

ISAIAH 59:1-4, 15-21

LESSON: THE REDEEMER WILL COME —May 24, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 58:1-14 Isaiah describes Israel's sins for they were in hypocrisy (two-faced; pretense) and needed to repent. Israel was still in rebellion and sin and acted like they were righteous and nothing was wrong. They performed their religious rituals daily trying to seek God, asking for His ordinances of justice. They fasted by afflicting themselves while taking pleasure in it, meaning they boasted of their fasting. This was an outward show of fasting, and not the fast the Lord had chosen. The fast the Lord had chosen was to feed the hungry, help those that are cast out, cover the naked, and hide not themselves, but be involved in meeting others' needs whether spiritual or physical. Then will their light break forth, health will spring forth speedily, and their righteousness shall go before them. And the glory of the Lord will be their *"rereward"* or *"rearguard!"* This would be such a positive outcome than what they were trying to do because now when they call the Lord, He will answer, He will guide them continuously, and satisfy their souls in drought (desert place), make fat their bones (strengthen the bones to make them ready for action). Isaiah continues: they will be like *"a watered garden"* and *"a spring of water whose waters fail not."* Isaiah now addresses those living prior to the exile and comforts them with the thought that their descendants would one day rebuild the old waste places of Jerusalem. They would be called *"the repairer of the breach"; "the restorer of paths to dwell in."* Next, Isaiah's prophecy turns to the Sabbath. The Sabbath is to be holy and keeping the Sabbath in the proper way honors God. They were not to do their own thing; not seek their own pleasure, and not speak idle talk. This brings delight to the Lord this gets His attention because they delight in Him. The Lord will cause them to ride high and soar above all, and feed them with the inheritance of Jacob their father. Lastly, the prophecy ends with "for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken!"

LESSON: I. THE SEPARATION FROM GOD ISAIAH 59:1-4, 15

59:1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:— 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. His hand is not shortened. It's long enough to extend its influence to save them. His ears both hear and understand their need for deliverance and He has the capability within Himself to provide that deliverance even though deliverance had not come,

59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. 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.

59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken

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lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. 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.

59:4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. 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.

59:15 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 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. We see this going on now (in 2020).

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 and it displeased Him that there was no justice. The people are getting a mouth full from Isaiah!

II. THE SOLUTION OF GOD ISAIAH 59:16-21

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 (56:13), and the corporate sin of society (56:14-15), 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 One Person (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 Himself.

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 back for the wrong things done to the people.
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, recompense to

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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.

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 with God's Word and power of the Spirit, 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 is the One who is coming for the benefit of Zion. He is Jesus Christ! He's coming for 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:

Isaiah reminds the people that God has not lost His power to save them. His hand is not shortened. It's long enough to extend its influence to save them. His ears both hear and understand their need for deliverance. But, their sins have separated them from God, and He has even hid His face from them, that He will not hear them. 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. No one called for justice, nor did anyone plead for truth. They trusted in vanity (inflated pride), and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and brought forth immorality. Truth had failed among the people in Israel. Anyone that tried to depart from evil became prey. The Lord saw this with displeasure that there was no justice. **(59:1-4, 15).**

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. 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 forever **(59:16-21).**

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