**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church  - BIBLE STUDY 3/12**

**KNOW, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE STUDIES**

**FATHER FORGIVE ME…FOR I HAVE SINNED**

Isaiah 1:18-20 (Sermonic Text)

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.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

**LENT IS FULL STEAM AHEAD!!!**

**FASTING, PRAYER, REPENTANCE, REVERENCE AND COMMUNION…THOUGHTS?**

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Isaiah 1, the opening chapter of the book of Isaiah, sets the stage for a powerful message of judgment and hope, delivered to the people of Judah during the **reigns of kings** Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. It features a solemn pronouncement by **God, calling on creation to listen** as he addresses **the people's wickedness and the need for repentance and a return to righteousness**.

Isaiah

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

**Understanding the season…**

**King Uzziah**

- His reign was a time of prosperity

-He saw military victories and success in building projects.

-HOWEVER…

-King Uzziah tried to burn incense in the temple, which was a task only for priests.

-He was struck with leprosy and died.

-Adored by Isaiah

-Isaiah had a lot of respect on him, rather than the Lord.

**King Jotham**

- He was considered a "good" king,

- He did what was right in the sight of the Lord

-This “good” king came close to being a “great” king, but instead he ended up being a weak

  one who brought harm to his nation when he decided to not remove the altars on

  mountaintops at which his people would worship gods other than YHWH God.

**King Ahaz** - was a wicked King. “Periodt”

**King Hezekiah** did remarkable acts of service to the Lord, particularly protecting the Lord's worship and purifying it. But Hezekiah was also a great man of prayer and in the prayer of Hezekiah we can see something of a model for us as to what prayer to the true and living God should be.

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LET’S DIG DEEPER…

**ISAIAH’S SEASON(S) WAS DURING THE REIGN OF KINGS…HOWEVER**

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.

-God's sovereignty and mercy

-**remnant**: God's preservation of a **faithful** group despite widespread opposition

-**Lamentations 3:22***It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his

  compassions fail not

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10 Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

-Sodom is historically known for its sinfulness and subsequent destruction (Genesis 19)

-CHANGE!!!

-NOW!!!

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**QUESTION:  IS THE REFERENCE OF SODOM & GOMORRAH IMPORTANT…WHY?**

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.

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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.**

16 **Wash you, make you clean**; **put away the evil of your doings** from before mine eyes; **cease to do evil;**

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17 **Learn to do well;** seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

**QUESTION:  HOW DO WE LEARN?**

When somebody is forgiven, somebody else has paid the price.

The word forgive literally comes from a word that means to bear the burden.

SERMONIC POINTS:

**1 GOD’S FORGIVENESS REQUIRES REASONING/ CAN WE TALK MOMENTS**

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.

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**2 THE UNDERSTANDING OF FORGIVENESS IS ALL GOD**

19 **If ye be willing and obedient**, ye shall eat the good of the land:

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**3 DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY / SEEK GOD NOW…TOMORROW ISN’T PROMISED**

20 **But if ye refuse and rebel**, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

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**FATHER FORGIVE ME…FOR I HAVE SINNED**

-DELIVER ME AGAIN…PLEASE

-Pandemic

-Government

-New Hope