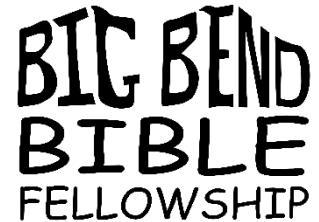


Consequences & Salvation

Isaiah 59:9-21

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Isaiah 59:9-15a – Effects of sin the people see (NIV)

⁹ So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. ¹⁰ Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead. ¹¹ We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away.

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

v9 – What are the consequences for not being on God’s path of peace?

Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us: Because God’s people had no interest in justice, God did not bless them with it. Because God’s people did not care about righteousness, God did not bless them with it. This is the principle Jesus stated...

Matthew 13:12 – *For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

It is amazing how often the policies of the ungodly result in the very thing happening that their policies are intended to avoid.

- Liberal welfare programs result in more poor people
- Socialism results in everyone being equally poor.
- Easy college loans drive up the cost so that everyone becomes enslaved to the lenders
- CRT stirs up more racism.
- Teaching about gender fluidity results in more people becoming transgender.
- The government printing money and taking on debt does not ultimately help the economy, it results in inflation

What is the light the ungodly seek after?

Truth and direction. But that is elusive apart from God.

John 8:12 – *Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

People without the Lord in their lives try all kinds of things to shed light on their path but they end up taking a crooked path and they will have no peace.

v10 – What characterizes people without the light of God?

They grope about like the blind because they are blind.

How are people without the light of God like the dead?

Because that is the path they are on... the path of the spiritually dead.

v11 – What will people without the light of God not find?

Justice & deliverance... because worldly justice is not true justice and there is no deliverance on the broad way to destruction.

v12-13 – What must the repentant recognize?

They must recognize their true condition before God, that it is their own sinful choices that has resulted in the consequences they are experiencing. That their sin is rebellion against the Lord.

v14-15a – What are the consequences the repentant must recognize?

No true justice, righteousness, or honesty. Truth is not found because whoever speaks it will be victimized.

- George Orwell: “In a time of universal deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

How have we seen those shunning evil becoming a prey?

- People being persecuted for defending the biblical view of marriage.
- People being censored for questioning the government narrative (COVID).
- People having their bank accounts canceled for having a large platform and opposing the government narrative.

Isaiah 59:15b-21 – The salvation God sees (NIV)

The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, people will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the Lord drives along. ²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the Lord. ²¹ “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants— from this time on and forever,” says the Lord.

v15b – How did God react to the lack of true justice on the part of God’s representatives (government)?

The LORD saw it, and it displeased Him, that there was no justice: The state of God’s people was no mystery to the LORD. They cried out in Isaiah 59:12-15a, stating how desperate their condition was — and the LORD knew it all along.

v16 – What else did God’s people need?

He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: Not only was the state of God’s people bad, but no one among them took the lead in getting it right. Where was the man who would lead the people in righteousness? He could not be found. Where was the intercessor who would plead God’s case to the people, and the people’s repentance to their God?

What did the Lord do about His people’s need?.

Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him: God waited for a disobedient Israel to turn to Him and for an intercessor to plead before Him. None arose; so the LORD did it Himself.

v17 – What armor did God put on to fight for His people?

He put on righteousness, salvation, vengeance and zeal. With this, the LORD went on destroy His enemies, protect His people, and glorify His name.

What is the connection between this passage and our spiritual armor in Ephesians 6:10-17?

In that passage, Paul calls that armor the whole armor of God, and it is God’s armor in the sense that it belongs to Him — after all, He uses it here in Isaiah 59:17-18 — and He allows us to use it to fight for Him.

- God desires to work in and through us, with us using His armor.

v18 – What will the Lord do with His armor?

He will ensure that ultimate justice is done, putting His enemies and those distant from Him in their place. Those distant from God are also His enemies...

Colossians 1:21 – And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

v19 – What will be the result of the Lord dealing with His enemies?

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun: The end result will be wonderful. In His ultimate victory — which He wants us to share in but will accomplish with or without us — the glory of the LORD will be known and respected from east to west (everywhere).

How will the Lord deal with enemies who overwhelm like a flood?

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him: Even the Lord’s enemies seem unstoppable, the LORD will lift up a battle-standard against him, and he will be stopped.

- God gives His people the glorious privilege of being more than conquerors (Romans 8:37) but will win the battle with or without us.

v20 – Who will come to Zion (aka Jerusalem)?

The Redeemer — the goel — will come to Zion. The goel — sometimes translated kinsman-redeemer, had a specifically defined role in Israel’s family life...

- The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery (Leviticus 25:48).
- He was responsible to be the “avenger of blood” to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime (Numbers 35:19).
- He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited (Leviticus 25:25).
- And he was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

In these, we see that the kinsman-redeemer, was responsible to safeguard the persons, property, and posterity of the family.

- This promise of the LORD in Isaiah 59:20 could be reworded, “I will send My Messiah, the Redeemer for all humanity, Jesus of Nazareth!”

Who does the Redeemer come to?

To those who turn from transgression: To those who turn from transgression. The goel only worked for those who asked for His services and knew they needed Him.

Did Jesus die on the cross so that everyone’s sins would be forgiven or just those who turn to Him?

Jesus made it possible for everyone’s sins to be forgiven. But practically speaking, only those who accept this gift by faith will repent of their sins and have eternal life.

v21 – What is God’s covenant to His people?

My Spirit who is upon you, and My words...shall not depart from your mouth...from this time and forevermore:

The covenant God makes with His people promises an abiding Spirit and an enduring word. God accomplishes His purpose in people and through all creation through both the Spirit and the word.

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- The peace of God isn’t just icing on the cake of eternal salvation, it is essential for eternal life!
- People who stand up for the truth about God will be persecuted; expect it!
- The full armor of God is essential; put it on!