

Isaiah Chapters 58-59 – Salvation for the Gentiles; Israel’s Irresponsible Leaders; Israel’s Future Idolatry; Healing for the Backslider!

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD! - The Maranatha! Singers

1 In heavenly armor we'll enter the land. The battle belongs to the Lord. No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand The battle belongs to the Lord We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord

2 When the power of darkness comes in like a flood, The battle belongs to the Lord He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood, The battle belongs to the Lord And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

3 When your enemy presses in hard do not fear. The battle belongs to the Lord Take courage my friend, your redemption is near. The battle belongs to the Lord And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity ([Isa 39:5-7](#)) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" ([Isa 48:22](#); [Isa 57:21](#)) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters [40-48 \(Comfort of Jehovah\)](#), chapters [49-57 \(Salvation of Jehovah\)](#) and chapters [58-66 \(Glory of Jehovah\)](#). Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 [Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus](#); #2 [Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World](#); #3 [Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet](#); #4 [Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah's Servant-Sin Bearer](#).

ISAIAH CHAPTER 56 Particulars of the future Kingdom; predicament of the present kingdom.

The chapter before us follows a pattern that goes back to that marvelous fifty-third chapter, which tells of the salvation of the Lord provided for lost mankind by the sacrifice of His Son upon the Cross.

Now Isaiah the prophet returns to the nation of Israel and is speaking to his own people. What we have in this chapter is not a retreat to Mount Sinai, but rather a victory march into the Millennium. It is a forward movement which is the logical outworking of what has preceded. It pertains particularly to Israel and radiates out into a widening circle of global benefits. This all rests on the new covenant which God has made with Israel. It will be the blessing for the earth in the future. At that time the Mosaic Law will be enforced on the earth because Christ will be reigning. It will be His will and it will be His law.

CHAPTER 57 marks the end of the second section of the final division of Isaiah, which I have labeled, “The salvation of Jehovah which comes through the suffering Servant.” Those who come in humility and accept it are made righteous. Those who reject it proceed on their wicked way to judgment. This chapter brings us to the crossroads where the way that leads to life goes one way and the broad way to destruction goes another way. The destination and division are right here.

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Fasting That Pleases God!

True and False Fasting

Isa 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

Isa 58:2 Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.

Isa 58:3 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.

Isa 58:4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.

Isa 58:5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD?

vs. 1-2: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet; Jerusalem Bible has it, "Shout with all of your might!" God is asking Isaiah to make this loud proclamation to the people! Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. Now there is an endeavor today to sort of water down sin, and transgressions. But God is telling the prophet, Lift up your voice like a trumpet to show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." The people had a lot of what we would call religiosity. They were doing the right things, but their heart was not right before the Lord. Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God. That was outward. They had the outward signs of religion. But frequently religion can be the stimulate of the people, because it is only outward observance. It's not really something from your heart. As the Lord said to the church of Ephesus, "Rev 2:2 I know your works, your labor, your patience.... They had all of these things outwardly, but the Lord said unto them, Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

vs. 3-5 ...in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, You get into big arguments and debates, even getting into fist fights! to strike with the fist of wickedness Here they are, we're fasting unto the Lord! Lord! Why don't you see it? Here they are out arguing, and bickering, and fist fighting and all, and wondering why God doesn't acknowledge their religious activities. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. The purpose of their fast was, was to get things from God. Now that is a lot of motive behind people fasting today. They're, they're wanting to use it as a means of, of obligating God to somehow answer, or to fulfill their desires. So they, they fast in order to get from God, rather than just fasting to deny the flesh in order that they might just experience more time in the Spirit. So, You fast to make your voice to be heard, feeling that it would enhance their prayers. But the Lord said... Is it a fast that I have chosen, Have I chosen this? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? You remember Jesus talked about their, their attitude in fasting in the Sermon on the Mount. He said, "When you fast, don't be like the Pharisees, You know don't make a show of it. When you do these things, you're not to do them so as to draw attention." But rather He said, "Wash your face, go around happy and smiling, and don't let men really know that you're fasting. But do it as unto the Lord. Your Father, which sees in secret will reward you openly. But don't seek the, the acknowledgment or the reward from man! That's not what it's about

vs. 1-2 Isaiah is not to water down their sins but to "Cry aloud". Israel was maintaining much religions form of worship, but not in repentance and worshipping God in humility and love. They were pretending to be holy, pure and committed to the one True God, when in reality they were just seeking personal blessings from going through the motions. Their hearts were far from God! How close to what they were doing are we in our worship and seeking Him? NOT JUST TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD BUT TO DO IT!

