

Sunday, May 10, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

79. The Futility of False Gods – Isaiah 57:1-13

Intro: Chapters 56-66 in this final section of Isaiah, we see encouragement during inner inadequacies and outer oppression to pray and hold on to God's promises, confidently expecting the eternal glory of the new creation that is coming. So for now, we wait and we hope – looking for the coming of the anointed Conqueror. Last week, in Isaiah 56:9-12, we were given a look at leaders who were irresponsible, intoxicated, and ignorant – three times we were told “they do not know” (knowledge, satisfaction, discernment). See Micah 3:1-3. Now in chapter 57 we take a look at society, at the people and see that they do not understand the life or death of the righteous, they get caught up easily in fads of false religion, and are often carried away by a tide of national policies that they are powerless to stop.

- I. The Peace of the Righteous – vs. 1-2
  - A. The Righteous Perish; Merciful are Taken Away
    1. Righteous – right with God, and who walk in righteousness
    2. Merciful – men of unending love – those loved by God who walk in love – Eph. 5:1-2; 2 John 1:6
    3. Perish and are Taken Away – in evil times the righteous disappear, unnoticed – no one knows why or gives it a thought (no one is safe, we are all going to die!)
    4. They are taken away from evil – they are being rescued
  - B. Peace and Rest
    1. They are entering peace, being spared the evil and calamity that is coming – 2 Kings 22:16-20 (Josiah)
    2. They are experiencing rest – Matt. 11:28-29
- II. The Hopelessness of Spiritual Harlotry – vs. 3-13
  - A. Parenting and Practices of the Unfaithful (vs. 3-5)
    1. But you – not the righteous or merciful
    2. Spiritual adultery
      - a. Sorcery – open to spiritual control by the demonic
      - b. Prostitution – unfaithfulness to God, His Law, and covenant
    3. The scoffing sneer – a dismissive rejection of God
      - a. Children of transgression – born to be law breakers
      - b. Offspring of falsehood – liars, following the father of lies – John 8:43-44
    4. Cults of life and death – Deut. 12:4, 30-31; 4:26; 7:4 – Balaam's proposal
      - a. Asherah Poles – evergreen trees, fertility, religious prostitution – Num. 25:1-3
      - b. Molech – death for life, the sacrifice of children for favor – Jer. 32:35
  - B. Falling for False Gods (vs. 6)
    1. Smooth Stones – worn by water into the form of false gods
    2. Heleq – slippery – false religion will lead you to slip and fall away
    3. Halaq – your lot, portion – Psa. 16:5; 119:57
    4. The perversion of exchanging heleq for halaq, a stone for your inheritance (life)
    5. “Should I relent?” (receive comfort), asks the Lord – No! I have turned you over.
  - C. Prostituted for Protection (vs. 7-10)
    1. On the hill – for all to see, blatant idolatry
    2. Behind closed doors – you think it is hidden, private
    3. Covenant breakers and covenant makers
    4. Israel prostituted herself with other nations for protection – Egypt, Assyria
    5. The peace treaty was a death warrant (sheol/grave)
    6. You made a way to do what you wanted to do with no grief or despair

D. The Uselessness of Unbelief (vs. 11-13)

1. Who have you feared? – Men, not God – Isa. 51:7; Col. 3:22
2. You have been false to Me – Psa. 78:34-39
3. You have not remembered Me – Jer. 3:21; Ezek. 23:35
4. You have not given Me a serious thought – 2 Chron. 20:33
5. Have you taken My longsuffering patience for granted? As an encouragement to sin? – Psa. 86:15; Rom. 6:1-2
6. Your righteousness and works
  - a. What you are
  - b. What you are doing
  - c. These will not be beneficial to you
7. When you are judged and cry out for help – let your idols save you – they will remain useless

III. The Refuge of the Righteous – vs. 13

A. Possess the Land – Matt. 5:5

B. Inherit the Holy Mountain – Isa. 65:25; 2 Peter 1:16-19

Cross References:

Micah 3:1-3

And I said: “Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice? 2 You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones; 3 Who also eat the flesh of My people, Flay their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them in pieces Like meat for the pot, Like flesh in the caldron.”

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

2 John 1:6

This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

2 Kings 22:16-20

16 “Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read— 17 because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.’ ” 18 But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Concerning the words which you have heard— 19 because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the Lord. 20 “Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.” ’ ” So they brought back word to the king.

Matthew 11:28-29

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

John 8:43-44

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Deuteronomy 12:4, 30-31

You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. 30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' 31 You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Deuteronomy 4:26

26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.

Deuteronomy 7:4

4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

Numbers 25:1-3

Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.

Jeremiah 32:35

35 And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.'

Psalms 16:5

O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.

Psalms 119:57

You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words.

Isaiah 51:7

“Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.

Colossians 3:22

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Psalms 78:34-39

When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. 35 Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. 36 Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; 37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant. 38 But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath; 39 For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.

Jeremiah 3:21

A voice was heard on the desolate heights, Weeping and supplications of the children of Israel. For they have perverted their way; They have forgotten the Lord their God.

Ezekiel 23:35

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, Therefore you shall bear the penalty Of your lewdness and your harlotry.’ ”

2 Chronicles 20:33

Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

Psalms 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Isaiah 65:25

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the Lord.

2 Peter 1:16-19

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;