

# THE RESCUER COMES / Sunday, August 2, 2015

## Unifying Topic: OUR REDEEMER COMES

### Lesson Text

I. Truth And Justice Cannot Be Found (Isaiah 59:15a)

II. God Moves Against The Wicked (Isaiah 59:15b-18)

III. The Redeemer Will Come (Isaiah 59:19-21)

**The Main Thought:** And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. (Isaiah 59:20, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** Sometimes everything around us seems violent, cruel, and immoral. Who will bring justice and righteousness to a troubled world? Isaiah and the psalmist promise a time when God will come as a Redeemer with a foundation of righteousness and justice and will place God's spirit on those who repent of their sins.

**Lesson Aim:** To explore how God promises a renewed relationship with His people.

**Life Aim:** To explore how students feel about the cruelty and violence in society against the backdrop of God's righteousness.

### HISTORY:

**Chapter 59:1-14** This entire chapter is devoted to defining and exposing the sins of the people. Isaiah reminds the people that God has not lost His power to save them. God's hand is not shortened. The idea is that God's hand was long enough to extend its influence to save them. God both hears and understands their need for deliverance and has the capability within Himself to provide that deliverance. However, that deliverance had not come (**v.1**). There was a separation. The problem is not God's inability to save, or that He cannot hear, but rather that Judah has sinned, which always separates man from God. Yes, sin has separated them from God to where He had to hide His face (His presence). And sin is a hindrance from receiving answered prayers from God (**v.2**). To publicly expose sin, he described that their hands were defiled with blood (murderers); their fingers with sin; their lips speak lies; and their tongue mutters deceit. Isaiah condemns their thoughts, their language, and their activity (**v.3**). No one cared about being fair and true. Their lawsuits were based on lies. They trusted in emptiness and conceived mischief and gave birth to trouble (**v.4**). The illustration goes to show that what they give birth to will destroy them: comparing them to snakes hatching eggs; spiders weaving webs—webs of lies that can never protect them, but ensnare others and wind up in deadly actions (**v.5-6**). "*Their feet run to evil*" means that they are eager for sin. Could you imagine their feet running to evil; to shedding innocent blood, even their thoughts are thought of mischief? (**v.7**). By doing all that, they don't know the way of peace (**v.8**). They are suffering the consequences of their sin, waiting; expecting light, in darkness. But, God does not appear to right their wrong nor avenge their enemies (**v.9**). Isaiah uses metaphors like "*groping for the wall like blind men as if they had no eyes; stumbling at noon day as it were night; being in a desolate place as dead men; roaring like bears; and mourning like doves*", to show a picture of their spiritual blindness. These are men seeking unsuccessfully to escape their depraved condition through their own strength. The words "peace, judgment, light, righteousness, and brightness" are a description of God's Divine Salvation and all were far from them (**vv.10-11**). In **verses 12-15**, the prophet confesses his sins and the sins of the people, for it was their sin that kept them separated from God. Their transgressions had increased before God and their sins give evidence against them. The people sinned as if God did not exist, but God knew and was aware of all their sins; and yes, the people knew of their own sins (**v.12**).

- In transgressions and lying against the Lord (**v.13**).
- departing away from God, (**v.13**).
- speaking oppression and revolt, (**v.13**).
- conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood; falsehood they freely proclaimed and accepted. (**v.13**).

They were guilty of conscious rebellion against God's law!; apostasy; turning back from following God. Justice was turned backward which meant that there were no boundaries. Therefore, justice which is righteousness stood afar off; no place for righteousness in the land filled with sin. Can you see that now? Truth can no longer occupy the open public places, for truth had fallen dead in the street, and equity (fairness) can't enter. It's barred; outlawed from entering the public squares where they did business (v.14).

## **LESSON:**

### **Isaiah 59:15a Truth And Justice Cannot Be Found**

**59:15a** Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it,— We see that truth had failed; not found; gone missing. Therefore, anyone who tried to depart; turn aside from evil things, they became prey (a victim) of persecution; robbed and beaten. The great controversy of the ages between good and evil is described here. Those who desire to live right and submit to truth are in opposition of an evil and wicked society.

### **Isaiah 59:15b-18 God Moves Against The Wicked**

**59:15b** ...and it displeased him that there was no judgment. Yet, all the evils in society were known to God and He abhorred them. It displeased Him that there was no justice.

**59:16** And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. After observing the personal sin of His people (v.13), and the corporate sin of society (vv.14-15), God observes that there was no one to stand for truth and intercede in behalf of a sinful society; to save; to rescue them. There was no one to stand against the tide of sin and corruption. He wondered and was astonished that there was no one capable of standing between a sinful people and His impending judgment. Therefore, because there was no one to stand as a mediator, God prepared to do so Himself. Salvation can only come through Him, Christ the Messiah! His salvation was fashioned through His own arm. His arm is a symbol of His own power and strength. So He used His own mighty power and stepped in to save the people. And His own goodness; righteousness gave Him integrity to uphold Him.

**59:17** For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. Figuratively speaking, the Lord armed Himself by preparing His clothing for the deliverance of His people and for taking vengeance on enemies who would seek His destruction. In the process of delivering the faithful remnant of Israel, He executes decisive judgment against all rebellious nations, as well as the wicked Israelites.

(NLV) *"Being right and good was His covering for His breast, saving power was His headcovering, clothing of anger was his covering, and His strong desires were like a coat."*

1. He put on righteousness as a breastplate. The righteousness is His acting according to that which is right in judging sin and delivering His people.
2. He put on an helmet of salvation upon His head.
3. And He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing. He'll pay people back for the wrong things they do.
4. And was clad with zeal as a cloak. He wrapped Himself in anger as if it were a coat.

**59:18** According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence. God repays according to the people's deeds; what they have done. His wrath will come upon His adversaries; payment to His enemies and punishment to the islands (*faraway places*) no matter how far off they are, He will repay.

## **Isaiah 59:19-21 The Redeemer Will Come**

**59:19** So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. People will know the name of the Lord. They will fear and reverence Him from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun (the east), meaning the entire world. Whenever the enemy comes upon God's people like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord is in the very midst of the flood raising a standard, thus showing that He is in control of the situation. This is a great promise for God's people! This would give reason why the entire world would worship the Lord.

**59:20** And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. The Redeemer mentioned is the One who pays the price in order to establish freedom. The Redeemer who is coming is coming for the benefit of Zion. He is Jesus Christ! He's coming for those (*Jacob's descendants*) who have turned from their rebellion to Him.

**59:21** As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever. God is speaking and He declares His covenant; His promises; His commitment to His people. The Holy Spirit will be upon them, and His Word will be in the mouths of His people, and will not depart from the lips of every generation.

### **SUMMARY:**

Truth had failed among the people in Israel. Anyone that tried to depart from evil became prey (**v.15a**).

The Lord saw this with displeasure that there was no justice. There was no man to even intercede or intervene on behalf of truth and rightness. Therefore, God clothed Himself with righteousness as a breastplate; a helmet of salvation upon His head, and He clothed Himself with garments of vengeance, wrapped with zeal as a cloak. God's wrath will come upon the people for what they've done no matter how far off they are (**v.15b-18**).

In His coming they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west to the east—the rising of the sun, for the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against the enemy when the enemy come rushing in like a flood. And Christ shall come to Zion as Redeemer even for all those that repent of their rebellion in Jacob. God declares His covenant with His people. Through that covenant, God's Spirit will be upon them, and His Word He gives in their mouth will not disappear, nor will it disappear from the mouths of their children, nor the mouths of their children's children from henceforth and for ever (**v.19-21**).