

**How to Cancel the Past  
Confession, Repentance and Deliverance  
Isaiah 59:9 – 21**

**Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:**

**ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.**

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,  
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)**

**Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2016 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.**

**Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.**

**The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992**

**Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY**

We have seen Isaiah outline the future for the remnant and he has also given us a glimpse of the remnant at the end of the age as Messiah returns and rescues His people.

Then we learned about the religious hypocrisy taking place in Judah. In fact we learned that their hypocrisy had sunk to the point that they were mixing YAHWEH worship and idolatry together and placing performance expectations on YAHWEH. But for those who remain faithful, there is a glorious future at the time of rule and reign of Messiah here on earth.

In Judah, there are those who are faithful, but the number is getting much smaller under the rule of a King who has made it politically correct to persecute true believers. Under Manasseh, before he repented, it was politically correct to sacrifice children to false gods, worship false gods even in the Temple, and cancel those who wanted to worship YAHWEH.

The opportunity for repentance still exists, but the nation is running headlong to destruction. They are doing the ritual and wondering why no answered prayer. There is no faith, no loyalty, no following of YAHWEH exclusively over all others.

Isaiah has been encouraging the nation to repent. The message he has been giving them has been consistent. His heart is to see all of Israel to return to YAHWEH, even though he was told upon his commissioning by YAHWEH and the divine council they would not listen.

Isaiah 6:10 "Make the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes blind, So that they will not see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed." (NASB 2020)

Even with that being the case, there will be those who hear and repent. They will be part of the remnant.

The indictment has been presented and the accusation against the people is firm. But those who truly hear react to the message. They are overwhelmed with what they have become, and they begin by confession, providing a picture of the present condition for the nation.

Since what YAHWEH has said about the hypocrisy of the nation and the sin of the nation is true, then here is where they are. We overhear them talking. “There must be evil results of such conduct, and indeed there are. As a result of what has just been described (‘al-ken) the following evils have come.” (Young 1972, 433)

Isaiah 59:9–11

“Therefore justice is far from us, And righteousness does not reach us; We hope for light, but there is darkness, For brightness, but we walk in gloom. We grope for the wall like people who are blind, We grope like those who have no eyes. We stumble at midday as in the twilight; Among those who are healthy we are like the dead. 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.” (NASB 2020)

Because of the way they are living, the hedge of protection formerly around them, is gone. The surrounding nations are no longer being inhibited by YAHWEH from attacking Judah.

The surrounding nations are moving in and out of the land and imposing whatever they want with no resulting judgement from YAHWEH on the foreign nations for their actions. The people are recognizing that “We are left by God unavenged, and our enemies are left unpunished on account of our many transgressions.” (Spence-Jones 1910, 386)

This is Israel’s confession. They confess they are in darkness. They confess that their religious rituals have all been a pretense. (McGee 1997, 331)

That is the problem with religious hypocrisy and religious syncretism. We become convinced that since we are doing religion, everything is okay, when it isn’t.

This sounds like our nation today. Those who are responsible for the spiritual health of our nation, the churches, have failed. This is reflected by the prevalent worldview today. Biblical literacy is at all time low. This is a similar picture to what was going on in Judah.

Amos 8:11–12

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.” (ESV)

His people experienced this. First, they stop reading the word, then they ignored the word, the Lord sent warnings, but they refused to listen, so He gave them what they wanted.

As a topic of research, George Barna has been studying Biblical literacy and worldview and he reports the following.

“...only half of the nation’s adult population (54%) believes that the Bible is the word of God. Even fewer – just four out of ten (41%) – believe that the Bible is totally true in all of its empirical and historical statements. Stunningly, when comparing the current data with that from 2000, there has been 21 percentage point decline in the proportion of adults who believe the Bible is the word of God (from 75% to 54%) and a 17-point drop in the number who believe the Bible is without error (from 58% to 41%).

As a person’s trust in the Bible declines, so does the likelihood they will develop a biblical worldview. For example, “born-again” Christians constitute one-third of the population (33%) but less than one out of five holds a biblical worldview (19%), a figure that while low, is triple the national average (6%).

Unsurprisingly, among “Spiritual Skeptics,” the fastest-growing faith segment in the nation (21%), less than one-half of one percent hold a biblical worldview. (Barna 2020)

The conditions we see in our country today are strangely like what was seen in Judah by Isaiah. We must remember that the enemy and his minions have been at this for thousands of years and their playbook has not really changed all that much.

