

CLEANSING THE LAND

Week 2

1. **"Why should you be beaten any more? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness---only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil."**
Isaiah 1:5-7

Father God, these words were written about Israel, but they also talk about us. The city/ nation is full of violence. Our community is divided. The people are wounded. Our families are fighting with each other. Our children are full of anger. Our economy is poor. Our children learn to hate in our schools. We come before you today with all our pain, because you have invited us to bring our woundedness to you.

2. **"When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."** Isaiah 1:15-17

Father God, we agree with your judgment against us. There is injustice in our midst. People with power do oppress the fatherless and the widows. The poor and powerless do not always get justice in our land. Therefore, you are right and just when you allow violence to increase in our land. Violence is your judgment on us because of our sins.

3. **"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.** Isaiah 1:18-20

Father God, how we rejoice in your invitation to bring the woundedness of our people and the sin of our people to you. We accept your invitation. We present to you all the blood shed on the ground, all the violence committed by our people and all the oppression of the weak. We receive now the cleansing that removes all those sins. We receive cleansing for our people and for our land. We are willing and we will be obedient to your commands.

We will care for the poor, the widows, the fatherless and the helpless. So, we now ask you to bless our land, our people and our economy. Let us eat from the best of the land because of your blessings. *** Apply the grape juice now.

4. **"In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."**
Isaiah 2:2-4

Father God, we ask not only for the land to be healed, but also for our birthright to be restored. Just as you will give honor to Mount Zion in the future, so we ask you to give honor to this city/nation. We ask you to raise it up above the hills. We ask for the nations of the world to come here to learn about truth and justice. We ask that the Word of God would be taught here with such power and accuracy that the truth would bring freedom and peace to other nations. May our spiritual warfare be so powerful and effective that our City/nation becomes the symbol for justice and peace around the world.

We ask these blessings in the name and through the power of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. We proclaim that this cannot happen through our efforts, but you are the God above all gods and for you nothing is impossible. Because of your great power, we ask for this blessing that no individual, no government and no church could possibly bestow upon us. We add these stones to this memorial pile as a sign to God of our faith and hope in Him and Him alone.