

**“The Unfaithful City Purified and Restored by Fire”**

1. What former faithful city is talked about in v. 21? How can a city become a harlot?
2. Is it always wrong to pursue rewards or gifts (v. 23)? Why or why not? This verse contains the second reference to the widows and orphans (or fatherless) in this chapter (see v. 17). Why does the Lord put such importance on their treatment?
3. What is the fate of the enemies of the Lord (v. 24)? How does Hebrews 10:31 describe their situation?
4. What can cause the Lord to turn His hand against us today (v. 25, see 1 Peter 5:5)? What dross or alloy (or impurity) is common among Christians today? How does He purge or take this out of our lives?
5. What “first” and “beginning” is the Lord referring to in verse 26? What kind of future does God promise for the city He has been talking about?
6. What did the Lord do for us that enabled Him to redeem us with justice and righteousness (v. 27)? What role does repentance (or penitence) have in that redemption?
7. What does verse 28 tell us about the fate of the unrepentant who forsake the Lord? How should that motivate us to reach out to the lost with the gospel?
8. What do the oaks or terebinth trees and gardens represent, that the Jews were desiring and choosing in verse 29? Why would they be ashamed and embarrassed about them?
9. How does the oak of verse 30 contrast with the tree of Psalm 1:2-3? What is the difference between the trees that causes this contrasting result?
10. What will become of the work that people try to accomplish in their own strength apart from the Lord (v. 31)? How long will they be burning if they do not repent and believe before they die? Why does the Lord give two different possible endings in verses 26-27 and 28-31?