



SALVATION IS
OF THE LORD

A Study of Isaiah - #24



ESTABLISHMENT
OF ZION

Isaiah 58-66

High-Level Outline

I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)

II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)

A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)

B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)

C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)

1. Reformation & Redemption of Zion (58:1-59:21)

2. Rebuilding of Zion (60:1-62:12)

3. Jehovah's Vengeance for Zion (63:1-65:16)

4. Establishment of a New Kingdom (65:17-66:24)



REFORMATION &
REDEMPTION OF ZION

Isaiah 58:1-59:21

“They Have Their Reward”

- 1) How did God’s people appear (**58:1-2**)? What was wrong with their fasts (**58:3-5**)?

*“Cry aloud, **spare not**; Lift up your voice like a **trumpet**; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that **did righteousness**, And **did not forsake** the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take **delight in approaching God**. ‘Why have we **fasted**,’ they say, ‘and **You have not seen?** Why have we **afflicted our souls**, and **You take no notice?**’ ...” (**58:1-3a**)*

- Provided every appearance of seeking the Lord; however, focus was **only** on rites, words, knowledge – not steadfast, sincere obedience, especially outside of worship (**Eze. 23:37-**

“It Shall Be a Jubilee to You”

1) How did God’s people appear (**58:1-2**)? What was wrong with their fasts (**58:3-5**)?

*“In fact, in the day of your fast you find **pleasure**, And **exploit all your laborers**. Indeed you fast **for strife and debate**, And to **strike with the fist of wickedness**. You will not fast as you do this day, To **make your voice heard** on high. **Is it a fast that I have chosen**, A day for a man to afflict his soul? **Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush**, And to **spread out sackcloth and ashes**? Would **you call** this a fast, And an **acceptable day to the LORD?**” (**58:3b-5**)*

- Slaves were to be set free every seven years and land returned to its original owners every 50 years (**Exo. 21:2; Deu. 15:12-15; Jer. 34:13-17; Lev. 26:34-35, 43; 2 Chr. 36:20-21**).
- Jubilee was designed to prevent oppression (**Lev. 25:13-17**).

“Without Leaving Others Undone”

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- Used feasts to oppress common man, laborers (**Mk.11:15-18**).
- Knowledge, ritual obedience used as a tool to gain psychological, political advantage to cloak, justify sin (**Zec. 7:3-6; Luke 16:14; Mat. 23:14-36; 15:1-9, 15-20**).
- False dilemma: works & faith; micro & macro (**Mat. 23:23**).

Exploitation of God for Self?

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- Manipulated rites to exalt self, not God (**Lev. 16:29-31; Mat. 6:1-5, 16-18; 23:1-15; Lk.16:15; Phi. 3:1-7; Gal. 6:12-13**).
- Distracting window-dressing to compensate for substance.
- Insidious, subtle danger. Danger even in calling it out!
- Any effort to manipulate God always fails (**Gal. 6:7-8**).

Intellectual Dishonesty

To know and not to know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to repudiate morality while laying claim to it, to believe that democracy was impossible and that the Party was the guardian of democracy, to forget whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again, and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself—that was the ultimate subtlety: consciously to induce unconsciousness, and then, once again, to become unconscious of the act of hypnosis you had just performed. Even to understand the word—doublethink—involved the use of doublethink.

Double-Think

The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just as long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies—all this is indispensably necessary. Even in using the word doublethink it is necessary to exercise doublethink. For by using the word one admits that one is tampering with reality; by a fresh act of doublethink one erases this knowledge; and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth.

(Wikipedia: Orwell, George (1949). *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd, London, part 2, chapter 9, p. 220)

- *“Sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light” (Luke 16:1-9)*. ... Are we blind to what even the world sees?

“My Thoughts, My Ways”

2) What kind of fast and Sabbath observance did the Lord desire (**58:6-14**)?

*“Is this not the **fast that I have chosen**: To ¹loose the bonds of wickedness, To ²undo the heavy burdens, To let the ³oppressed go free, And that you ⁴break every yoke? Is it not to ⁵share your bread with the hungry, And that you ⁶bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you ⁷cover him, And ⁸not hide yourself from your own flesh? ... If you ⁹take away the yoke from your midst, The ¹⁰pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, If you ¹¹extend your soul to the hungry And ¹²satisfy the afflicted soul, ...” (58:6-10)*

3) Demonstrates the “*ways*” that God expected them to adopt and “*thoughts*” to pursue (**Lk. 13:10-17**).

