

July 12 Questions

- 1) Isaiah prophesied to the southern kingdom of _____. Judah had been prospering under the rule of _____, a man who followed God faithfully for most of his 52-year reign. But just like Israel, the people of Judah had forsaken God. In grief and anger, God called the heavens and the earth to hear: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have _____ against me" (Isa 1:2b-4 NIV). The people were probably _____ by Isaiah's words. After all, they were faithful to offer sacrifices and offerings. They attended the feasts and spread out their hands before God in prayer. God's response? "I am _____ of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings _____ me! I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals. They are a burden to me. I cannot stand them!" (Isa 1:11-14 NLT). What then did God want from Judah? "_____ yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight. Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of _____. Fight for the rights of _____" (Isa 1:16-17 NLT). Judah embraced the _____ of worship, but they rejected the heart of the covenant. We should take heed, because the tendency to substitute religious _____ for loving obedience is as prevalent today as it was in Isaiah's time. What should Judah do? Was it too late? Not at all! "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like _____, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like _____, they shall become like wool" (Isa 1:18-20).