

## ISAIAH 59

Verses 1-20 – Poetry

Verse 21 - Prose

Verse 1

**Behold:**

The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,  
Neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear!

Verse 2

(But)  
(and)

Your iniquities have separated you and your God,  
Your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear you.

*(These are/were covenant people – “Your God”)*

Verse 3

(For)  
(and)

Your hands *(palms)* are defiled with blood,  
Your fingers are defiled with iniquity.

Your lips have spoken lies *(guile)*,  
Your tongue hath muttered perverseness *(duplicity)*.

*(“Lips”, “Tongue” names for King of Assyria full of guile)*

Verse 4

None calleth for justice, *(Plaintiff)*  
None pleadeth for truth. *(Defendant)*

(and) They trust in vanity,  
They speak lies.

(and) They conceive mischief,  
They bring forth iniquity.

Verse 5

(and) They hatch cockatrice' *(vipers')* eggs,  
They weave the spider's web.

(and) He that eateth of their eggs dieth,  
He that crusheth their eggs breaketh out a viper.

Verse 6

Their webs shall not become garments,  
Neither shall they cover themselves with their works.

*(Viper – Satan, Webs – Sin, all comes to naught, no real work of creation.)*

(and) Their works are works of iniquity,  
Their works are acts of violence in their hands.

- Verse 7  
(and) Their feet run to evil,  
They make haste to shed innocent blood.
- Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,  
Wasting and destruction are in their paths.  
(Their thoughts are preoccupied with mischief; havoc and disaster follow in their wake.)
- Verse 8  
(and) The way of peace they know not,  
There is no judgment in their goings.  
(They are unacquainted with the way of perfection; integrity is not within their bounds.)
- They have made them<sup>(selves)</sup> crooked paths,  
Whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.
- (These are motifs of the time before the flood – “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Gen 6: 1-22)
- Verse 9  
Therefore is judgment far from us,  
Neither doth justice overtake us.
- A We wait for light,  
B But, behold obscurity.
- A We wait for brightness (hope),  
B But, we walk in darkness (gloom).
- Verse 10  
(and) We grope for the wall like the blind,  
We grope as if we had no eyes.
- We stumble at noon day as in the night,  
We are in desolate places as dead men.  
(In the prime of life we resemble the dead.)
- Verse 11  
(and) We roar (grumble) all like bears,  
We mourn sore like doves.
- A We look for judgment (justice),  
B But, there is none.
- A We look for salvation,  
B But, it is far off from us.
- (They have deceived and oppressed others so long, now they are caught in their own traps and find no hope or salvation. A reversal of circumstances. See John 9:1-12)
- Verse 12  
(For )  
(and) Our transgressions are multiplied before thee,  
Our sins testify against us.

(and) Our iniquities (are evident),  
We know them.

Verse 13 (and) Transgressing and lying against (denying) the Lord,  
(and) Departing away from our God.

(and) Speaking oppressions and revolt,  
Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.  
(Perversely planning ways of extortion, conceiving in the mind and pondering illicit transactions.)

Verse 14 (So) **A** Judgement is (compelled to) turn away backward,  
(And) **B** Justice (is compelled to) stand afar off.

(For) **A** Truth is fallen in the street,  
(And) **B** Equity cannot enter.

Verse 15 (Yea) Truth faileth,  
(and) He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey.  
(When integrity is lacking, they who shun evil become a prey.)

(and) The Lord saw it,  
(and) It displeased him that there was no judgment.

Verse 16 (And) The Lord saw that there was no man,  
(and) The Lord wondered that there was no intercessor.

(Like during the time before the flood. There is no one defending righteousness so the Lord must do it himself.)

(Therefore) The Lord's (own) arm brought salvation unto him,  
(and) The Lord's righteousness, it sustained him.

Verse 17 (For) He put on righteousness as a breastplate,  
(and) He put on an helmet of salvation upon his head.

(and) He put on the garments of vengeance for clothes,  
(and) He was clad with zeal (fury) as a cloak.

Verse 18 According to their deeds,  
Accordingly, he will repay.

Fury to his adversaries,  
Recompence to his enemies; to the islands, he will repay  
recompence.

(Universal judgement – even unto the isles of the sea)

Verse 19 (So) They shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,  
(and) They shall fear 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.

Verse 20 (And) (But he shall come as) "The Redeemer to Zion,"  
(and) He shall come unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob,  
saith the Lord.

Verse 21 **As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord:**

(and) My spirit that is upon thee,  
My words which I have put in thy mouth.

Shall not depart out of thy mouth,  
Shall not depart out of the mouth of thy seed,  
Shall not depart out of the mouth of thy seed's seed.

**Saith the Lord:**

(and) From henceforth,  
For ever.