vs. 3-5 Is any of our worship and seeking the LORD have an element of wanting God to reward us for seeking Him, even becoming miserable in fasting? In His response to their question of why doesn't God take notice of their fasting, the LORD asks them 3 questions: Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? We need to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit in sensing any part of our prayer, worship and fasting has any resemblance to that of Israel, in doing it for the primary purpose of being blessed by God!

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Backslider!

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OBSERVATION

Isa 58:6 "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?

Isa 58:7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Isa 58:8 Then (emphatic – in a particle of time!) your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Isa 58:9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

"If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

Isa 58:10 If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday.

Isa 58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

vs. 6-8 The fast that I have chosen is to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed to go free, and that you break every yoke. That’s what I desire, the Lord said.. It is to be your kindness to other people, to help those that are in need! To share your bread with the hungry - not just that you go without bread, but that you take your bread and feed the poor and hungry! If you’re going to fast, just reach out to others in the name of the Lord. Bring the poor that are cast out into your house? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you. If you see the naked, clothe him; and don’t hide not yourself from your own flesh? God’s desire is for our helping the less fortunate. That’s the kind of fast that God would have us to do, to free men from the heavy burdens, to feed the poor, to clothe the naked. God said that He would acknowledge and recognize that.

v. 9 And then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and he will say, Here I am! You will come into real fellowship and communion with God, because God is concerned with the poor, God is concerned with the needy, and when you are helping the poor and needy you are coming into harmony with the desires and the heart of God. If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, This is what God desired, that they would just get rid of this petty argument and all. The putting forth of the finger is when you’re arguing and shaking your finger at a person, these arguments which are so vain. They must stop pointing their finger at others and see where they are to blame. They must stop speaking wickedness.

vs. 10-11 If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul: Again, the LORD gives them two things to start doing. They needed to minister to the hungry with more than food; they had to extend their soul to the hungry. They had to look for the afflicted soul and seek to satisfy it. They are things that we should have done, yet we have not. If we will walk right with God, we must open our eyes and do what is our loving duty before Him. Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday: To the repentant, God promises blessing. Not only will they have light, but even their darkness shall be as the noonday! The LORD will guide you continually: This is a promise for those who do more than just empty religious rituals. To have the guidance of the LORD, empty religious ritual isn’t enough. We need to seek God with both sincere hearts and sincere actions. And satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones: Those who serve God with sincere hearts and actions enjoy a health and life of the soul that is impossible for the superficial follower of God to know. You shall be like a watered garden, That is a pleasure garden with many fruit trees, in which there are many little streams. And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. That is a source from which water constantly bubbles up. That water is the type of all natural and spiritual blessings!

vs. 6-8 Notice the clear purpose of fasting that God has chosen, that of doing good for others – To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, This is a great reminder and check list for us! We are to fast from sin, not from food!

v. 9 If we follow these instructions on the God chosen fasting, “then” we will come into real fellowship and communion with Him, because He is concerned with the poor and the needy. When we are helping them, we are coming into harmony with the desires and the heart of God. He also desires for us to get rid of petty arguing and fighting as well of pointing our finger at others and see where they are to blame. We must stop speaking wickedness.

vs. 10-11 Notice the “then”s! Then your light shall break forth; you shall call and the LORD will answer; then your light shall dawn in the darkness; then the LORD will guide you continually; then you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of unfailing water! If we are obedient to what the LORD is saying, serving Him with sincere hearts and actions, then we will enjoy a health and life of the soul that is impossible for the superficial follower of God to know!

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 58:12 Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

Isa 58:13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words.