Ecclesiastes 1:9–11

“What has happened before will happen again. What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing new in the whole world. “Look,” they say, “here is something new!” But no, it has all happened before, long before we were born. No one remembers what has happened in the past, and no one in days to come will remember what happens between now and then.” (GNB)

1 Peter 5:8–10

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.” (NLT)

The need for us today is the same need Judah had over 2700 years ago, revival. We must have a fresh taste of the Lord.

Isaiah was thorough in what he conveyed. “The secret work of divine enabling (57:19) and the proclamation of God’s law (58:1–14) have brought the people to the place where they acknowledge the darkness (9), helplessness (10), bitterness (11ab), hopelessness (11cd) and guiltiness (12) of sin. The grave problems revealed in the accusatory (1–4) and descriptive (5–8) sections are not to be laid at the door of ‘society’ or deprivation or whatever; they are the outward manifestation of us (9) in our personal sinfulness.” (Motyer 1999, 413-414)

Those who have been listening to what it is YAHWEH has been saying through Isaiah have been deeply impacted by his words resulting in a recognition of their condition. They had added things to their faith and had reached the point where ritual, or so they thought, was sufficient to get things done. It really was not.

For us today, it isn’t so much ritual but more along the lines of busyness. We have a lot going on in our lives and simply do not have all the time we would like to have to be able to spend with the Lord. We find we live via sound bites and if they sound “ok,” we add them to our “spiritual repertoire.”

### The Dominant Worldview Embraced by American Adults

Dominant Worldview	% of Adults
Biblical	6%
Secular	2%
Moralistic Therapeutic Deism	1%
Postmodernism	1%
Nihilism	1%
Eastern Mysticism	Less than ½ of 1%
Marxism	Less than ½ of 1%
Syncretism	88%

(Barna, American Worldview Inventory 2021, Release #1 America's Dominant Worldview Syncretism 2021)

Seeing that the prevalent worldview today is syncretism, our culture is no different than the one in Judah of Isaiah’s time.

But God sees the condition of our souls, how we have exchanged the anointing for professionalism, how we have traded dependence on the Spirit for fleshly endeavors, how we have substituted a carnal business approach for our first love devotion. Now is the time to awaken! What is the condition of your heart today? Are you hungry, thirsty, and desperate? If so, that is an excellent sign. Self-satisfaction is a spiritual curse. Be assured that there is more! (Brown 2021, 9)

The people of Judah wanted to see the judgment of God on those who were oppressing them. They wanted to see His justice and righteousness move to protect them. They have recognized the reason it was not happening is because they had opted to walk in darkness. For them, the darkness was so dark it was as if they never had eyes to begin with. This was a condition that was promised to occur if they failed to follow YAHWEH as they had promised they would.

The people had decided that believing loyalty to YAHWEH was no longer required, they went elsewhere.

Deuteronomy 28:28–29

“The LORD will strike you with madness, blindness, and panic. You will grope around in broad daylight like a blind person groping in the darkness, but you will not find your way. You will be oppressed and robbed continually, and no one will come to save you.” (NLT)

They are precisely where Moses said they would be, and they know it. Madness is the rule of the day. How is it you can worship YAHWEH in the Temple and then walk about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the valley and sacrifice children within site of the Temple? Madness.

The comparisons to the present culture are too numerous to mention.

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.” (NASB 2020)

The people are unhappy, disappointed, in sorrow and in pain. Ezekiel said this would be the condition of those left after the fall of Jerusalem. “And if any survivors escape, they will be on the mountains, like doves of the valleys, all of them moaning, each one over his iniquity.” (Ezekiel 7:16, ESV)

Isaiah 59:12–15a

“For our wrongful acts have multiplied before You, And our sins have testified against us; For our wrongful acts are with us, And we know our wrongdoings: Offending and denying the LORD, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart. Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, And one who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey...” (NASB 2020)

This is confession of sin.

Just as we saw what took place with King Manasseh (The Prayer of Manasseh 1:1 – 15, 2 Chronicles 33:18 – 20) when he reached that point, those who take their plight seriously know there is only one possible solution...repentance. They turn to the Lord in prayer.

