

Isa 59
Sin separates but God Redeems
May 22, 2022

Sin separates man from God Isa 59:1-15a

Unanswered prayer is not from a lack of God's ability Isa 59:1-2

1 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.

“the LORD'S hand is not so short”
hand shortened is the Oriental emblem of weakness; the long stretched-out hand is of power.

“your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God”
Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The futility of human efforts to please God Isa 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.

Here is a picture of the total uselessness of human effort for serving God. Man's work proves that he is thoroughly a sinner and wicked. His hands, fingers, tongue, feet, and mind are full of sin and confusion. Because of this God cannot hear his prayer.

This is exactly what Paul says in Rom 3:9-18.
Rom 3:10 as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Isaiah's acknowledgment of their sin Isa 59:9-15a

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.

Notice The change of pronoun; Instead of “your” and “their,” it is “we” and “our” and “us”.

Before salvation can come, sin must be recognized and repented.

The Lord brings salvation Isa 59:15b-21

The arm of the Lord brings salvation Isa 59:15b-16

15b ... Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. 16 And 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.

“the LORD saw”

This phrase is used 7 times in the 1st chapter of Genesis.

Gen 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

Before the flood – “the LORD saw the wickedness of man”

Gen 6:5-6 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Before Israel is delivered from Egypt – “the Lord saw”

Ex 2:24-25 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

“The Lord saw – that there was no man to intercede” – on her behalf.

Isaiah was not saying that the Lord did not want to get involved, but that Israel was totally incapable of helping herself. Only God could help her.

This is true of salvation, no one can save himself. Only God can forgive sin and change a person.

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

“His own arm brought salvation”

Arm suggests strength, a concept Isaiah frequently mentioned (40:10; 51:5, 9; 52:10; 53:1; 59:1, 16; 60:4; 62:8; 63:12)

Isa 63:5 “I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me,

The Redeemer will come to Zion Isa 59:17-20

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.

The LORD (our Redeemer) is a warrior.

Ex 15:3 “The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name. (Ps 78:65; Isa 42:13; Zep 3:17)

Notice His armor

breastplate of righteousness; helmet of salvation; His garments are vengeance and zeal

Paul uses this same imagery for our spiritual weapons (Eph 6:14-17).

“And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle”

Isa 42:13 The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

Isa 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isa 37:32 “For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant and out of Mount Zion survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

“He will repay, Wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies”

In the parable of the Minas (Lk 19:11-27) the citizens that did not want the nobleman to rule over them were slain when he returned.

12-14 ...”A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’”

27 “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.”

The Redeemer comes to Zion - this is My covenant with them Isa 59:20-21

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.”

“A Redeemer will come to Zion”

Isaiah often describes God as Israel’s Redeemer (Isa 41:14; 43:14; 44:6; 47:4; 60:16) and refers to Israel as the redeemed (Isa 35:9; 62:12).

“this is My covenant with them” - Paul quotes this concerning natural Israel.

Rom 11:25-27 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” 27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

This covenant is the new covenant (Jer 31:31-34; Mt 26:28; Heb 7:22; 8:6-13; 12:24).

“My Spirit ... shall not depart ... from your offspring, nor from your offspring’s offspring,”

2Cor 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. (Eph 1:13; 4:30)

References used:

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