

Come Let Us Reason Together

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Introduction:

1. Isaiah ministered during a turbulent time in Israel's history.
2. Israel abandoned the way of the Lord - lived in open sin and idolatry
3. The verses leading up to our text chronicle a scene of rebellion / sin
 - a. The people were in open rebellion against the Lord
2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.
 - b. They refused to acknowledge God and, spiritually, they were dumber than the farm animals around them.
3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.
 - c. They had forsaken the Lord and provoked Him to anger
4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.
 - d. They refused to respond to the Lord's chastisement
5a Why should ye be stricken any more?
 - e. They were sick spiritually and desperately needed help
5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds,

and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

f. Violence filled the whole land.

7 Your country *is* desolate, your cities *are* burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and *it is* desolate, as overthrown by strangers. 8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

g. They had become as vile as ancient Sodom /Gomorrah

9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, *and* we should have been like unto Gomorrah. 10 Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

h. Their religious services were an abomination to Lord

11 To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. 12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? 13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear *them*. 15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

4. Our country is in as bad a spiritual shape as was ancient Israel.

5. These people had been blessed by the Lord in many wonderful ways

a. Israel should have been seeking God and they should have been looking for ways to mend their relationship with Him.

- b. Instead, we see the Lord seeking His people and inviting them to make things right with Him.
6. This fact underscores a truth we encounter throughout the Bible.
- a. People will not seek the Lord until they are first sought by Him
 - b. God always makes the first move in this thing called salvation.
 - c. Man is “dead in trespasses and sins” and cannot seek the Lord
 - d. Jesus came to the world to seek and save the lost- Luke 19:10
 - e. I know that we want to elevate man in these days.
 - f. No one wants to believe that man is totally depraved and cut off from God.
 - g. The Bible is very clear in this matter. Man is a vile sinner and there is not good in him at all, Rom. 3:10-18; 23.
 - h. Man will never come to God unless God first comes to man, John 6:44.
7. What we see in this passage is a dirty, vile, wicked people who need to be cleansed.
- a. They are approached by the Lord and invited to come to Him for the cleansing they so desperately needed
 - b. God is still inviting dirty, sinful people to come to Him for the cleansing they need.

I. THE INTENSITY OF THIS INVITATION

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD....

A. “Come” is a Command

- 1. God is reaching out to a wayward, sinful people and He is calling them back to Him.
- 2. This is amazing because God knows how they have been living.
 - a) *He knows how they have treated His Law.*
 - b) *He knows the vileness and the depths of their sins.*

- c) *He knows how wicked they have become.*
- 3. Yet, He still loves them and reaches out to them in love, to extend grace and mercy to them, if they will repent.
- 4. God understood Israel's condition better than they did
 - a) *They thought they were doing all right.*
 - b) *But, God knew that they were in deep trouble, so He reached out to them to call them home.*
- 5. God knows our condition better than we do.
 - a) *Lost sinners think they are doing their own thing and living life by their own terms.*
 - b) *They don't realize that they are nothing but pawns in the devil's hand.*

B. This Invitation Still Stands

- 1. The blessing in this verse is the fact that this invitation still stands
- 2. God knows all about the sins in your life and mine.
 - a) *He knows how far down into the cesspool of sin we have sunk.*
 - b) *He knows that we are wicked, evil and utterly depraved.*
 - c) *Yet, He loves us, in spite of our sinful condition and He calls us to come to Him.*
- 3. He calls lost people to come to Him
 - a) *Re 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
 - b) *Mt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
- 4. Have you heeded that invitation?

The Intensity of This Invitation.....

II. THE IMMEDIACY OF THIS INVITATION

18 Come now, and let us reason together....

A. God's Command Was to Come "Now"

1. There must be no delay!
2. God could see what Israel could not see.
 - a) *He could see where their rebellion and sin was leading them.*
 - b) *He could see the judgment that was about to fall upon them.*
 - c) *He could see their condition and their condemnation!*
3. On the basis of what He could see, He presses them to make a change in their lives now.

B. You Need to Come "Now"

1. So it is with those who are not right with God today.
 - a) *All you can see is the next step that lies before you*
 - b) *All you can feel is the pleasure of your sins.*
 - c) *All you can think about is the here and now.*
2. Give thought to what is awaiting you down the road.
 - a) *If wayward people could see down the road, what they would see would terrify them.*
 - b) *If you could see what lies just around a few more bends in the road, you would repent of your sins and run to Jesus*
3. That person who is lost would see an eternity in Hell.
 - a) *They would see themselves in a place of eternal torment, forever separated from family, friends, hope and God.*
 - b) *They would see themselves damned, doomed and in Hell*

C. God Knows How Bad It Can Get

1. He knows the pain and suffering that is coming.
2. He knows about the judgment that is about to fall, so He calls the wayward ones to come to Him.
3. He calls them to come now - delay is dangerous.

4. If you are not right with God, the time to come to Him is now!
 - a) *Pr 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*
 - b) *2Co 6:2 ...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

The Immediacy of This Invitation....

iii. THE INTIMACY OF THIS INVITATION

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...

