

051



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah 58-59

051

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Donald L Goertzen Presenter

Indian Hills Community Church

Detectives looking for Eschatological Evidences in Isaiah

Tribulation and Kingdom Truth



Continuing

A Question to Contemplate

- We have been studying Isaiah a prophetic book written in 8th century B. C. to Judah, to Israel, and for the Christians. The message is to **“Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.** Isaiah 56 talks about the folly of the unrighteous— one of which is all forms of drunkenness.
- But a folly is **a folly no matter where and when he lives.**
Thus Isaiah’s truth has application for any age even ours.
- What about other leaders? Are they not subject to the same standard “to do right”?

A Question to Contemplate

- We can profitably make direct comparisons between any leader and the standards set for leaders in Israel.
- Axiomatic: It is true, with rare exceptions, that leaders tend towards self-serving and corruption?
- While our nation is not the same kind of “chosen nation” as Israel, our nation and its leadership is still personally bound to the God they claim to honor.
- That is—True to its establishment, its laws, morals, freedoms, and personal responsibility.
- It is after all as we say in our pledge of allegiance, “One nation under God” [Eisenhower 1954]

A Question to Contemplate

- **As long as the “God authored governing principles” are upheld in the nation, reflected in their leadership, the nation will flourish in filling and subduing the earth.**
- **The United States of America has the best record of all the nations—millions, even the Jews have benefitted from a people that have imperfectly “honored God.”**
- **Not all citizens “need to be born again” for the nation to flourish.**

A Question to Contemplate

- A truism— nations that honor God will be the target of destruction by the Enemy introduced in the Garden.
 - Isa. 59:15 “He who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.”
 - We can trace the tendency towards infidelity in all history. Israel is only one example.
- American in its founding c 1776, has demonstrated the God ordained principle of freedom and responsibility (Moral principles from creation.)—
- In recent years, visible by the weeks, months, these principles that made the nation a model for nations, are being attacked.

A Question to Contemplate

- We honor the King Romans 13— yet is there not a place to “call out” the destructive rebellion—rampant everywhere?
- It is clear that an atheistic system has captured the mind of the rebellious leaders and all the institutions of influence.
- The objective has shifted from honoring God to blaspheme Him, leaders who use its institutions to destroy the God given order.
- The question—Is it proper to recognize their failure or do we turn a blind eye?
- Surely Christians will talk about the consequences their failures.

A Question to Contemplate

- It is true that the church cannot be political (man against man) but it has the responsibility to teach and uphold biblical principles for its people. God against fallen man. **The attacks on God can be subtle—**
- **The church, of all people, needs instruction in biblical truth of morally and responsibility.**
- **The genius of non-political power (the restrainer) is in the value of each members moral influence on any issue.**
- Because it is the Lord of the Church Who is the unifying authority of the people.

Please Join the Kingdom

- Back to the nation of Israel and Judah—
- The prophet speaks for God and the righteous in the nation by calling out their sins—failures.
- The message in these chapters 56-59 is to appeal to the nation and their leaders to choose the right course—
- But alas, in the end they will not turn to God on their own.
- God will intervene for them and save the nation!
- But there will be left in its wake the (Tribulation) wreckage of failed leadership.



Isaiah 58

The Text Reads—

Shallow Obedience



- 1“Cry loudly, do not hold back; Raise your voice like a trumpet, And declare to My people their transgression And to the house of Jacob their sins.
- **FALSE SERVICE:** 2“Yet they seek Me day by day and delight to know My ways, As a nation that has done righteousness And has not forsaken the ordinance of their God. They ask Me for just decisions, They delight in the nearness of God. Isaiah 58:1–2

IRONY

IRONY

Shallow Obedience

IRONY IRONY

- **LIP SERVICE:** ³“Why have we fasted and You do not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?’ Behold, on the day of your fast you find your desire, And drive hard all your workers.
- ⁴“Behold, you fast for contention and strife and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like you do today to make your voice heard on high. Isaiah 58:3–4

Shallow and True Obedience

- **Superficial:** ⁵“Is it a (your) fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself? Is it for bowing one’s head like a reed And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this (your) a fast, even an acceptable day to the Lord?
- **TRUE SERVICE:** ⁶“Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free And break every yoke? Isaiah 58:5–6

Truth

Faithful Obedience Revealed

- **TRUE SERVICE:** ⁷“Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- **TRUE BENEFIT:** ⁸“Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:7–8

