

Sunday, May 31, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

82. Dead Men in Desolate Places – Isaiah 59:1-15

Introduction – In Isaiah chapters 56-57 we looked at Irresponsible Leaders and Idolatrous People. In 57:14-21 we were shown the Road Home (repentance) as a gift from God to bring true peace and reconciliation. Now in chapters 58-59 we see a stinging rebuke that leads to accusations rebellion and a confession of guilt and helplessness.

- I. The Accusations – vs. 1-4
  - A. The Barrier to Fellowship (vs. 1-2)
    1. Is it God's Inability?
      - a. Is His hand shortened?
      - b. Is His hearing dull?
    2. It is Your Sin!
      - a. Iniquities separate – self-will raises the barrier
      - b. Sins break fellowship
    3. God is offended by the sin and the sinner
      - a. He will not hear (not cannot hear) – Prov. 28:9; Job 35:13
      - b. You will not listen, so I will not listen – Deut. 1:42-45; Jer. 6:17; 25:4, 7; Zech. 7:13
  - B. Alienation from God (vs. 3-4)
    1. Sin leaves a mark
      - a. Hands and fingers are unfit – defiled, render unholy and unfit for service
      - b. Lips and tongue are full of lies and perversity
      - c. Heart, Hands, Lips – Matt. 15:18-19
    2. No one stands up for what is right
      - a. No one calls for justice (declares righteousness)
      - b. No one pleads for truth – Amos 5:12
    3. Lifestyles of the dead and dying
      - a. Trusting empty words – faith in falsehood, trusting any other than God
      - b. Speaking lies – spreading unreliable words, blatant disregard for truth
      - c. Conceive evil – pregnant with wicked mischief
      - d. Birth iniquity – producing trouble that harms others
- II. The Situation Report – vs. 5-8
  - A. What Starts Bad only gets Worse (vs. 5)
    1. Viper's eggs and spider's webs – harmful, useless
    2. Hatch/spin – habitual conduct, the constant presence and practice of sin – 1 John 3:7, 10; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 22:15
    3. Sin is a contagion and a frustration
    4. Eats of the egg – participates in the fruit – dies – Rom. 6:23
    5. Breaks the egg – violence, an adder emerges – Amos 5:18-20
  - B. Inadequate Covering (vs. 6)
    1. The sinner's best effort always leave him unsatisfied – Gen. 3:7, 21
    2. Their works are all iniquity (self-serving)
    3. They are always violent – in thought, word, and action bringing ruin
  - C. The Domino Effect of Sin (vs. 7-8) – Prov. 6:16-19
    1. This is personal – hands, feet, thoughts, actions
      - a. Feet run to evil, they hurry to destruction
      - b. They think only of iniquity, their path is full of destruction
      - c. Others are hurt – a wake of ruin
      - d. Sin breaks everything!

2. There is no peace
  - a. They do not know (experience) peace, only trouble
  - b. There is no justice – living according to God’s righteous guidelines
  - c. They twist their own path – they bring about their own hurt by going their own way
  - d. Any who follow them will not find peace (peace with God, harmonious society, personal fulfillment) – Prov. 11:5; 14:12; 21:8

III. Repentance and Confession – vs. 9-13

A. First Person Plural

1. Some have heard the rebuke and respond with repentance
2. Rebuke + proclamation of God’s Word + Divine enabling = confession and repentance
3. Justice is far from us...what do we do? – Luke 13:1-5
  - a. Death by Government – injustice at the hands of corrupt leaders
  - b. Death by “Accident” – it’s not fair
  - c. The only response to injustice and unfairness is personal repentance!

B. We Are Not Able (vs. 9-11)

1. Justice – life lived within God’s guidelines
2. Righteousness – being right with God – it does not just fall on us, it takes effort
3. We look for light but find only darkness
  - a. We are blind and cannot see, as if we had no eyes
  - b. Solution – new eyes, new life, new creation
4. We are like dead men in desolate places
  - a. We have no ability to get ourselves out of where we are
  - b. We are dead in sin – Eph. 2:1-3
  - c. We are only able to sin – Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-12
  - d. We are unable to change – 1 Cor. 2:14; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44, 65; Eph. 2:4-10
5. We growl and groan for redemption and cannot save ourselves – Rom. 8:22-23

C. We Confess (vs. 12-13)

1. Our sin testifies against us – and it is true
2. We readily admit and agree – Psa. 32:1-5; 51:1-19; 1 John 1:9
  - a. We transgress – disobeying God’s Word and Ways
  - b. We lie against the Lord
  - c. We turn away from God
  - d. We are guilty of oppression, rebellion, and thinking and speaking falsehood

## **Cross References:**

### **Proverbs 28:9**

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

### **Job 35:13**

Surely God will not listen to empty talk, nor will the Almighty regard it.

### **Deut. 1:42-45**

42 “And the Lord said to me, “Tell them, “Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; lest you be defeated before your enemies.” ’ 43 So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the Lord, and presumptuously went up into the mountain. 44 And the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Seir to Hormah. 45 Then you returned and wept before the Lord, but the Lord would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you.

### **Jeremiah 6:17; 25:4, 7**

17 Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’

4 And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear.

7 Yet you have not listened to Me,” says the Lord, “that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

### **Zechariah 7:13**

Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord of hosts.

### **Matt. 15:18-19**

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

### **Amos 5:12**

For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: afflicting the just and taking bribes; diverting the poor from justice at the gate.

### **1 John 3:7, 10**

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **Revelation 22:15**

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

### **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Amos 5:18-20**

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

### **Genesis 3:7, 21**

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

### **Proverbs 11:5**

The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

**Proverbs 14:12**

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

**Proverbs 21:8**

The way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure, his work is right.

**Luke 13:1-5**

There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20**

For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.

**Romans 3:10-12**

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 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."

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Jeremiah 13:23**

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

**John 6:44, 65**

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

## **Ephesians 2:4-10**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## **Romans 8:22-23**

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

## **Psalms 32:1-5**

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

## **Psalms 51:1-19**

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. 16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise. 18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

## **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.