

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 276 – The Lord's Hand Is Not Shortened Through His Covenant (Isaiah 59:1-21)

1. Was Israel's separation from God due to God not being able to hear them?

No: *"(1) Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: (2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:1-2).

- He did not have a shortened hand (**Jeremiah 32:17**).
- He was not unable to save (**Isaiah 43:3** and **Daniel 3:17**).
- He was not unable to know what was said or done either (**II Chronicles 16:9**).
- It was their sins that separated them from God and kept Him from hearing their prayers (**Proverbs 15:29**, **Proverbs 28:9**, **Jeremiah 5:25**, **John 9:31**, and **I Peter 3:12**).
- They needed to repent to have the privilege of prayer restored (**II Chronicles 7:14**).

2. At this time, were the children of Israel honest?

No: *"(3) For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. (4) None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity"* (Isaiah 59:3-4).

- Unclean hands (**Jeremiah 2:30-34**) cause God not to hear (**Isaiah 1:1-18** and **I Timothy 2:8**).
- Their speech was defiled too (**Jeremiah 9:1-3** and **Ezekiel 13:8**).
- The mouth reveals the heart (**Matthew 12:34-37**).
- There was none that called for justice or truth (**Jeremiah 5:1-4** and **Ezekiel 22:28-29**).
- They should have greatly sought after truth (**Proverbs 23:23**).
- The image of "they conceive mischief" (**Job 15:34-35**).

3. Was the fruit of their works good?

No, the works they did lead to danger and destruction: *"(5) They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. (6) Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands"* (Isaiah 59:5-6).

- The fruit produced by the works of Israel is likened unto poisonous eggs or a poisonous serpent breaking forth in birth (cf. **Romans 6:21** and **Romans 7:5**).
- Nothing good was coming forth from Israel (**Matthew 7:17-18**).

4. Was Israel practicing just judgment at the time this context was penned?

No: *“(7) 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. (8) The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace” (Isaiah 59:7-8).*

- Run to evil (**Proverbs 1:10-16**).
- In a hurry to shed innocent blood (**Jeremiah 22:17**).
- The thought God wouldn't see this (**Ezekiel 9:9**).
- Their thinking was of iniquity (**Proverbs 24:9**).
- The way of peace is the wise path (**Proverbs 3:13-17**) found conditionally through God (**Psalms 85:8**).
- They didn't want to follow the right path (**Proverbs 28:18**). Again, wisdom would keep them from this path (**Proverbs 2:10-15**).
- The wicked do not know peace (**Isaiah 57:21**).

5. Since Israel had failed in so many areas, did they have judgment and truth among them?

No: *“(9) Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. (10) We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men. (11) We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us. (12) For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; (13) In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. (14) And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. (15) Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment” (Isaiah 59:9-15).*

- When they looked, trouble was the only thing found (**Jeremiah 8:15**).
- The wicked cannot see spiritually (**Proverbs 4:18-19**).
- Roaring and mourning for nothing (**Ezekiel 7:15-16**).
- Their iniquities truly had multiplied (**Ezra 9:6**).
- Lying against the Lord (**Psalms 78:36-37**).
- Falsehood from the heart (**Jeremiah 14:14**).
- Instead of truth being spoken to neighbors (**Zechariah 8:16**), it had fallen (**Jeremiah 7:28**).
- Those who depart from evil are made prey among the wicked (**Psalms 37:32** and **I Peter 4:1-5**).

6. When the Lord was displeased, what did He do for Himself?

He, in a figure, dressed for battle: *“(16) And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. (17) For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke” (Isaiah 59:16-17).*

- In times past, someone stood up for the Lord’s people as an intercessor (**Genesis 18:23** and **Psalms 106:23**).
- He armed for vengeance (**Isaiah 63:1-6**).
- Spiritual armor, like to that which Christians are to wear (**Ephesians 6:13-17**).
- He put on garments of vengeance for that is His role (**Deuteronomy 32:35**, **Deuteronomy 32:41**, **Psalms 94:1**, and **Romans 12:19**).
- The Lord’s zeal concerning His people (**Zechariah 1:14**).

7. According to what does the Lord repay His adversaries?

According to their deeds: *“According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence” (Isaiah 59:18).*

- According to deeds is exactly how God judged (**Isaiah 3:10-11**, **Jeremiah 17:10**, and **Jeremiah 32:19**) and how Christ will judge (**Matthew 16:27**, **John 5:28-29**, **Romans 14:11-12**, and **II Corinthians 5:10**).

8. Did those who feared the Lord and turned from their transgressions have hope?

Yes: *“(19) So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. (20) And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. (21) As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever” (Isaiah 59:19-21).*

- God’s wrath causes fear (**Nahum 1:2-6** and **Hebrews 12:26-31**).
- He would get glorified from His vengeance (**Isaiah 66:18** and **Zephaniah 3:8-9**).
- Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard, contextually and otherwise, could be looking as far forward as Christ (**Isaiah 11:10**)???
- The Redeemer (**Psalms 78:35**; cf. **Colossians 1:12-14**) coming to Zion to those who turned from transgression is related to Christ (**Romans 11:25-36**).
- Then the promise of the Spirit ties to the first century as well (**Acts 2:1-41**).