

4—White As Snow

5/7/23

INTRO:

I. → **Isaiah 1:13-20**

“Stop bringing meaningless offerings!

Your incense is detestable to me.

New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—

I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals

I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;

I am weary of bearing them.”

→ 15 *“When you spread out your hands in prayer,*

I hide my eyes from you;

even when you offer many prayers,

I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!”

→ 16 *“Wash and make yourselves clean.*

Take your evil deeds *out of my sight;*

stop doing wrong.

Learn to do right; *seek justice.*

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow.”

→ 18 *“Come now, **let us settle the matter,**”*

says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red as crimson,

they shall be like wool.”

→ 19 **“If you are willing and obedient,**

you will eat the good things of the land;

but if you resist and rebel,

you will be devoured by the sword.”

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

BODY:

I. Washing Away the Guilt

Heb (*rachatsu*) wash yourselves; (*hizaku*) purify yourselves

A. Before we can move on we must deal with our guilt.

1) **Psalms 24:3-4**

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart.

2) **THE RED DYE OF THE KERMES VERMILIO**

Exodus 28:5 (*tola'at shaniy*) the crimson bug

3) **LADY MACBETH**

"Yet here's a spot. Out, cursed spot, out, I say!"

B. The blood of Jesus purifies us and prepares us to serve.

1) **Hebrews 10:22**

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

2) **THE CYCLE OF GUILT, ADDICTION, AND SHAME**

II. Turning Away from Evil

Heb (*cuwr*) turn away the evil from your doing

A. Each day is an opportunity to examine our hearts afresh.

1) **Psalms 139:23-24**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting. (NRSV)

2) **ANGEL AND DEVIL ON OUR SHOULDERS**

B. We can either be drawn to darkness or turn away from it.

1) **Ephesians 4:22-23**

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds.

2) **LEGALIZATION OF DRUGS**

III. Doing the Right Thing

16 Stop doing wrong. Learn to do right.

A. God cares more about our actions than our rituals.

1) **JUSTICE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE**

2) **Psalms 72:1-2**

*Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.*

3) **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III**

1) ANOINTING—"On the crown of the head, saying:
Be your head anointed with holy oil, as kings,
priests, and prophets were anointed."

2) SWORD—"With this sword do justice, stop the
growth of iniquity, protect the holy Church of God
and all people of goodwill, help and defend widows
and orphans, restore the things that are gone to
decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish
and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in
good order."

3) ROBE—"Receive this robe: may the Lord clothe you
with the robe of righteousness, and with the
garments of salvation."

B. At the end of the day it is about God reaching lost people.

1) **James 1:27**

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

2) **THE CALL TO SERVE CHILDREN**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

John 8:10-11

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Hebrews 9:22

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Revelation 7:14

"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."