

A Trek Through Isaiah 81 - 59:14 - 60:9

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Context

<u>The Work Accomplished 59:14 - 63:6</u>
Situation and remedy: the promised Conqueror 59:14-21
The universal city 60:1-22
The Anointed One and His transforming work 61:1-9
The Savior and His gathered people 61:10 - 62:12
Consummation of the work 63:1-6

- In the book of the Conqueror (56 - 66)
 - Question: How will God's people fulfill their promise?
 - Three areas of emphasis
 - The contrast between the ideal community and the actual community
 - God's glorious promises for the faithful.
 - A Conqueror: the third messianic figure who accomplishes God's purpose and fulfills His promises.
- This section (59:14 - 63:6)
 - God's purposes accomplished.
- Today we will cover
 - Situation and remedy: the promised Conqueror 59:14-21
 - The universal city (part 1) 60:1-9

Situation and remedy: the promised Conqueror 59:14-21

- Structure
 - Stepping back to get the big picture
 - V14-15a Situation
 - V15b-16a The LORD's reaction
 - V16b-18 The LORD's response
 - V19-20 Results

- V14-15a The **situation**

14 Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. 15 Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

- In view is all of ch 56 - 59
- V14 Godliness is personified. As Lady Wisdom in Pr 1 except driven off
 - Justice is turned back,
 - righteousness stands far away;
 - truth has stumbled in the public squares
 - uprightness cannot enter.
- V15 Truth is lacking. Individual integrity is gone
- V15 he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
 - Society actively seeks to prey on the one who would avoid evil.

- V15b-16a The LORD's reaction

15 ... The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede...

- The Lord saw it, it displeased him
 - Not that He just discovered the situation
 - Said for our benefit: the Lord is preparing to act
- V15 **Condition** of His people
 - that there was no justice.
 - As v9, 14
 - No conformance to God's law
- V16 **Helplessness** of His people
 - He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede.
 - They knew their iniquities (v14)
 - But there is no one to rescue them
 - Wondered.
 - Heb shamem: to be desolate, astonished, appalled, devastated, ravaged (Vines).
 - Not that God wonders because He did not realize how bad was the condition of His people.
 - May mean that the LORD sees the extent of His people's helplessness.

- V16b-18 The LORD's response

16 ...then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. 17 He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. 18 According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

- Structure

- The first of four passages about the Executor of the LORD's purposes

- 59:16b-20 Preparation and mission
 - 61:1-4 The day of favor and vengeance
 - 61:10-11 The garments of salvation and righteousness
 - 63:1-6 The returning Conqueror

- V16 **Purpose**

- then his own arm brought him salvation

- God possesses in Himself all that is needed
 - Past tense to show certainty

- his righteousness upheld him

- Action to fulfill His righteous purposes
 - in accord with His righteous character

- V17 **Preparation**

- Picture of a soldier dressing for battle.

- Righteousness, salvation, vengeance, zeal

- Similar to the armor of God (Eph 6:10ff)
 - Only God takes vengeance

- V18 **Outcome**

- Complete the vision of the King:

- All enemies overthrown world-wide
 - Repayment for their wickedness
 - According to their deeds. Exact justice.

- Complete the work of the Servant:

- Obtain the victory: salvation for His people
 - As Is 42:13 The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

- V19-20 **Results**

19 So they shall 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 “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.

- So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun
 - People worldwide will fear God in His revealed character and glory
- for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives.
 - Difficult passage
 - Maybe refers to the Lord overwhelming His enemies like a flood
 - Maybe means that the enemies of the Lord will come like a flood, but the Spirit of the Lord will drive them away and win the victory.
 - The final battle of the Tribulation
- And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression
 - To those who believe, the Conqueror is their Redeemer.
 - Zion is the center of His kingdom

- V21 **Covenant**

And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and forevermore.

- And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord:
 - Language of covenant. As God made a covenant with Abraham in Gen 17:4 Behold, my covenant is with you,
 - Them. The believing remnant. V20 ...those in Jacob who turn from transgression
 - Unconditional
- Two-part covenant
 - God’s Spirit will abide with His people forever.
 - God’s word will abide with His people forever.
 - As the charge to Joshua in Josh 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
 - These are distinguishing marks of God’s people
- Says the Lord. 2x for emphasis.
- from this time forth and forevermore.
 - Used in Is 9:7 to indicate that Messiah’s kingdom will last forever: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

60:1-22 The universal city

- V1-3 The **glory** of the Lord in Zion

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

- You. Feminine singular. The city Zion.
- In the Millennium after the Tribulation
- V1 Zion's glory appears
 - Arise, shine,
 - Come up out of the present bondage
 - Let your light be visible to all.
 - Zion pictured as a woman laying in the dust, told to rise and show her beauty to all.
 - God gives the command and also the power.
 - As Jesus' command to Lazarus in Jn 11:43-44 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out...
 - your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 - Here is their light: the glory of the Lord.
 - Maybe Isaiah is using the picture of the morning sun suddenly appearing from behind the hills of Moab to the east of Jerusalem.
- V2 Darkness and light
 - For. Amplifying v1.
 - darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
 - The condition of the world into which the light comes: Darkness over all the earth and all the peoples.
 - Thick darkness. Thick heavy clouds.
 - but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
 - Echoing v1b
 - But. In contrast to the darkness over the world, light comes to Zion.
 - The light is the glory of the Lord.
- V3 The attraction of the light
 - And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
 - People from all nations come to the light.
 - Nation...king.
 - From the highest to the lowest
 - God starts with Zion, and moves out to encompass the whole world.
 - As Ps 67:1-2 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah 2 that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

- V4-9 The **world** in Zion

- V4 The gathering

4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

- Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;

- Repeating Is 49:18, 22
- All the nations and kings of v3

- your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

- Zion is pictured as a mother watching her children gather around her.
- True believers from among the nations.
- From across the world
- Infirmity not a barrier

- V5-7 Joy in Zion

5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.

- Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,

- Zion rejoices

- Three reasons for joy

- The pilgrims come bringing gifts
 - V5 the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- They come with praise
 - V6 and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.
- They are accepted by the Lord
 - V7 they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,

- V7 I will beautify my beautiful house.

- The Lord and His people dwelling together

- V8 Speed and safety

8 Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

- Describing the pilgrims

- Who are these that fly like a cloud.

- Picture of speed

- and like doves to their windows?

- Better "to their nests"
- Picture of homecoming and safety

- V9 coming to the Lord

9 For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.

- For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first,
 - Coastlands. The whole world.
 - Ships of Tarshish
 - The end of the known world
 - Adding sea travel
- to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them,
 - The children bring gifts of homage but no new truth.
- for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel,
 - Here is the object of their pilgrimage: the Lord your God...the Holy One of Israel,
 - Name. Revealed character.
- because he has made you beautiful.
 - Zion's beauty will come from the Lord's glory.
 - As v2 ...the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. The Redeemer 59:19-20**
 - a. A Redeemer will come**
 - b. To those who turn from transgression**
- 2. Arise, Shine 60:1-3**
 - a. The glory of the LORD has risen upon you**
 - b. Darkness covers the peoples**
 - c. Nations shall come to your light**
- 3. Joy 60:4-5**
 - a. They all gather together**
 - b. You shall see and be radiant**
 - c. Your heart shall thrill and exult**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week:

- Situation and response 59:14-20
- The Covenant Mediator 59:21

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