Faithful Obedience

Hope

Promise

- 9“Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you remove the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,
- 10And if you give yourself to the hungry And satisfy the desire of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness And your gloom will become like midday. Isaiah 58:9–10

Restoration of Eschaton

Hope

- ¹¹“And the Lord will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Eschaton

- ¹²“Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell. Isaiah 58:11–12

Faithful Obedience

God Honoring

- ¹³“If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, And honor it, desisting from your own ways, From seeking your own pleasure And speaking your own word,
- ¹⁴Then you will take delight in the Lord, And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13–14

Eschaton

Astounded!

The sensitive may wonder about the ability of this
change of heart shown in the last section.
For that we have the grace of God—

How Can This Change Be?

- ¹Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.
- ²But 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. Isaiah 59:1–2

Your Iniquities are Listed

Sin is Great

- ³For your hands are defiled with blood And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken falsehood, Your tongue mutters wickedness.
 - ⁴No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.
- Isaiah 59:3–4

Your Iniquities are Listed

Sin is Great

- ⁵They 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.
- ⁶Their 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. Isaiah 59:5–6

Your Iniquities are Listed

Sin is Great

- ⁷Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways.
- ⁸They 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. Isaiah 59:7–8

Your Iniquities are Listed

Sin is Great

- ⁹Therefore 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.
- ¹⁰We 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. Isaiah 59:9–10

Your Iniquities are Listed

Sin is Great

- ¹¹All 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.
- ¹²For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And we know our iniquities: Isaiah 59:11–12

Your Iniquities are Listed

The Prophet Speaks

- ¹³Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words.
- ¹⁴Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. Isaiah 59:13–14

Your Iniquities are Listed

- ¹⁵Yes, 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.
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- ¹⁶And He 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. Isaiah 59:16

In the Eschaton Things are Different

- ¹⁷He 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.
- (Full Armor of God Eph. 6:11)
- ¹⁸According to their deeds, so He will repay, Wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; To the coastlands He will make recompense. Isaiah 59:17–18

In the Eschaton Things are Different

- ¹⁹So 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. Isaiah 59:19–20

In the Eschaton Things are Different

- 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.” Isaiah 59:21

Conclusion

- In the section 56-59 four chapters the challenge has been put to the people and the nation to hear the message and become part of the Kingdom in the Eschaton.
- The section ends with the sobering truth that no one will chose life and live.
- God must intervene in grace to accomplish it.

Application to a point—

- **What is so good about Isaiah is that even as a prophecy it is useful for our daily living. We are given insight into the leadership of Israel but it is fully true of all leadership that loses its way in following God. Disasters come to any nation whose leaders forget the Real Sovereign and take the authority to themselves. But they are woefully inadequate to guarantee even their survival.**

Postscript

- We live in a day where “anything is possible” at least in the minds of the powerful in authority. But it takes a few minutes watching YouTube reports, to see now that man has taken “charge of nature” and that their meddling will only make life impossible.
- Managing the water in the California Nevada region on the Colorado River will end up causing unnamed disasters because Man is not God thus very limited.

Postscript

- Godly wisdom says do not favor policies that will put 40 million people at risk. Where fish are protected but agricultural waters are denied.
- Godly wisdom says do not expect that in the sparsely populated areas of the earth where the sun shines longest and the wind blow the strongest—that electric lines can be built over 1000's of miles to deliver power to the populated portions of the earth.

Postscript

- Was it God' wisdom to encourage 40 million to live in virtual desert conditions in the southwestern United States who will shoot each other over water rights.
- Was it God's wisdom that man should live below sea level in the Gulf of Mexico region.
- But Man is wise. He has build dams to keep water in and keep water out. But dams fail over run and claim lives and the comforts of these regions are soon forgotten when bureaucratic regulations are not able to mitigate disasters. Expect more to come.
- No longer are the disasters acts of God but of Men!

Postscript

- We do not claim to have the wisdom of God to regulate the complex world under judgment.
- What we are saying is that the Leadership of Israel functioned as if they were doing God's work.
- We see the same impulse. The Man is doing "God's" work without regarding Him as God.
- This changes everything. Disaster looms!

Postscript

- **¹Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.**
- **Here in is the glory of God that not only can He save these rebels He does save them for the Kingdom.**

Thus far—