

The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁹³

Lesson 37

Part 2

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5	Part 6
The Southern Kingdom's Future Rebellion	The Lord's Provision of Israel's Restoration	The Lord's Provision of Israel's Peace and prosperity	The Lord's Coming	Israel's Prayer and the Lord's Response	The Lord's Fulfillment of His Promises to Israel and the World
Isaiah 58	Isaiah 59	Isaiah 60	Isaiah 61:1-63:6	Isaiah 63:7-65:25	Isaiah 66

Moving into Part 2 of Section 3 of Vision 22, the Lord shows that it is by His initiative that Israel will have a provision for her restoration. Following the theme set in Part 1, Israel cannot bring about her own restoration.

Near Future

LORD SAVES AND HEARS

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.

In spite of Israel's future depravity, her national salvation still lies in the hands of the Lord alone. However, He hears and knows everything but He will wait until she is ready to accept His offer.

Near Future

SEPARATION FROM GOD

Isaiah 59:2 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.

Nothing is new about sin in this passage. Sin separates both individuals and nations from God. The Lord will not answer the sinner's prayer until the heart has changed. Here the Lord presents His reasons for not answering Israel's plea.

Reason 1 – Hands, Fingers, Lips and Tongue

Isaiah 59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken falsehood, Your tongue mutters wickedness.

Israel offers blood sacrifices to false gods. She commits immorality (iniquity) with her fingers. She speaks lies about the Lord. Her tongue wags in all forms of malicious tales.

Reason 2 – Lawsuits, Confusion, and Mischief

Isaiah 59:4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion, and speak lies; They conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

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The Israel court flourishes in dishonesty. The nation fails to trust in truth, trusting instead in misconceptions and fabrications. She misbehaves to facilitate injustice and immorality.

Reason 3 – Hatch, Weave, Eat and Crush

Isaiah 59:5 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.

The Lord compares the sin of Israel to an adder, a small poisonous snake that lays eggs which are also poisonous. The thoughts hatched by Israel are poisonous, even unto death. When thoughts are completed, new thoughts break forth to continue the sinful cycle. He also compares Israel's sin to the web of a spider that entangles its prey. However, her web will not cover the sin of the nation or the aggression of her hands.

Reason 4 – Feet, Thoughts and Highways

Isaiah 59:7 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.

Soon, Israel will run to evil, to shed innocent lives and conjure ideas of immorality that will bring ruin to the major tenets of the faith.

Reason 5 – Way, Tracks, Paths, and Treads

Isaiah 59:8 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.

Israel's ways, tracks, and paths will lead her so far away from peace and justice that she will not know how to find her way to the Lord.

Reason 6 – Darkness and Gloom

Isaiah 59:9 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.

Israel knows and uses the right words: justice, righteousness, light, and brightness, but the incorrect use of religious words always leads to darkness and gloom.

Reason 7 – Blind, Stumble and Dead

Isaiah 59:10 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.

At some point, Israel will wake up and realize she is far from the Lord, stumbling like the blind at high noon, like the dying man in the middle of an energetic crowd.

Reason 8 – Bears and Doves

Isaiah 59:11 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.

Israel will act like victorious bears but cry like doves because she knows she is not the recipient of justice or salvation because she is in rebellion against the Lord.

Reason 9 – Transgressions, Sins, and Iniquities

Isaiah 59:12 For our transgressions are multiplied before Thee, 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.

Israel will be aware of her rebellious acts; she will know why the Lord is not answering her prayers and protecting the nation. Israel's problem is her heart; she will intentionally separate herself from the Lord.

Reason 10 – Justice, Righteousness, and Truth

Isaiah 59:14 And justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. ^{15a} Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.

Israel will become so corrupt that when an individual breaks from the crowd and from the heart seeks true justice, righteousness, and truth, the nation will seek to kill him. The apex of this problem will culminate in the corrupt trial and execution of the Messiah on the cross.

Near Future

NO JUSTICE

Isaiah 59:15b Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.

The depraved condition of Israel does not escape the Lord's attention and displeasure. She is guilty of injustice. By the time of the Lord's earthly ministry, the Sanhedrin leaders have fulfilled this prophecy.

Near Future

NO INTERCESSION

Isaiah 59:16a And He saw that there was no man, And was astonished that there was no one to intercede;

Israel is totally incapable of providing a savior to mend her relationship with God. Only the Lord can intercede and bring true justice, righteousness, salvation and peace to the nation.

Near Future

GOD BRINGS SALVATION

Isaiah 59:16b Then His own arm brought salvation to Him; And His righteousness upheld Him.

The Lord will go forth and fight for His people and intercede for her as He provides salvation as only He can with His own righteousness.

Near Future

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 59:17a And He put on righteousness like a breastplate,

Paul uses this passage in Ephesians.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to

extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A breastplate is a protective covering, a shell or vest of chainmail. The Lord's breastplate is His righteousness or His virtue, morality and decency.

Near Future

HELMET OF SALVATION

Isaiah 59:17b And a helmet of salvation on His head;

A helmet is a protective head covering or hood. The Lord's helmet is salvation, or redemption, deliverance, and escape.

Far Prophecy

GARMENTS OF VENGEANCE

Isaiah 59:17c 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.

As the Lord provides both righteousness and salvation for the nation of Israel, He also implements His revenge upon all His enemies. When will this revenge occur? It will be fulfilled when the Lord returns to establish His kingdom. The Lord's wrath will not be against Israel alone; it will also rage against the Gentiles of the coastlands that are opposed to Him.

Far Prophecy

WEST FEARS THE LORD'S ARRIVAL

Isaiah 59:19 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.

The Gentiles will be bold in their attempt to fight against the Lord when He returns. From the west they will come to the Valley of Armageddon and wait. He will arrive at the battle like a rushing stream from the east and the Gentile Western Revived Roman Empire will finally fear the Lord. No one can fight the wind and no one can fight the Lord who comes like the wind.

Far Prophecy

REDEEMER ARRIVES

Isaiah 59:20 "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the LORD.

The Lord will arrive in Zion to save those who have changed their hearts. Everyone who put his trust in the Lord will be rescued by the great Liberator, the Savior, the Lord.

Far Prophecy

COVENANT NOW AND FOREVER

Isaiah 59:21 "And 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."

The Lord has a covenant with Israel which He will fulfill. Even today, in 2013, Israel quotes the promises of the Lord, yet she remains in rebellion against Him. One of the jobs of the

Holy Spirit is to sustain the Word of the Lord. He is protecting Israel even in her sinful state today. One day, she will turn to Him when He decides it is time for her tribulation that will lead to her salvation and exaltation as a nation above all nations.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 59	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord alone provides Israel's restoration.	Fulfilled at the Lord's Second Coming