Isaiah 59:12

“For our wrongful acts have multiplied before You, And our sins have testified against us; For our wrongful acts are with us, And we know our wrongdoings:” (NASB 2020)

Those who are part of the remnant have done the math and put together the only possible solution; confession of their sins. For us as believers today, this is the exact same starting point to restoration.

1 John 1:6–2:6

“If we say we have fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us. (My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.) But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous One, and he himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we have come to know God: if we keep his commandments. The one who says “I have come to know God” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. But whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked.” (NET)

The remnant recognized that their problems stemmed from their numerous sins, transgressions and iniquities. (Smith 1992, 160)

There is now the realization that what has happened to them is not because God is not listening, or His arm is too short to save. There is now a realization that this has nothing to do with them having a performance expectation of God but rather the other way around, thus their recognition of their crimes, their sins and their offences.

There is a new knowledge of their guilt.

Isaiah 59:13

“Offending and denying the LORD, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart.” (NASB 2020)

As the confession continues, there is a recognition by the people that it is not the Lord who dropped the ball because of their fasting and hypocritical ritual, but they are the ones who have created the offense to the Lord. There is more to this than offending and denying. There is also the realization that the bulk of the nation, those who should know better, have actively engaged in their disloyalty to YAHWEH not just denying Him, but feigning obedience.

פָּשָׁע – paso - to break with, to rebel, revolt against...to break away from...to behave as a criminal...disloyal. (Koehler, et al. 1994 - 2000, 981)

כִּהְיֶה – kahes - to grow lean, decrease...to deceive...to feign obedience, to fawn...to deny, disavow...to keep secret. (Koehler, et al. 1994 - 2000, 469-470)

These two words translated offending and denying in the NASB2020 are in the active voice. This has become a lifestyle issue for Judah.

They are indeed rebelling and treacherously denying or disowning the LORD. They turn away from the true God in disloyalty. Their words are full of oppression and revolt that include spiritual apostasy. Their hearts and minds are the source of muttered expressions of falsehood and deception. (Horton 2000, 427)

The confession is laying everything out. They are saying “We know our wrongdoings,” then they list them.

Oppression – אָשַׁק – oseq - violence, injury, especially oppression of the poor, as shewn in defrauding, extortion, spoliation... something taken away by force, or fraud...anguish. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 660)

Revolt – סָרָה – sara(h) - a turning aside, defection, apostasy, withdrawal. (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 694)

As part of the confession, there is the realization that they have actively revolted against the Lord becoming disloyal to Him and instead have actively feigned obedience, becoming religious hypocrites. This has resulted in them turning away from God and now even their words spread fraud by using the court system to take away property from the poor which actively reveals just how apostate they truly are. They have reached the point where they are now the ones with the ideas. No longer do they need to listen to the lies of the evil one as they are growling out deception as an exhibition of what they truly are inside.

Psalm 115:4–8

“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.” (ESV)

They no longer make sense in what they do or say. Madness. The outward appearance is there, but inwardly, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.” (Matthew 23:27, ESV)

Isaiah 59:14

“Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter.” (NASB 2020)

Because of the sinful conditions outlined in verse 12 & 13, that which they admitted to being far from them in verse 9, is not possible in their current condition. Isaiah has covered the problems within the judicial system several times, now that has also become an item of confession. The courts are indeed upside down. Judah, which is supposed to be an example of justice truth and equity, is not.

Isaiah 59:15

“Truth is lacking, And one who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.” (NASB 2020)

Adding the first part of this verse to verse 14, we learn the following about what the conditions are: “moral absolutes have disappeared (14ab), public morality has collapsed (14cd) and individual moral character is under threat (15ab).” (J. A. Motyer 1996, 491)

Once again, the conditions being seen in the Judah of Isaiah circa 700 BC seem to also be the conditions we see developing around us circa 2021.

When we use the term moral absolutes, we are using a term foreign to the 21st century. It was also foreign to Judah.

They threw out moral absolutism, embraced relativism, rejected God’s word as being foundational truth and did whatever the culture and the situation they found themselves in said was ok to do.

What is moral absolutism?

Moral absolutism is the philosophy that mankind is subject to absolute standards of conduct that do not change with circumstances, the intent of the acting agent, or the result of the act. These standards are universal to all humanity despite culture or era, and they maintain their relevance whether or not an individual or a culture values them. It is never appropriate to break a law which is based on one of these

absolutes. Moral absolutism does not dictate which acts are moral or immoral, however, merely that absolute morality does exist. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

For example, lying is always wrong, no matter the reason for the lie. Today we do not say someone lied; we say they misspoke. God's opinion though has never changed.

