

Isaiah 1:21-31
The Purging of a Nation

The Status of the Holy City (21-23)

Idolatrous (Ezekiel 16:30-31, 43)

Injustice – among the rulers (Isaiah 58:6-7 / James 1:28)

The Purging (24-26)

Removing impurities (II Corinthians 7:1)

Restoring judges (Psalm 82 / Proverbs 14:34; 24:23-25; 28:5)

Righteousness and faithfulness returned (Proverbs 25:5 / Hosea 2:19-20)

The Redemptive Work (27-31)

For the penitent ones – the path to righteousness

It is not self-improvement

It is self-abasement (Psalm 51:17 / Isaiah 66:2 / Philippians 3:7-9)

For the rebellious ones

Shame and disgrace (Psalm 25:3)

Sparking a fire that consumes (Joel 2:1-11)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 1:21-31

How does the status of the Holy City Jerusalem in Isaiah's day compare with the United States today? How does this impact our lives and our future in this country?

God's method of purging was to remove impurities, restores judges and see righteousness and faithfulness return to His people. How can we apply these principles to our local church body?

How did Jesus respond to those who were self-righteous? (Matthew 23) Why do self-improvement and/or self-help plans not bring lasting change?

Describe the pathway to true redemption and change in our lives?

The Purging of a Nation

The Status of the Holy City (21-23) **where is my heart?**

Idolatrous (Ezekiel 16:30-31, 43) **likened to adultery – being unfaithful to the One with Whom we have entered into a covenant relationship**

Injustice – among the rulers (Isaiah 58:6-7 / James 1:28) **corruption trickles down**
True religion seeks purity and shows compassion for the needy

The Purging (24-26)

Removing impurities (II Corinthians 7:1) **(Psalm 139:23-24) Welcoming our God to Search and cleanse us / removing things that stumble (Deuteronomy 7:26)**

Restoring judges (Psalm 82 / Proverbs 14:34; 24:23-25; 28:5)

Leaders must understand judgment and mercy (James 2:12-13)

Righteousness and faithfulness returned (Proverbs 25:5 / Hosea 2:19-20)

God establishes this for His people (II Corinthians 5:21)

The Redemptive Work (27-31) **by His precious blood (I Peter 1:17-19)**

For the penitent ones – the path to righteousness **saved from a worthless path**

It is not self-improvement **trying to improve my image? (Matthew 23:27-28)**

It is self-abasement (Psalm 51:17 / Isaiah 66:2 / Philippians 3:7-9)

Recognizing my wicked heart, how I have wronged my Creator

For the rebellious ones **those who persist in going their own way**

Shame and disgrace (Psalm 25:3)

Sparking a fire that consumes (Joel 2:1-11)

God's wrath remains over them (John 3:36)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 1:21-31

How does the status of the Holy City Jerusalem in Isaiah's day compare with the United States today? How does this impact our lives and our future in this country?

Like Israel, we are filled with wickedness and idolatry. As a country we ignore the signs of God's judgment upon us. We have turned away from God and our moving rapidly toward experience His judgment and removal of us as a Sovereign nation. (Leviticus 18:24-27 - sexual immorality / II Kings 23:26-27 & Jeremiah 15:4 – shedding innocent blood)

God's method of purging was to remove impurities, restores judges and see righteousness and faithfulness return to His people. How can we apply these principles to our local church body?

We begin by our own cleansing (I John 1:9) We must not pursue self-righteousness, but that which comes from God (Philippians 3:7-9) We must deal with sin within our assembly (Matthew 18:15-17 / I Corinthians 5:5-13 / Leadership must be accountable (Acts 20:28 / I Timothy 5:19-21)

How did Jesus respond to those who were self-righteous? (Matthew 23) Why do self-improvement and/or self-help plans not bring lasting change?

The self-righteous received the harshest rebukes from Jesus. They led others down the wrong path and abused their power. We can try and make ourselves look good on the outside, but only God knows our hearts. (Jeremiah 17:9-10) Until I allow Jesus to have His way in my life, my heart will continue to deceive. (Proverbs 4:23 / Psalm 139:23-24 / Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Describe the pathway to true redemption and change in our lives?

It begins with being born again (John 3:3 / John 1:12)

We must continually yield ourselves to His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

His Word must renew our thinking (Romans 12:1-2 / John 17:17 / James 1:22)

Our hearts must be right with Him (I John 1:9; 3:21-24)

Our focus must be fixed on our future hope (I Peter 1:13 / Colossian 3:1-4 / II Timothy 4:8)