

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## There's Only ONE Superhero—And WE NEED Him!

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** Isaiah 59:16-21; Is. 59:1-15; Is. 53:12; Is. 52:14; Ex. 2:23-25; Ezek. 34:11-12; Col. 2:13-15; Is. 9:5-6; Is. 42:6; Is. 49:8; Is. 53:10

Isaiah 59 paints a world we recognize far too easily. Justice is turned back, righteousness stands far away, truth stumbles in the street, and whoever turns from evil becomes prey. It is a picture of a society devoured by self-interest, where everyone becomes a kingdom unto themselves, and where crookedness feels like the only way to survive. The deeper tragedy is not merely that the world is broken, but that no human being can truly fix it. No one can intervene deeply enough, purely enough, or powerfully enough to deal with the root problem of rebellion and sin.

That is why this passage is full of such hope. The Lord sees it all. He is not blind to the devastation, not deaf to the cries of His people, and not too weak to save. *“God heard their sobbing and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saw Bnei-Yisrael, and He was concerned about them”* (Ex. 2:24-25). Isaiah 59:16-21 shows us that when no one else could step in, God Himself did. There is only one superhero, and we need Him.

#### 1. WHEN NO ONE COULD INTERVENE, THE LORD STEPPED IN

Isaiah says, *“He saw that there was no one—He was astonished that no one was interceding. Therefore His own arm (זְרוּעַ, z’roa) brought salvation for Him, and His righteousness upheld Him”* (Is. 59:16). The language is not describing surprise, as though God had not expected any of this. It is the language of horror, like looking at the aftermath of devastation and feeling the weight of how ruined everything has become. The Lord looked upon the condition of humanity and saw that there was no person able to step into this disaster and make it right. No one had the strength. No one had the righteousness. No one could truly intervene.

This is where our hope begins: God saw, and God acted. He did not leave the world to collapse under the weight of its own rebellion. He said, in effect, *“I Myself will do what no one else can do.”* That is the heartbeat behind *“Here I am! I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out”* (Ezek. 34:11). The same God who saw Israel in Egypt, who heard their groaning, is the God who saw the deeper slavery of sin and stepped in with His own arm. Salvation did not come through human cleverness, moral striving, or religious performance. It came because the Lord Himself intervened.

#### 2. WHAT LOOKED LIKE DEFEAT WAS ACTUALLY HIS VICTORY

Isaiah 59:17 says, *“He put on righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation on His head. He clothed Himself in robes of vengeance and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak.”* This is one of the most striking pictures in the chapter. What looked, in the suffering of the Servant, like weakness, exposure, and crushing defeat was in fact God fully clothed in righteousness, salvation, vengeance, and zeal. In Isaiah 52-53, the arm (זְרוּעַ, z’roa) of the Lord did not look the way anyone expected. *“To whom is the arm (זְרוּעַ, z’roa) of ADONAI revealed?”* (Is. 53:1). We saw the suffering. We saw the wounds. We saw the crushing. But in that very moment, God was acting powerfully.

The cross did not mean Yeshua was losing. It meant He was conquering in the way only God could conquer. *“After disarming the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross”* (Col. 2:15). The vengeance of God was not selfish rage; it was His holy determination to crush the destroyer, to judge sin, and to save His people. Yeshua, having never once lived in self-serving rebellion, gave Himself in the most selfless act imaginable. What looked like weakness was the armor of God revealed. What looked like humiliation was the triumph of righteousness. What looked like defeat was the intervention of heaven.

### **3. THE REDEEMER BRINGS LASTING RESTORATION FOR ALL WHO TURN**

Isaiah moves from divine intervention to divine outcome. *“So from the west they will fear the Name of ADONAI, and His glory from the rising of the sun... But a Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression”*(Is. 59:19–20). The work of the Redeemer does not stay small or local. It reaches from west to east. It produces awe, reverence, and the spread of God’s glory. At the same time, it remains deeply personal: the Redeemer comes for those who turn. The section that began with rebellion ends with repentance and redemption. God exposes sin not to humiliate His people, but to bring them home.

Then the chapter closes with covenant hope: *“As for Me, this is My covenant with them... My Ruach who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, or from the mouth of your offspring, or from the mouth of your children’s offspring... from now on and forever”* (Is. 59:21). This promise reaches beyond one generation. Through the Anointed One, the Servant, God secures an enduring relationship marked by His Spirit and His Word. The Redeemer does not merely rescue people from danger; He creates a covenant people whose future is held by divine determination. This is not fragile hope resting on human effort. It is secure hope resting on God’s commitment.

### **CONCLUSION**

Isaiah 59 reminds us that the world is more broken than we often want to admit. Justice is turned back. Truth goes missing. Uprightness is kept outside. And when human beings are left to themselves, self-interest devours everything. Even the one who tries to shun evil becomes prey. That diagnosis is severe, but it is honest. Scripture does not flatter us. It tells the truth about how deep the problem really is. And that is why the good news shines so brightly here: God did not look at the devastation and walk away.

He saw that there was no one, so He came Himself. His own arm brought salvation. His own righteousness upheld Him. The Redeemer came to Zion. The Servant bore what we could not bear, did what we could not do, and secured what we could never secure for ourselves. There is only one superhero, and we need Him. We do not need a little inspiration, a little moral improvement, or a little religious polish. We need the Lord to intervene, to redeem, to transform, and to establish His covenant life in us through His Spirit and His Word.

We must stop trusting in the web of human effort, self-protection, and spiritual appearance. We must stop assuming that the answer is somewhere inside our own strength. The passage is clear—there was no one. And if there was no one then, there is still no one now except Him. The good news is that God has not left you to carry what you cannot carry. The Redeemer has come. If you know that you have been living in your own way, clinging to your own self-rule, then this

is the moment to turn. Isaiah says the Redeemer comes “*to those in Jacob who turn from transgression*” (Is. 59:20). Turn from rebellion. Turn from self-reliance. Turn from the exhausting burden of trying to save yourself. Come to Yeshua, the Servant, the Redeemer, the arm of the Lord revealed. Trust Him not only to forgive you, but to clothe you in His life, to put His Word in your mouth, and to hold you in His covenant from now on and forever.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In what ways do you see the picture of Is. 59:14–15 reflected in the world around you today?
2. Why is it important to recognize that God’s response in Is. 59:16 is not surprise, but holy dismay and compassion?
3. How does seeing the cross as God’s victory—not His defeat—change the way you view Yeshua’s suffering?
4. What does it mean personally for you that the Redeemer comes to those who turn from transgression?
5. How does the covenant promise of God’s Spirit and Word in Is. 59:21 give you hope for your own life and for future generations?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King*, we thank You that You see. You are not blind to the ruin, not deaf to the cries, and not too weak to save. Thank You that when there was no one to intervene, Your own arm brought salvation. Thank You for Yeshua, the Redeemer, who bore our sin, triumphed through the cross, and made a way for us to be restored to You.

Teach us to turn fully from rebellion and self-reliance. Deliver us from trusting our own ways, our own strength, and our own righteousness. Fill us with Your Ruach, place Your Word deeply within us, and make us a people who live in reverence, truth, and covenant faithfulness. Let the glory of Your Name be seen in us from this day forward.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.