Proverbs 12:22

"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight." (ESV)

2700 years ago, the people of Judah were not following YAHWEH but had added in other things and were idolators, syncretistic in theology, and they did not hold to moral absolutes but held to a form of relativism, like many around us today.

The most widely held moral view in our culture is called relativism. Relativism holds that societies and/or individuals decide what is right and wrong and that those values vary from culture to culture or person to person. There are no objective, universal moral truths—just conventions for behavior that are created by people for people and that are subject to change. (Powell 2006, 72)

It would then follow that if there are no truths other than your truth, then only your truth is true truth, to you, but maybe not to me.

Relativism not only is unlivable, but it also turns out to be self-defeating or what philosophers call self-referentially absurd. Consider the statement "There is no absolute truth; that is, there is nothing that is true for all people at all times in all places." Ask the question, is that true? That is, is it true that there is no absolute truth? Does it hold for all people that there is nothing that holds for all people? Is it the case for all people in all places at all times that there is nothing that is the case for all people in all places at all times? Or is relativism merely the opinion of the author? If it is the opinion of the speaker, why should I accept it? If, on the other hand, it is true that there is no truth, then the relativist has admitted that there is, in fact, something that is true for all people at all times in all places. (Anderson 2021, 57)

What about the Word of God then?

It is an important principle to remember, in the contemporary interest in communication and in language study, that the biblical presentation is that though we do not have exhaustive truth, we have from the Bible what I term "true truth." In this way we know true truth about God, true truth about man, and something truly about nature. Thus on the basis of the Scriptures, while we do not have exhaustive knowledge, we have true and unified knowledge. (Schaeffer 1982, 218-219)

The Bible is true truth. All of it. Even the parts you don't like.

There is one more thing that relativism leads to and that is situational ethics. "Situational ethics is a particular view of moral ethics that holds that the morality of an act is determined by its context. Situational ethics states that if there is a right and wrong, it is merely determined by the desired outcome of the situation. Situational ethics is different from moral relativism in that moral relativism states that there is no right or wrong. Situational ethics envelopes a code of ethics in which meeting the needs of each situation determines what is right or wrong." (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

God's word though clearly states God is sovereign (1 Timothy 6:15). He is the creator (Genesis 1:1) and sustainer of His creation (Colossians 1:17). God's word provides for how we should and should not act. He has not changed His mind. "All of God's Word is true. To suggest that the Bible advocates situational ethics would be to imply that there are errors contained therein. That is not possible. It is not possible because of number 1, God is creator and sustainer." (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

Judah was confused about truth, and the net is...truth is lacking.

Isaiah 59:15a

“Truth is lacking, And one who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey...” (NASB 2020)

Because there is neither faithfulness nor integrity in the society, life quickly falls to the lowest common denominator of self-seeking: be crooked to someone else before he is crooked to you. The person who does not choose that way opens himself or herself up to being taken advantage of in the most egregious ways. (Oswalt 1998, 524)

We have now seen the confession of those who have admitted they are sinners. This confession has been rather pointed that the nation that was proud to say they belonged to YAHWEH, did not live up to that fact at all.

The confession is over. God’s people, Israel, are wholly incapable of doing righteousness. Without the Lord, we have the same issue. The enemy is not a nation, but the enemy is sin. The reason for the Suffering Servant was redemption. The text moves from confession of wrong living, to how God intends to deal with the root cause of what is the true enemy of Israel, really all mankind, and that is sin.

Isaiah 59:15b–20

“...Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. And He saw that there was no one, And was amazed that there was not one to intercede; Then His own arm brought salvation to Him, And His righteousness upheld Him. He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, so will He repay: Wrath to His adversaries, retribution to His enemies; To the coastlands He will deal retribution. 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. “A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those in Jacob who turn from wrongdoing,” declares the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

We see YAHWEH taking action against the true enemy. Sin is an infectious disease that impacts every single person on the planet so when the Lord states it was displeasing that there was no justice, truly this is a problem worldwide.

Isaiah 59:16

“And He saw that there was no one, And was amazed that there was not one to intercede; Then His own arm brought salvation to Him, And His righteousness upheld Him.” (NASB 2020)

The condition caused by sin has rendered all of man incapable of standing up and interceding for those who are suffering from injustice. This tells us that the courts try, but fail since, as we learned earlier in Isaiah, the courts are corrupt.

