or metaphorical?

(c) Why did the people desire these oaks and choose these gardens? Why will they be ashamed of and blush for them?

(d) Verse 30 uses the same images as similes (comparisons using like or as). Explain what each says about these people who have forsaken Yahweh and will be consumed (v. 28b; note that vs. 29 & 30 both begin with “for” and 31 begins with “and”).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 1:21-31.** According to v. 30, what will happen to both the person and the work of those who forsake Yahweh?

(b) Re-read vs. 21-31 and make a note of everything you learn about (1) the people who will be redeemed, those who make up “the faithful city,” and (2) those who will be consumed, those who make up the unfaithful city.

(c) Explain how the image of fire is used throughout this passage.

(d) Summarize vs. 21-31 in one sentence.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 1:21-31.** In what ways does the description of an unfaithful city describe the world in which we live?

(b) In what ways might the church today look like the unfaithful city? In what ways must BCC be on guard so we avoid this?

(c) In what ways does your life resemble the description of those who faced being consumed by the fire of God’s righteous judgment? Remember: if you are in Christ, you now face no condemnation from God (Rom. 5:1), but believers are capable of sinning in these ways. It is our response to this sinfulness (repentance or continued rebellion; vs. 27-28) that marks us out as either those who have been purified or those whom God’s judgment will consume.

DATE: February 27, 2022

PASSAGE: Isaiah 1:21-31

Faithful City or Unfaithful Harlot?