4) Are we being honest? Hiding from “*opportunity*” (**Gal.6:10**)?

“All your heart, soul & mind”

2) What kind of fast and Sabbath observance did the Lord desire (**58:6-14**)?

*“... If you **turn away** your foot from the Sabbath, From doing **your pleasure on My holy day**, And **call the Sabbath a delight**, The holy day of the LORD **honorable**, And shall **honor Him**, not doing your **own ways**, Nor finding your **own pleasure**, Nor speaking your **own words**, **Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; ...**” (58:13-14)*

- Total surrender of self to God – all of our ways, pleasure, words (**Mat. 22:37-38**).
- No games, no duplicity (**2 The. 2:9-12; Psa. 2**)!

Blessings of Sincere Service

Then **your light** shall break forth like the **morning**, Your **healing** shall **spring** forth **speedily**, And **your righteousness** shall go **before you**; The **glory of the LORD** shall be **your rear guard**. Then you shall **call**, and **the LORD will answer**; You shall **cry**, and He will say, **'Here I am.'** ... Then your light shall **dawn in the darkness**, And your darkness shall be **as the noonday**. **The LORD will guide you continually**, And **satisfy your soul in drought**, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. Those from among you Shall **build the old waste places**; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called **the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In**. ... I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. **The mouth of the LORD has spoken.**” (58:8-14)

“Cannot Look on Wickedness”

- 4) Why had Israel not enjoyed the salvation and access to God that had previously been promised (**59:1-8**)? What would they never enjoy as long as they stayed in that way?

*Behold, the LORD'S hand is **not shortened**, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.”*

(59:1-4)

- Sin separates people from God and related blessings (**58:1; 1:15-18; Mt. 5:44-48; Hab. 1:13; Am. 3:2-3; 1 Pet. 3:12**).

“No Peace for the Wicked”

4) Why had Israel not enjoyed the salvation and access to God that had previously been promised (**59:1-8**)? What would they never enjoy as long as they stayed in that way?

*“They hatch **vipers’ eggs** and weave the **spider’s web**; He who eats of their eggs **dies**, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Their webs will **not become garments**, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are **works of iniquity**, And the act of **violence** is in their hands. Their feet **run to evil**, And they make **haste to shed innocent blood**; Their thoughts are **thoughts of iniquity**; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. **The way of peace they have not known**, And there is **no justice** in their ways; They have made themselves **crooked paths**; Whoever takes that way **shall not know peace**. (**59:1-8**; also, **Mic. 2:1-2**)*

*Elaborate schemes, rationalizing will fail (**28:20; Pr.6:16-19**)*

“Behold, I am against you”

*Therefore **justice is far from us**, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We **look for light**, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We **grope** for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We **stumble** at noonday as at twilight; We are as **dead men in desolate** places. We all **growl** like bears, And **moan sadly** like doves; We look for **justice**, but there is **none**; For **salvation**, but it is **far from us**. For **our transgressions are multiplied before You**, And **our sins testify against us**; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them. (59:9-12)*

5) What value was provided by Isaiah identifying himself with the nation of Israel, confessing their sins as a people and nation (59:9-15)?

Means of recognition, conviction, not confession (Dn.9:1-21).

Death of Truth & Justice

- 5) What value was provided by Isaiah identifying himself with the nation of Israel, confessing their sins as a people and nation (**59:9-15**)?

In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. (59:9-15)

- Selfish, arrogant greed drove their sinful oppression without any regard to consequences. What were the consequences?
 - Driven justice, righteousness, truth & equity from their land
- Amos 5:13**

“I Sought for a Man”

- 6) In the illustration of God going to war, with what did He clothe and arm Himself, and why not some other attribute, like power (**59:16-18**)?

*He saw that there was **no man**, And wondered that there was **no intercessor**; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (59:16)*

- Does not mean there was **no** good people (Isaiah? Jeremiah? Ezekiel? Hezekiah? Josiah?).
- Rather, no man could turn back the tide – too far gone (**Gen. 18:17-33; Luk. 13:6-9; Eze. 22:23-31**). ... How? Why?
- No man could restore, atone like the Messiah (**42:3; 52:10-53:12**).
- Unique characteristic of God: Provides for His own purpose; Needs no help, unlike us (**Psa. 44:3; Exo. 15:3; Isa. 42:13**).

“Whole Armor of God”

- 6) In the illustration of God going to war, with what did He clothe and arm Himself, and why not some other attribute, like power (**59:16-18**)?