He saw there was no one – Looking at the Hebrew, we see there is more to this.

Isaiah 59:16

וַיֵּרָא כִּי־אֵין אִישׁ וַיִּשְׁתַּחַמֵּם כִּי אֵין מַפְגִּיעַ וַתּוֹשַׁע לֹד זָרְעוֹ וַצַּדִּיקָתוֹ הִיא סִמְכָתָהּ:  
(Weil, et al. 2003, Isaiah 59:16)

There are three words in the Hebrew I want to focus on

And He saw - וַיֵּרָא - way yar - see; understand; spy, reveal, look at, examine, inspect; show. (Brannan 2020)

That there was no - כִּי־אֵין - ki en - non-existence; nothing; not, no; without. (Lexham Press 2017)



One – אִישׁ – is - man, also male of animals...husband...those of high rank...man (as a human being), person. (Holladay and Köhler 2000, 13-14)

And He inspected, examined, showed there was nothing in existence, no man, no person of high or low rank, no one.

No human can or would address the sin problem. This is a problem that only God can resolve, and He did so in the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ.

Since no one stepped forward, this left an appalling situation in which nothing was being done to confront and defeat the evil that dominated the world and nothing was being done on behalf of the righteous. God's reaction to these circumstances in v. 16b was to employ his arm, a symbol of his power, to do his work of salvation (from *yāša'*). Parallel to God's almighty power are "his righteous deeds" (*šidqātō*), an idea that is parallel to God's salvation in the preceding line. Righteousness is that moral quality of acting justly and faithfully that directs God's hand to accomplish his righteous deeds of salvation and judgment. Thus God's power and uprightness will direct all that he does. (G. Smith 2009, 600-601)

We cannot solve this problem on our own. Government cannot solve this problem for us, doctors cannot solve this problem for us, neither can philosophers or thinkers or our own intellect.

Only God can solve this problem, and He has done so.

Romans 5:6–11

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life? Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation." (NET)

Isaiah 59:17

"He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a cloak." (NASB 2020)

We see Isaiah writing about the actions of the Lord using terms that help us to understand what He is doing. We are given a picture of the Lord putting on clothing. He is seen putting on a breastplate, helmet, clothing and a cloak. Two are for battle, and two give us the ops order of the day for what it is the Lord is doing.

It is highly anthropomorphic since the prophet describes Yahweh as putting on the armor of a soldier. As we noted in the introductory comments on this section, this warrior imagery for Yahweh occurs throughout the Old Testament (see, for example, 40:10; 42:13; 51:9; Exo 15:3–4). It is usually connected with divine judgment, especially against Israel's enemies. (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 1676)

For us as believers, we have access to the same armor that God uses.

Ephesians 6:13–17

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," (ESV)

The big difference are the two items speaking to clothing. The garments are those of retribution, vengeance. At the end of the age, when God moves against the earth dwellers, it is in payment for what they have done to believers through out the ages as well as what the beast has done. He moves operationally in retribution.

Nahum 1:2–3

“The LORD is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies! The LORD is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet.” (NLT)

No weapon is mentioned. He is dressed for war and has the express purpose of undoing all that has happened to His people. His own right arm is sufficient. We see this same picture of Jesus who returns at the end of the tribulation and His word is sufficient as a weapon.

Revelation 19:14–15

“And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.” (ESV)

His own arm did it, and His righteousness upheld Him as He was sufficient though none else were. He put on righteousness like a breastplate, He had a helmet of salvation on His head, He donned garments of vengeance, He wrapped Himself with zeal as with a robe, He will repay men’s works, etc. (Rosscup 2008, 1144)

Isaiah 59:18–19

“According to their deeds, so will He repay: Wrath to His adversaries, retribution to His enemies; To the coastlands He will deal retribution. 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.” (NASB 2020)

When the Messiah returns, His victory and achievements will be worldwide. He will be feared and worshipped globally upon His return.

Revelation 6:15–17

“Then the kings of the earth, the very important people, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”” (NET)

Zechariah 14:8–9

“Moreover, on that day living waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea; it will happen both in summer and in winter. The LORD will then be king over all the earth. In that day the LORD will be seen as one with a single name.” (NET)

It is neither personal vindictiveness nor an impersonal process of retribution that works itself out in the course of history. It is rather the “response of [God’s] holiness to persistent and impenitent wickedness.” (Mounce 1997, 152-153)

Nahum 1:6

“Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.” (ESV)

Indeed, His right arm is all that is needed. He who spoke the entire universe into existence from nothing is sovereign.

