

The Times We Live In
Isaiah 59:12-21

For Our Consideration:

Redemptive History: is the general term given to both the Jewish and Judeo-Christian accounts of GOD's salvation-work (salvific work) throughout the ages.

One Nation, Apart from GOD & Divisible (Verses 12-15)

- The prophet acts as intercessor and pleads the case of the Israel before **YHWH**...on behalf of the people of Israel.
- There are multiple indictments against the people.
 - These include:
 - “Offenses, Sins, and Iniquities”
 - Offenses: Or “trespasses”. That is the negative thoughts, words and deeds issued against each other.
- Sins: The multiple offenses against GOD which cause division between us and all things Divine and spiritual. (‘Sin’ is the currency of death and destruction).
- Iniquities: The behavioral, habitual practices or tendencies that enable or inform sinful ways.

- We rebel against GOD by way of the flesh and the (selfish) indulgence of our own will. Rebellion then, is the method that works against repentance.
 - Furthermore, it is rebellion that cultivates “revolt and oppression” (per verse 13)
- If unrepentant, over time our hearts will foster and house the lies we’ve constructed (or been deceived into believing), and it actually attempts to “justify” our sin.
- The problem here that is a classic theological one: *GOD despises sin* and will only seek to destroy it -sin is not sin without a host or instrument. There is no justification for sin unto a holy GOD.
- Justice is turned back
 - Mercy has been rejected and in being rejected has lost ground. Rejection has prompted retreat.

- *Mercy endures forever but we presume that mercy will tolerate rejection forever. (This is dangerous doctrine and altogether foolish thought).*
- Righteousness stands at a distance as if to suggest that for the people of GOD to reject justice (mercy) is to also decide we don't desire rescue or vindication. It's one thing to be wrong but it's another level of wrong when we don't desire to be made right in the least to be helped by One who can make things right.
- Truth has stumbled in the streets and now is hidden while honesty doesn't even have an entry-way.
- *Are we delayed in being restored by GOD because we're so deeply rooted in the recklessness of our sinfulness? Do we see any examples of honesty being avoided and "truth stumbling" amongst us?*
- We live in a country where everyone can be helped but the overwhelming majority of people need help and are refused it daily. And whoever hates evil (let alone speaks up against it), becomes prey by both left and right wingers, hate groups, religious institutions, etc. Do we see it? Do we hear it? Are we paying attention?

GOD's Response to a Broken Nation (Verses 16-20)

- Now it has become so bad, that the prophet sees a great sight. The nation, the world is so far gone and the Lord is appalled that no one will intervene, that GOD takes matters into GOD's own Hands...
 - His own arm achieved salvation for Him.
 - His own righteousness sustained Him.
- The LORD doesn't need us, He make a choice to use us and to keep us around. It brings Him pleasure and what brings Him glory is our obedience. Rest assured however, GOD has GOD's own supply!
- The prophet now describes this "Warrior Redeemer". A Divine Avenger who single handedly destroys with wrath every enemy that have been allowed to oppress the people of GOD.

- An offense upon the people of GOD is an offense to the Kingdom of GOD. (Neither of which GOD tolerates indefinitely.)
- From the WEST people will fear the LORD.
 - (Question: *What hemisphere do we live in, again?*)
- He will come as a “pent up flood” and the Breath of GOD will move Him along.
 - “Breath” represents “Spirit”. Breath carries Word. The Spirit of the LORD empowers the promised Redeemer but the Word of the LORD.
 - The Word also represents promise and covenant.
- We have an opportunity to personally and collectively revisit and recommit. We must. Let it begin with me.