

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

Chapters 57-58

1. **CHAPTER 57** Isaiah continues to delineate the sins of the people, yet they are a very **RELIGIOUS people**—performing all the **religious acts**, but their hearts are evil and they are worshipping themselves and other idols. God views their **sinfulness** as **SPIRITUAL ADULTERY**, since the people were supposed to be **“MARRIED”** to the **TRUE AND LIVING GOD**.

Verse 1: “...none considering that the **RIGHTEOUS** is taken away from the **EVIL TO COME**.”

Isaiah is foretelling that the coming judgment (approximately 100 years away) will surely come to their **last stronghold**, the religious capital itself, **Jerusalem**. **BABYLON** will be the instrument of **JUDGMENT** that God uses upon the **IDOLATROUS city** which houses **HIS VERY OWN TEMPLE**. Isaiah is illustrating that in some circumstances the **RIGHTEOUS**, in God’s mercy, are **SPARED** by being **TAKEN AWAY** from the **EVIL TO COME**. This can mean some righteous people are **CALLED HOME to HEAVEN** to remove them from evil, but also means that God will encourage the **final rulers in Jerusalem** to **SURRENDER** and to be **WILLINGLY TAKEN AWAY to Babylon** because the **JUDGMENT** was of **GOD**. God will provide for them while in Babylonian captivity for 70 years.

Verse 15: “For thus saith the High and Lofty **One** that **INHABITETH ETERNITY**, whose Name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, **with him** also that is of a **CONTRITE and HUMBLE SPIRIT**, to revive the spirit of the **HUMBLE**, and to revive the heart of the **CONTRITE** ones.”

This is the **only occurrence** in the Bible of the word **“ETERNITY.”** It says God **“INHABITS” ETERNITY**. When we as humans think of someone **INHABITING** a house, we think of a structure or **ENVIRONMENT** which helps **contribute** to that person **SUSTAINING an EXISTENCE**. As humans we need to **INHABIT a house** in winter or we would freeze to death. **BUT**, this is **NOT** what is conveyed in this text, because **GOD is the ETERNAL SELF-EXISTENT ONE (I AM THAT I AM) and needs NO ENVIRONMENT** in which to live!!! **He is HIS OWN ENVIRONMENT**. This word, **“INHABITETH,”** means to “permanently rest in a firmly established way.” **“ETERNITY”** means “forever, world without end.” This state or “place” of **EXISTENCE** called **ETERNITY** (and sometimes called **HEAVEN**) does **NOT exist FOR GOD**, but it exists **BECAUSE OF GOD!!!** It is **INFINITY** and is, therefore, **UNQUANTIFIABLE**. It is a “level” of existence that as **FINITE HUMANS** we can only **know exists** because of a higher law of understanding, the **LAW OF FAITH**. It will be our **FUTURE EXISTENCE, PERMANENTLY RESTING** (because **Jesus** has made us to **REST** from trying to be righteous—He is our Righteousness) in a **FIRMLY ESTABLISHED** way or manner—**WORLD without END!!!**

QUESTION: In this unspeakable, indescribable “place” (level of existence) which the Apostle Paul said that he was caught up to (*the Third Heaven 2 Cor. 12:2*) when he was stoned and left for dead, **GOD** says He **will dwell** with **WHOM???**

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: When we hear of churches having “**REVIVAL**” services, who are the **ONLY ONES** who can be **REVIVED**?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: What does “**CONTRITE**” mean? (*We need to know since contrite spirits are those with whom God will dwell.*)

ANSWER: (See Ps. 34:18; 51:17, Isa. 66:2; Matt. 5:3) _____

QUESTION: What does “**HUMBLE**” mean? (*Remember, this word is closely associated with the word “**MEEK**” which was used to describe **MOSES!!!***)

ANSWER: _____

Although there is an **ETERNITY** that awaits us after death, we’ve **begun ETERNITY NOW** and have **ALMIGHTY GOD ALREADY DWELLING IN US, HIS TEMPLES**, through the **OUTPOURING** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** on the **DAY of PENTECOST**.

Verse 21: “There is **NO PEACE**, saith my God, to the **WICKED**.”

WHAAAAAAA? I’ve seen plenty of **WICKED PEOPLE** seemingly living “**PEACEFUL**” lives!!!!???

QUESTION: What kind of **PEACE** is Isaiah talking about? (*Hint: Think about the Old Testament offerings and what the angels announced to the shepherds at the Birth of Jesus.*)

ANSWER: (See Ez. 37:22-28) _____

CHAPTER 58 Isaiah is still denouncing the sins of the people in being **RELIGIOUS** but just not getting the true, spiritual meaning of the religious activities, such as **FASTING**.

Verse 6: “Is not **THIS** the **FAST** that I have chosen? To **LOOSE** the bands of wickedness, to **UNDO** the heavy burdens, and to let the **OPPRESSED** go free, and that ye **BREAK EVERY YOKE?**”

God through Isaiah is telling His people that they’ve **GOT IT ALL WRONG!!!** It’s not **OUTWARD** religion that He wants. It’s **INWARD** change of heart, **HOLINESS**,

RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, the LOVER of our SOULS (as Song of Solomon shows us).

This **FAST** is **NEW TESTAMENT COVENANT/ WORSHIP!!!** Jesus came to **LOOSE** those bound up in sin. He commissioned His followers and all of us to go about the business of the GOSPEL and **LOOSING** people from their sins **through FAITH in His REDEMPITIVE** work at the Cross!!

Jesus told us to come unto Him, all of us who are **heavy laden** and **BURDENED**. He told us to **CHANGE YOKES—YOKE** up with **HIM**, then our **BURDEN** would be **LIGHT**. He further said that we would **find REST!**

To further show that **THIS FAST** represents the **NEW TESTATMENT COVENANT in JESUS CHRIST**, Isaiah states that the **OPPRESSED GO FREE!** Look at the New Testament fulfillment of this passage in Isaiah:

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed **Jesus of Nazareth** with the Holy Ghost and with **POWER:** who went about doing good, and **HEALING ALL** that were **OPPRESSED** of the devil; for God was with Him.”