For He put on ¹righteousness as a breastplate, And a ²helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the ³garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with ⁴zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. (59:17-18)

- God’s character is fundamental “power” (**Ps.89:14;Pr.16:32**)
- Similar to the Christian’s “*whole armor of God*”, He first equipped what He provides us (**Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Pet. 1:2-4**).
- Except, “*vengeance*” uniquely belongs to Him (**Rm. 12:6-21**).
- Patience, mercy and love had been exhausted – for the sake of those who love His character – only judgment could help now.

“No Weapon Shall Prosper”

*So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the **enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.** “The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to **those** who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the LORD. “As for Me,” says the LORD, “**this is My covenant with them: My Spirit** who 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 descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “**from this time and forevermore.**” (59:20-21)*

- 7) How was the promise fulfilled to maintain the Spirit upon the Redeemer, preserving His Words through the generations and providing access to His descendants (59:20-21)?

Messianic: **18:3;11:10-12;49:22-26; Rm.11:26; 1Pt.5:8-11**

“Sharper than Two-Edged”

- 7) How was the promise fulfilled to maintain the Spirit upon the Redeemer, preserving His Words through the generations and providing access to His descendants (**59:20-21**)?

*So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the **enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.** “The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to **those** who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the LORD. “As for Me,” says the LORD, “**this is My covenant with them: My Spirit** who 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 descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,**” says the LORD, “**from this time and forevermore.**” (**59:20-21**)*

- “Sword of Spirit” to all generations (**Ep. 6:17; 1Pt. 1:23-25**).

A dramatic sky with a rainbow and a bright sunburst over a sea of clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the clouds below. The rainbow is visible in the upper left portion of the sky.

REBUILDING OF ZION

Isaiah 60:1-62:12

“Woman Clothed with the Sun”

8) Who was the woman who received the service and “*wealth of the Gentiles*” (60:1-12, 14), and what is that wealth?

*Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But **the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. 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 nursed at your side. Then **you shall see and become radiant**, And **your heart shall swell with joy**; ... they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.” (60:1-14)***

Represents Messianic institution existing only in prophecy, guarded by faithful custodians of spiritual Jewish remnant (Rom. 3:1-2; 9:1-5; Gal. 4:21-31; Rev. 12:1-6).

“Wealth of the Nations”

*Because the **abundance** of the sea shall be **turned to you**,
The **wealth of the Gentiles** shall come to you. The
multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of
Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall
bring gold and incense, And they shall **proclaim the praises**
of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together
to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall
ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will **glorify**
the house of My glory. Who are these who fly like a cloud,
And like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait
for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your
sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, **To the**
name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel,
Because He has glorified you.” (60:5-9)*

Gentile converts, contributions (Zec. 14:14-21; 2 Cor. 8-9).

“Inhabited without Walls

9) How was the promise to rebuild her with the best materials fulfilled (**60:10-18**)?

The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you. Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession. For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined. (60:10-12)

- Swelling indestructible Messianic kingdom (**Neh. 7:3; Dan. 2:44; Zec. 2:4**)
- All other nations will suffer judgment, destruction (**Psa. 110**).
- God will protect her, provide her, rebuild her with the best people of all nations and best “gifts” (**57:19; Eph. 4:7-16**).

The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To **beautify the place of My sanctuary**; And I will make the place of My feet glorious. Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall **call you The City of the LORD**, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an **eternal excellence, A joy of many generations**. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; **You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob**. Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your **officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness**. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your **walls Salvation, And your gates Praise. (60:10-18)**

Paradise on Earth?

10) **Isaiah 60:18-22** sounds much like the description of heaven from **Revelation 21:22-27**. Could this passage find fulfillment this side of eternity in heaven, if so, how?

*“**Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.**” (60:18-20)*

↳ Spiritual kingdom characterized by peace (with God, each other, offered to the lost) and directed by God (through His Word) which will not fail for all generations.

Spiritual Sanctuary on Earth

10) **Isaiah 60:18-22** sounds much like the description of heaven from **Revelation 21:22-27**. Could this passage find fulfillment this side of eternity in heaven, if so, how?

“Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.” (60:18-22)

- Characterized by righteous people – emphasizes both spiritual and holy nature.
- Ultimately, its establishment and growth will bring glory to God (**Eph. 3:5-11**).
- Citizens more (spiritually) powerful, successful than nature would suggest (**Heb. 11:34; Zec. 12:8; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 10:3-5**)