Isa 58:14 Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Evil and Oppression

Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

v. 12 Those from among you shall build the old waste places: Those who serve God with sincere hearts and actions also **accomplish** things for God’s kingdom. They **build**, and are **called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell in**. You can’t **build** anything for God’s kingdom on the foundation of a superficial walk with God. This passage shows several characteristics of a life right with God. It is an enlightened life: **Your light shall down in the darkness**; • It is a guided life: **The LORD will guide you continually**; • It is a satisfied life: **And satisfy your soul in drought**; • It is a fragrant life: **Like a watered garden**; • It is a freshly sustained life: **Like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail**; • It is a productive, healing life: **You shall build up the old waste places**.

vs. 13-14 If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, God has asked for one day in seven. “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy”, giving the Lord a day, which you shouldn’t look upon that day as a day of drudgery. The Lord said that He wanted you to delight in it! A day of just worshiping Him, and being with Him, and in looking at the time spent with Him as just a pleasure and a delight. It should be noted that God made the Sabbath with the nation Israel. **Ex. 31:12-17**. This was a sign between God and the nation of Israel, the sign of His covenant that He would be their God, they would be His people. **Then shall you delight yourself in the Lord; I will cause you to ride on the high places of the earth, I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. Cry aloud** Isaiah, tell the people that their form of godliness isn’t sufficient”. You need to have a real relationship with God, which will be manifested in your love and your concern for your brother, and for those that are in need. **1Jn 4:20** *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?* **Cf. Mark 12:30-31**

vs. 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: God’s people wondered why God did not seem to rescue them from their trials. They wondered if perhaps God had diminished in strength - if His **hand** had become **shortened**. Isaiah assures them that this is not the case. This touches on one of the greatest problems in practical theology: how can there be a God of love and all power when there is human suffering? If we loved someone and had the power to end their suffering, wouldn’t we do it? Isaiah addresses those who wondered if God wasn’t all powerful, and that is why their suffering continues. **Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:** Perhaps the problem isn’t that God lacks power. Perhaps we think He lacks **knowledge** or has no **interest** in our problem. But this isn’t the situation at all, as Isaiah reminds us. God’s **ear** is not **heavy**. He can **hear** us just fine. **But your iniquities have separated you from your God:** The problem isn’t with God’s power, His knowledge, or His interest. The problem is with our **iniquities**. Sin has **separated you from your God**.

v. 12 If we will do these things we are told here, then our children shall build up old waste places! You shall raise up the foundations of many generations. You shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In – not a builder or inventor of new things, but a Repairer and a Restorer.

vs. 13-14 Are we calling our weekly day of rest a delight? Are we honoring our LORD by these three things - not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words! Then we shall delight ourselves in the LORD and ride on the high hills of the earth and feed us with the heritage of Jacob!

*vs. 1-2 If you’ve ever thought that God isn’t answering your prayers and rescuing you during trials, please remember this verse and check yourself as to any sin or iniquity issues that have not been resolved. God is saying here it’s not because of having a **shortened hand** or a **heavy ear**, **But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.***

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. Isa 59:4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. Isa 59:5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Isa 59:6 Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands. Isa 59:7 Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. Isa 59:8 The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

vs. 1-2 (Continued) In what way does sin separate us from God? Sin does not necessarily separate us from the **presence** of God, because God is present everywhere (*Psa 139:7*) and even Satan can have an audience with God (*Job 1:6*). Sin does not separate us from the **love** of God, because God loves sinners (*Rom 5:8*). But sin still does separate. We will even **blame God** before seeing that the problem is with us! We will deny **who God is** before seeing that the problem is with us! *And your sins have hidden His face from you:* This explains why God’s people no longer felt the face of the LORD shining on them (*Num 6:25*). It was their **sins**, not the inability of God to hear, or his lack of interest in hearing.

vs. 3-8 A detailed description of the sins of God’s people. *Your hands are defiled with blood:* They practiced and approved of violence and murder. *And your fingers with iniquity; Your tongue has muttered perversity. Your lips have spoken lies:* He goes ahead and makes the other charges, “their fingers with iniquity, their lips have spoken lies, their tongue has uttered perverseness.” They lied with ease and regularity. The Lord lays out the charges against them. Lifting of the hands was a common form of prayer. When the people would pray in those days, it was customary, and they often would just lift up their hands to God in an imploring kind of a way, to pray. But God says, “You lift up your hands, but your hands are filled with blood.” Bloody hands lifted to the Lord! *No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.* People weren’t concerned with justice, with truth. *They hatch vipers' eggs* that’s sort of a poisonous serpent. If you would eat the egg, it would kill you, if you crushed the egg, the poisonous viper comes out. The spider’s web...*and weave the spider's web He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that They hatch vipers' eggs*”. They’re weaving spider’s webs, and you can’t really weave them into garments. *Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands. Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet* (God is now making His indictment, “*their feet*”), *run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.* Paul the apostle put these verses in *Rom 3:15-17* *"THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD; [16] DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR WAYS; [17] AND THE WAY OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."* Now whosoever goes in these crooked paths cannot know peace, as we saw in *Isa 57:21* *"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."*