A. “Let Us Reason Together”

1. The phrase “let us reason together” is legal terminology.
2. It means “let’s settle this matter before a court of law”
 - a) *The people of Israel had broken their covenant with the Lord.*
 - b) *They had failed to hold up their end of the contract*
 - c) *God has initiated legal proceedings against them.*
 - d) *He has declared His case against them, v. 1-17*
 - e) *They are in serious trouble! They will answer for their sins*
3. “let us reason together” is an invitation to “walk with the Lord”
 - a) *He is not inviting them to a debate or negotiations*
 - b) *He is inviting them to come to His way of thinking.*
 - c) *He is inviting them to agree with Him, Amos 3:3.*
 - d) *He is giving them an opportunity to say, “You are right and we are wrong.”*
 - e) *“We are sorry and we are ready to go your way.”*
4. He is offering them a chance to settle their case out of court.
 - a) *If they will be reasonable and honor their covenant with the Lord, He will drop the charges and restore them*
 - b) *If they will repent of their sins and change their ways, God will receive them and restore them.*

B. God's Invitation is Still an Intimate Thing

1. God's invitation to follow Him is still an intimate thing!
2. God does not call groups; He calls individuals to come to Him.
3. His call is personal, individual and intimate.

C. Have You Ever Heard That Call

1. Have you ever heard that intimate, individual call to come to Jesus for salvation?
2. When that call came, did you respond by coming to God?
3. Have you settled your case out of court?
4. It's not too late!
5. God is still inviting wayward souls to come to Him and to His way of thinking.
6. If you will come, He will receive you and save your soul!

The Intimacy of This Invitation....

IV. THE INCREDIBILITY OF THIS INVITATION

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

A. Israel Can Be Cleansed

1. God's promise to Israel, if they will come to Him, is that all their sins will be washed away.
 - a) *Vs 15 told us that their hands were stained with blood.*
 - b) *They are dirty and unclean in the sight of the Lord.*
 - c) *But, if they will just come to Him, and heed His invitation, He will cleanse them completely.*
2. The words "scarlet" and "crimson" refer to dye that was extracted from both shellfish and a certain type of insect.

- a) *When white garments were dyed with these colors, they could never be made white again.*
 - b) *These dyes were both colorfast and indelible.*
 - c) *Once they were dyed no human means could ever return them to their pure state.*
3. God describes the sins of Israel as being like a garment stained scarlet and crimson.
- a) *They were dirty and nothing they could ever do would take the stain away.*
 - b) *In ancient times once a garment was dyed, it could never be made perfect again.*
 - c) *Yet, if they would just respond to Him and repent of their sins, He had the power to make them “whiter than snow”, and as pure as “wool”.*
 - d) *He had the ability to take the stain of their sin away and make them clean again!*
4. Their rituals would not make them clean.
- a) *Their religious observances would not make them clean.*
 - b) *The only hope these people had was to accept the Lord’s invitation.*
 - c) *If they would just do that, He would make the stain of their sin disappear forever!*

B. This Invitation Still Stands

1. Praise God - This invitation still stands!
2. There is nothing you can do to take away your sins.
 - a) *You and I are dirty and filthy in the sight of the Lord,*
Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our
righteousnesses are as filthy rags...
 - b) *We cannot cleanse ourselves by religious deeds or rituals.*

- c) *When we try to erase our sins by our own efforts, all we succeed in doing is making the stain deeper!*
3. But, if we will listen to His call and come to Him by faith.
- a) *God has the power to cleanse forever the stain of our sins!*
- b) *He is able to take our sins and put them away from us as “far as the east is from the west”, Psa. 103:12.*
- c) *He is able to wash us in the precious blood of Jesus and declare us holy and clean, 1 Cor. 6:9-11.*
- d) *He is able to cleanse us from all sin, 1 John 1:7.*
- e) *He is able to deliver us from condemnation and the threat of Hell we were under, Rom. 8:1; 5:9.*
4. Do you know for sure that your sins have been washed away?
- a) *When God looks down at you, does He see your sins, or does He see the righteousness of His precious Son*
- b) *Rom. 4:21-25?*

Conclusion:

1. This is an incredible invitation!
 - a. I remember the day when I heard Him call me.
 - b. He invited me to come over to His way of thinking.
 - c. He promised me cleansing, salvation, eternal life if I would come
 - d. My sins were so vile; I was headed to Hell and I knew it, yet His invitation was so sweet that I had to answer it.
 - e. I came to Jesus by faith and I am saved today.
 - f. My sins have been washed away and I am whiter than snow.
 - g. Though I was dirty, vile and guilty, God has settled my case out of court and I am saved today.
2. What about you? Have you heard Him calling you?
3. A twelve year old boy became a Christian during a revival. The next week at school his friends questioned him about the experience. "Did

you see a vision?" asked one friend. "Did you hear God speak?" asked another. The youngster answered no to all these questions. "Well, how did you know you were saved?" they asked. The boy searched for an answer and finally he said: "It's like when you catch a fish, you can't see the fish or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging on your line. I just felt God tugging on my heart."

- a. What have you done about His invitation?
 - b. Some of you have answered it and you are saved today.
4. Some hear that call today.
- a. God is calling you to be saved right now.
 - b. If I were you, I would heed the invitation and come to Him.
5. If He is calling you, then you need to come. Come today and settle your case with God out of court.
6. Get is settled now and never worry about it again!