

Isaiah 1:18
AS WHITE AS SNOW

- I. Divine reasoning.
 - A. Earlier the scene is a trial where God lodges a charge against Israel (not the heathen) (2-4).
 - 1. In their wickedness Israel, as a whole, dares to find evil in God and testify against Him.
 - 2. Thus the accused ask that the charge be dismissed as false.
 - 3. But God answers their claims of great religiosity with this proof: they showed no mercy (17).
 - B. Now here God comes to the faithful remnant who in great sensitivity fear divine judgments: "Come now, and let us reason.."
 - 1. This is a parenthesis, not connected to the preceding or the following.
 - 2. How do God's words come? (cf. with Adam; Job 40:7; Micah 6:2,3).
 - 3. He was to encourage them to draw near to Him and reason with Him before His bar of mercy.
- II. He does not deny or excuse their sin and sinfulness, but declares that it is very serious!
 - A. God judges Israel's sins to be "scarlet" and "red like crimson."
 - B. Every sin is a transgression of Him, and is hateful to God, deserving of His wrath and curse.
 - 1. Israel's sins are even worse for they had the advantage of increased revelation
 - 2. Further, God judges the sins of the supposed church to be that of hypocrisy.
- III. But God will judge the kernel in Israel according to His compassion.
 - A. He will not only regard the sin as not existing, but He will change it into its very opposite.
 - 1. The reddest possible sin is become pure white.
 - 2. "White as snow" is to be without any mixture of black or darkness.
 - B. This is only because of the divine act of justification and is a demonstration of the power of Jesus' blood and righteousness.
 - 1. The supreme and perfect Judge declares a judgment merely of grace.
 - 2. The verdict is that God has put away our sin (II Sam. 12:13): we are without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.