vs. 3-8 We are given a parallel passage on sin in *Rom 3:11-18* *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD. 12] THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE; THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."* 13] *"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN TOMB; WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY HAVE PRACTICED DECEIT"; "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; [14] "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS."* [15] *"THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD; [16] DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR WAYS; [17] AND THE WAY OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."* [18] *"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."* Some see sin as being unfortunate, however, God sees it for what it is! It is deadly!

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 59:9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness!
Isa 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places.
Isa 59:11 We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us.
Isa 59:12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them:
Isa 59:13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.
Judgment and Redemption
Isa 59:14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.
Isa 59:15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.
Isa 59:16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

vs. 9-11 Because of their sin, darkness comes. *Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us:* Because God’s people had no interest in *justice*, God did not bless them with it. Because God’s people did not care about *righteousness*, God did not bless them with it. This is the principle of Jesus stated in Mat 13:12 : *whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. We look for light, but there is darkness!* Now, having given themselves over to darkness, when they want the light, it isn’t there. When you always have the light to go to, the darkness feels “fun.” It seems mysterious and adventurous. But when the light is taken away, we despair in the darkness. *we grope as if we had no eyes*; Israel was supposed to be God’s people, but it was filled with unrighteousness and immorality. Because of the pollution, blinded, trying to find their way, trying to find the wall. *We look for justice, but there is none*; There is one place where judgment and justice should always prevail, and that’s in the judicial system. Sadly today in this country, you can’t be assured of justice in our judicial system.” We too can understand the crying out for judgment, for justice, but there is none, for salvation, but it’s far.

vs. 12-15 Confessing their sin and admitting their guilt. a. *Our sins testify against us . . . righteousness stands afar off:* Now God’s people are in a better place. They have had their reality check, and see things as they are. No longer do they blame the “shortened hand” of God, or His “heavy ear.” They know it is because of their own *sins* that *righteousness stands afar off*. The salvation and redemption the LORD sees. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor. *The LORD saw it, and it displeased Him, that there was no justice:* The state of God’s people was no mystery to the LORD. They cried out in, stating how desperate their condition was - and the LORD knew it all along.

vs. 16-19
He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: Not only was the state of God’s people bad; but no one among them took the lead in getting it right. Where was the *man* would lead the people in righteousness? He could not be found. Where was the *intercessor* who would plead God’s case to the people, and the people’s repentance to their God? *No intercessor* could be found. Ezekiel the prophet, talks again of the days of calamity for the nation. They were ripening for the judgment of God. It was corrupt, it was bad. He came after Isaiah, and things had not gotten better, they’d only gotten worse. They had gotten so bad that God was going to have to judge them in order to remain righteous. He could not let these things go by any further. Eze 22:30-31

vs. 9-11 We see the acknowledgement of sin and its consequences. Are we at all like they were-desiring direction but lacking it because of continuing on in their sinfulness?

vs. 12-13 *It seems today that God is still looking for intercessors to stand in the gap. Those who will stand before God for the nation and intercede. But now like then they seem to preoccupied with the busyness of the world. God finds none and judgment must proceed. Will we stand in this gap?*

vs. 16-19 Notice how God shows Israel, like us, His grace. There was no intercessor among the people so the LORD Himself fought for them. *So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.*

Isaiah Chapters 58-59 – Salvation for the Gentiles; Israel’s Irresponsible Leaders; Israel’s Future Idolatry; Healing for the Backslider!

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:PhilTwente); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

Isa 59:18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay.

