

# Spiritual Adultery

Isaiah 57:1-10

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10/1/2023

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## **Isaiah 57:1-10 – Idolatry is spiritual adultery (NIV)**

*The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. <sup>2</sup>Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. <sup>3</sup>“But you—come here, you children of a sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes! <sup>4</sup>Who are you mocking? At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongue? Are you not a brood of rebels, the offspring of liars? <sup>5</sup>You burn with lust among the oaks and under every spreading tree; you sacrifice your children in the ravines and under the overhanging crags. <sup>6</sup>The idols among the smooth stones of the ravines are your portion; indeed, they are your lot. Yes, to them you have poured out drink offerings and offered grain offerings. In view of all this, should I relent? <sup>7</sup>You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill; there you went up to offer your sacrifices. <sup>8</sup>Behind your doors and your doorposts you have put your pagan symbols. Forsaking me, you uncovered your bed, you climbed into it and opened it wide; you made a pact with those whose beds you love, and you looked with lust on their naked bodies. <sup>9</sup>You went to Molek with olive oil and increased your perfumes. You sent your ambassadors far away; you descended to the very realm of the dead! <sup>10</sup>You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, ‘It is hopeless.’ You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint.*

### **v1 – Who are the righteous that perish?**

Carrying on the rebuke of Judah’s leaders from the previous chapter, the LORD speaks to the persecution of the righteous. In this case, it is persecution through neglect (*the righteous perishes and no man takes it to heart*).

- Many critics of the Bible demand that Isaiah was written after the Babylonian exile because so many events after the exile are precisely prophesied.
- But the sins described in this chapter are strictly before the exile, so it had to be written before the exile.

### **Could this verse be a reference to the rapture?**

A lot of Bible prophecy has dual fulfillment and this certainly could apply to the rapture of the church... and it reinforces a pre-trib rapture at that.

- If it does apply to the rapture, the reaction is ho-hum. The people left behind generally will not know what really happened.
- They don’t recognize that the wrath of God is about to be poured out. They buy the great delusion narrative.

### **Why did God have mysteries that were veiled in the Old Testament but revealed in the New Testament?**

The mysteries were not important for people to know during that dispensation. There are still mysteries today that will be revealed in the Millennial Kingdom and even during the Eternal State.

### **v2 – What would become of the devout God takes away?**

They will have peace, rest, and righteousness... kinds of describes important aspects of the resurrection.

### **v3-4 – What do the wicked do?**

*Whom do you ridicule?* The wicked among God’s people made fun of the righteous. They mocked them, and God heard it. Here, the LORD challenges them, simply asking “Who do you think you are? Who are you mocking? *Are you not children of transgression, offspring of falsehood?*

- This speaks to a common sin of human nature — to see the sins or the problems of others while being blind to our own sins or problems.

### **Who are the offspring of liars?**

People who have been enticed by the devil to follow him...

John 8:44 – *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.*

### **How was Satan a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44)?**

Jesus refers to Satan’s temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden, which introduced death into the experience of those who bear God’s image.

### **v5-7 – What else characterizes the wicked?**

They are idolators, worshiping other gods in the ritual worship places of Canaanite paganism (*every green tree...among the smooth stones of the stream...on a high and lofty mountain*).

### **How were the Israelites slaying the children in the valleys?**

One of the Canaanite gods the Israelites worshipped was Molech who received children as sacrifices. Molech was “worshipped” by heating a metal statue representing the god until it was red hot, then by placing an infant on the outstretched hands of the statue, while beating drums drowned out the screams of the child until it burned to death. Molech was one of the “lovers” God’s people forsook the LORD for in their spiritual adultery.

### **Why would people who would not make a small sacrifice for the Lord kill their own children for a pagan idol?**

As the love of harlots is often hotter than that of husband and wife, so superstition many times appears more attractive than true religion.

### **Why was child sacrifice so offensive to God?**

It is a manifestation of spiritual adultery. Generally, the sacrifice of a child was intertwined with the worship of a pagan deity, often a fertility god.

### **Is child sacrifice a problem today?**

Yes. In Uganda for example, witch doctors have been implicated in the mutilation and death of children who were killed in an effort to bring good fortune and wealth to those willing to pay for it. There is also a correlation between child sacrifice and modern-day abortion...

- Children have been “sacrificed” at the hands of abortionists for the sake of convenience, immorality, or pride (modern day idols).  
Proverbs 6:17 – *God hates “hands that shed innocent blood”*

### **v6 – What is the significance of offering an idol a drink or grain offering?**

These are the sacrifices that should have been given to the LORD. But His unfaithful people gave them to idols instead.

- The devil loves to imitate God, and idolators used the same rites and offerings in their worship which God has prescribed for his own worship.

### **v7 – Besides being a place of pagan worship, what does spiritual adultery on a high and lofty hill show?**

The whoredom of Judah is compared to that of an adulteress who has become so impudent that she no longer commits her sins in secret but publicly and shamelessly.

### **How is spiritual adultery a fitting description here?**

Because many of the pagan gods the Israelites went after were “worshipped” with debased sex rituals. A green tree might be a place of such idolatry because the evergreen tree spoke of constant fertility.

### **v8 – What is being imitated by putting pagan symbols on doorposts?**

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, God told Israel to inscribe His name and His word on every door post. Here, there was a perverse twisting of that — they remembered their pagan gods behind the doors and their posts.

### **What generally goes along with forsaking God?**

Not just spiritual adultery but also literal adultery and other sexual immorality. Paul expounded on this with three phases of turning away from God...

Romans 1:24 – *God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves*

Fornication and adultery have consequences... spiritual adultery generally manifests itself as physical adultery.

Romans 1:26-27 – *God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

Homosexuality has even more consequences... this is an escalation of persisting in abandoning God.

Romans 1:28-29 – *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder...*

The final stage of God giving people over to themselves is a debased (irrational) mind to do all kinds of wickedness including murder. The consequences multiply.

### **What evidence is there that we are in the third phase of God giving the USA over to a debased mind?**

Transgenderism, woke corporations, embracing censorship, blind trust of media & government, making criminals into victims, pushing EVs, ...

**v9 – How had Judah descended to the grave itself?**

Their idol worship was deadly. The consequences for abandoning God were deadly serious. They were literally playing with the fires of Hell.

**v10 – What consequence did the idolators experience?**

*You are wearied in the length of your way:* As time went on, the spiritual adultery of God's people wasn't rewarding. After the initial thrill of their spiritual adultery wore off, they were wearied. But even then, they would not repent (*Yet you did not say, "There is no hope"*).

**What applications come to mind from our discussion?**

- Liars are followers of the devil... life is better when we follow the personification of Truth instead.
- The wicked are murderers... but God's grace is even extended to them if they would just accept it.
- A symptom of spiritual adultery is often physical adultery... good/bad vertical & horizontal relationships go together
- Our country is under the judgment of God... help others recognize their opportunity to repent before it is too late.