

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

VII. Isaiah’s *Discourse* on the Servant of God, the Messiah (49:1-56:8)

VIII. Isaiah’s *Depiction* of Israel’s Corrupt Spiritual Condition (56:9-59:21)

- A. The *Corruption* of an Idolatrous Israel (56:9-57:21)
- B. The *Cry* for “True” Religion in Israel (58:1-14)

C. The *Collapse* of a Sinful Society (59:1-21)

1. Their *Separation* from God (59:1-2)

59 Behold, the LORD’S hand is **not so short** that it **cannot save**;
nor is **His ear** so **dull** that it **cannot hear**.

² But **your iniquities** have made a **separation** between **you** and **your God**,
and **your sins** have **hidden His face** from you so that **He** does **not hear**.

2. Their *Sinfulness* Described (59:3-8)

³ For **your hands** are **defiled** with **blood** and **your fingers** with **iniquity**;
your lips have **spoken falsehood**, **your tongue** mutters **wickedness**.

⁴ **No one** sues **righteously** and **no one** pleads **honestly**.

They **trust** in **confusion** and **speak lies**;
they **conceive mischief** and bring forth **iniquity**.

⁵ They **hatch adders’ eggs** and **weave** the **spider’s web**;
he who **eats** of their **eggs dies**,
and *from* that which is **crushed** a **snake** breaks forth.

⁶ Their **webs** will **not** become **clothing**,
nor will they **cover themselves** with their **works**;
their **works** are **works** of **iniquity**,
and an **act of violence** is in **their hands**.

⁷ Their **feet** run to **evil**, and they **hasten** to **shed innocent blood**;
their **thoughts** are thoughts of **iniquity**,

devastation and **destruction** are in their **highways**.

⁸ They do **not know** the **way of peace**,
and there is **no justice** in their **tracks**;
they have **made** their **paths crooked**,
whoever **treads** on them does **not know peace**.

3. Their *Suffering* from Sin Depicted (59:9-15)

⁹ Therefore **justice** is **far** from us, and **righteousness** does **not** overtake us;
we **hope** for **light**, but behold, **darkness**,
for **brightness**, but we walk in **gloom**.

¹⁰ We **grope** along the wall like **blind men**,
we **grope** like those who have **no eyes**;
we **stumble** at **midday** as in the **twilight**,
among those who are **vigorous** we are like **dead men**.

¹¹ All of us **growl** like **bears**, and **moan sadly** like **doves**;
we **hope** for **justice**, but there is **none**, for **salvation**, *but* it is **far from us**.

¹² For our **transgressions** are **multiplied before You**, and our **sins** testify
against us; for our **transgressions** are **with us**,
and we **know** our **iniquities**:

¹³ **transgressing** and **denying the LORD**, and **turning away** from our **God**,
speaking oppression and **revolt**,
conceiving *in* and **uttering** from the heart **lying words**.

¹⁴ **Justice** is **turned back**, and **righteousness** stands **far away**;
for **truth** has **stumbled** in the street, and **uprightness cannot enter**.

¹⁵ Yes, **truth** is **lacking**; and **he** who **turns aside** from **evil** makes himself **a prey**

Now the **LORD saw**, and it was **displeasing** in **His sight**
that there was **no justice**.

4. Their *Salvation* from God Declared (59:16-21)

¹⁶ And **He (God)** **saw** that there was **no man**,
and was **astonished** that there was **no one** to **intercede**;

then **His own arm** brought **salvation to Him**,
and **His righteousness upheld Him**.

¹⁷ **He put on righteousness** like a **breastplate**,
and a **helmet of salvation** on **His head**;

and **He put on *garments* of vengeance** for clothing
and **wrapped Himself with *zeal*** as a mantle.

¹⁸ According to *their deeds*, so **He will *repay*,
wrath to His adversaries, *recompense* to His enemies;**
to the **coastlands He will make *recompense*.**

¹⁹ So they will **fear the name of the LORD** from the west
and **His glory** from the **rising of the sun**,
for **He will come like a rushing stream** which the ***wind* of the LORD drives.**

²⁰ “A **Redeemer** will come to **Zion**,
and to **those** who **turn from transgression in Jacob**,” declares the LORD.

²¹ “As for **Me**, this is **My covenant** with them,” says the LORD:
“**My Spirit** which 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 offspring**,

nor from the **mouth of your offspring’s offspring**,”
says the LORD, “from ***now*** and ***forever*.**”

Personal Application The *Characteristics* of a Nation Separated from God

“Behold, the LORD’s hand is **not so short** that it **cannot save**;
nor is **His ear so dull** that it **cannot hear**.

But **your *iniquities*** have made a **separation** between **you** and **your God**,
and **your sins** have **hidden His face** from you
so that **He does not hear**.” (59:1-2)

A. A Nation *Characterized* by Sinfulness from “Head to Feet”

“**hands**” defiled with **blood** (59:3a)

“**fingers**” defiled with **iniquity** (59:3b)

→ “**lips**” that **speak falsehood** (59:3c)

“**tongues**” that mutter **wickedness** (59:3d)

→ “**feet**” that **run to evil**, and “hasten” to shed
innocent blood (59:7a)

→ “**thoughts**” that are **thoughts of iniquity** (59:7b)

B. A Nation *Characterized* by Judicial Corruption

1. No one goes to law for the purpose of **justice** (59:4a)
2. No one pleads in **truthfulness** (59:4b)
3. **Creating “chaos”** with **empty words** and **lies** (59:4c)
4. **Conceiving evil** that brings forth **iniquity** (59:4d-6)

C. A Nation *Contrary* to the “**Paths**” of **Peace**

1. With “**highways**” marked by **devastation** and **destruction** (59:7)
2. With “**roads**” characterized by **injustice** (59:8a)
3. With “**paths**” that they have **willingly made** “**crooked**” (59:8b)
4. **Trodden upon** by those who **know not peace** (59:8c)

D. A Nation *Characterized* by **Spiritual Darkness** and **Blindness**

1. **Hoping** for **light**, but beholding **only darkness** (59:9b)
2. **Hoping** for “**brightness**,” but walking in **thick darkness** (59:9c)
3. “**Groping**” along the wall like **blind men** (59:10c)
4. “**Stumbling**” at “**midday**” as if it was **twilight** (59:10b)
5. **Walking** among the **living** like those who are **lifeless** (59:10c)

E. A Nation in *Crisis* without **Righteousness** and **Justice**

...**justice** is **far** from us, and **righteousness** does **not** overtake us;..

All of us **growl** like **bears**, and **moan sadly** like **doves**;
we **hope** for **justice**, but there is **none**, for **salvation**, *but* it is **far from us**...

Justice is **turned back**, and **righteousness** stands **far away**..
(59:9a, 11, 14a)

F. A Nation *Characterized* by its **Abandonment of God**

For our **transgressions** are **multiplied before You**, and our **sins testify**
against us; for our **transgressions** are **with us**..

...**transgressing** and **denying the LORD**, and **turning away** from our **God**,
speaking oppression and **revolt**,
conceiving in and **uttering** from the heart **lying words**. (59:12,13)

G. A Nation in *Crisis*, devoid of any **Pursuit of Truth**

...for **truth** has **stumbled** in the street, and **uprightness cannot enter**.

Yes, **truth** is **lacking**; and **he** who **turns aside** from **evil** makes himself **a prey**
(59:14b-15)

Closing Comments

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