Isa 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 comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.

vs. 16-19 (Continued) What the LORD did. *Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him:* God waited and waited for a disobedient Israel to turn to Him. He waited and waited for a man to lead them back to Him, or an *intercessor* to plead before Him. None arose; so the LORD did it Himself. If a man or an intercessor would have stepped forth, it would have saved Israel a lot of calamity. No intercessor stepping forward didn’t deter God’s plan. He waited to work in partnership through a man. He waited to work through an *intercessor*. But God’s work would still go forth if none arose! *He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head:* No man stepped forward to work with the LORD, so the LORD puts on His armor and goes forth to destroy His enemies, protect His people, and glorify His name! There appears to be a connection between Isa 59:17-18 and Paul’s comments on our spiritual armor in Eph 5:10-17. In that passage, Paul calls that armor *the whole armor of God*, and it is God’s armor in the sense that it belongs to Him - after all, He uses it here - and He allows us to use it to fight for Him. If we **don’t** put on the armor of God and fight for Him, then eventually God will put it on Himself and fight for His glory. But God’s preference is to work in and through us, with us using His armor. The end result will be wonderful: *So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun*. In His ultimate victory - which He wants us to share in, but will accomplish with or without us - the *glory* of the LORD will be known and respected from east to west. *When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him*. The enemies of the LORD will never triumph over Him. Even if they come in *like a flood*, and seem unstoppable, the LORD will *lift up a battle-standard against him*, and he will be stopped. God gives His people the glorious privilege of being *more than conquerors* (Rom 8:37), but will win it with or without us.

vs. 16-19 (Continued) God’s enemies will never triumph over Him! When they come in like a flood, and seemingly are unstoppable, He will lift up a battle-standard against him, and he will be stopped. God gives His people the glorious privilege of being *more than conquerors* (Rom 8:37), but will win the battle with or without us. **WE NEED TO STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH!**

Isaiah Chapters 58-59 – Salvation for the Gentiles; Israel’s Irresponsible Leaders; Israel’s Future Idolatry; Healing for the Backslider!

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OBSERVATION

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<p><i>Isa 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD.</i></p> <p><i>Isa 59:21 "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."</i></p>	<p><i>vs. 20-21</i> What the LORD said. <i>The Redeemer will come to Zion:</i> After speaking in the third-person through the prophet, now the LORD speaks in the first-person through the prophet. When He speaks, He declares: <i>the Redeemer</i> - the <i>goel</i> - <i>will come to Zion</i>. The <i>goel</i> - sometimes translated <i>kinsman-redeemer</i>, here simply as <i>Redeemer</i> - had a specifically defined role in Israel’s family life. The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery <u>Lev 25:48</u>. He was responsible to be the “avenger of blood” to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime <u>Num 35:19</u>. He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited <u>Lev 25:25</u>. And he was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow <u>Deu 25:5-10</u>. In these, we see that the <i>goel</i>, the kinsman-redeemer, was responsible to safeguard the <i>persons</i>, the <i>property</i>, and the <i>posterity</i> of the family. The NKJV rightly capitalizes Redeemer, because our <i>goel</i> is Jesus Christ. He is our near kinsman because He has added perfect humanity to His deity. He is the one who buys us out of slavery. He is the one who avenges wrongs done to us. He protects our inheritance, and blesses and guards our posterity. This promise of the LORD in <u>v.20</u> could be reworded, “I will send My Messiah, the <i>Redeemer</i> for all humanity, Jesus of Nazareth!” To whom does the <i>Redeemer</i> come? <i>To those who turn away from transgression</i>. The <i>goel</i> only worked for those who asked for His services, and knew they needed Him. <i>My Spirit who is upon you, and My words . . . shall not depart from your mouth . . . from this time and forevermore:</i> The <i>covenant</i> God makes with His people promises an <i>abiding Spirit</i> and an <i>enduring word</i>. God accomplishes His purpose in people and through all creation through both the <i>Spirit</i> and the <i>word</i>.</p>	<p><i>vs. 20-21</i> Because of His awesome grace, mercy and lovingkindness, the LORD continued to love Israel, even though they were sinning! He promised to send them a Redeemer, which we’ll see in chapter 60. In our day we’ve already seen our Redeemer in His First Coming. His Second Coming is to be expected at any time. May we be engaged, waiting, working and watching for His soon return!!</p> <p>LORD, HELP US TO LIVE A WAY THAT IS RIGHT AND PLEASING TO YOU!</p>
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