When Messiah returns and rescues His people at the end of the Tribulation, He secures a worldwide result. All will fear Him and His appearance and work is part of the redemption of His people as He fulfills His duty as the avenger of blood.

Isaiah 59:20–21

““A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those in Jacob who turn from wrongdoing,” declares the LORD. “As for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit who 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.”” (NASB 2020)

In the dark days yet to come, with Babylon about to take the nation into exile, Jeremiah also talks of this same day

Jeremiah 31:31–34

““The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD. “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”” (NLT)

The event be discussed here at the end of chapter 59 is the event we know as the second coming of Jesus Christ. As a result of His people asking for Him to come and save them, He returns as the avenger of blood redeeming His people and establishing, as both Isaiah and Jeremiah point out, a new covenant.

Matthew 5:17–18

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (ESV)

That is the day being referenced here in Isaiah. Messiah has returned to Zion and everything changes.

We begin to see that as we move into chapter 60 next time.

## Works Cited

- Anderson, Tawa J. 2021. *Why Believe: Christian Apologetics for a Skeptical Age*, Hobbs College Library. Edited by Heath A. Thomas. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic.
- Barna, George. 2020. "American Worldview Inventory 2020 - At a Glance, Release #2: Faith and Worldview." *Arizona Christian University Cultural Research Center*. April 7. Accessed November 17, 2021. [https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CRC-AWVI-2020-Release-02\\_Faith-and-Worldview-1.pdf](https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CRC-AWVI-2020-Release-02_Faith-and-Worldview-1.pdf).
- . 2021. "American Worldview Inventory 2021, Release #1 America's Dominant Worldview Syncretism." *Arizona Christian Univeristy Cultural Research Center*. April 13. Accessed November 17, 2021. [https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CRC\\_AWVI2021\\_Release01\\_Digital\\_01\\_20210413.pdf](https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CRC_AWVI2021_Release01_Digital_01_20210413.pdf).

- Brannan, Rick, ed. 2020. *Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible*, Lexham Research Lexicons. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Brown, Francis, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs. 1977. *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Brown, Michael L. 2021. *Revival or We Die*. Kindle Edition. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, Inc.
- Gesenius, Wilhelm, and Samuel Prideaux Tregelles. 2003. *Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.
- Got Questions Ministries. 2002-2013. *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.
- Holladay, William Lee, and Ludwig Köhler. 2000. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill.
- Horton, Stanley M. 2000. *Isaiah: A Logion Press Commentary, Logion Press Commentary Series*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press.
- Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, M. E. J. Richardson, and J. J. Stamm. 1994 - 2000. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill.
- Lexham Press. 2017. *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- McGee, J. Vernon. 1997. *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic Edition. Vol. 3. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
- Motyer, J. A. 1996. *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Motyer, J. Alec. 1999. *Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Vol. 20. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Mounce, Robert H. 1997. *The Book of Revelation, The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Ogden, Graham S., and Jan Sterk. 2011. *A Handbook on Isaiah, United Bible Societies' Handbooks*. Edited by Paul Clarke, Schuyler Brown, Louis Dorn and Donald Slager. Vol. 1 & 2. Reading: United Bible Societies.
- Oswalt, John N. 1998. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Powell, Doug. 2006. *Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference.
- Rosscup, James E. 2008. *An Exposition on Prayer in the Bible: Igniting the Fuel to Flame Our Communication with God*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. 1982. *Escape from Reason*. Vol. 1, in *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview*, by Francis A. Schaeffer. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.
- Smith, Gary. 2009. *Isaiah 40-66, The New American Commentary*. Vol. 15B. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- Smith, James E. 1992. *The Major Prophets, Old Testament Survey Series*. Joplin, MO: College Press.

- Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. 1910. *Isaiah, The Pulpit Commentary*. Vol. 2. London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.
- Weil, Gerard E., W. Rudolph, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, and K. Elliger. 2003. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart Electronic Study Edition 2.0, 5th Corrected Edition. Stuttgart: German Bible Society.
- Young, Edward. 1972. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40 - 66*. Vol. 3. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.