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Our Redeemer Comes

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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Isaiah 59:15-21

Introduction: This chapter is closely connected in sense with the preceding, and is designed to illustrate the same general sentiment; that the reason why the religious services of the nation were not accepted, and the nation delivered from calamity, was **their hypocrisy** and **their other sins**. ...The following arrangement of the parts of the chapter, will show its design and scope at a single view.

I. It was not because Yahweh was unable to save them that they were exposed to such judgments, and visited with such calamities **Isaiah 59:1**. They were, therefore, not to blame him.

II. It was for their sins that they were exposed to these judgments **Isaiah 59:2-8**. The prophet proceeds to specify those sins in detail, with a view to bring them to conviction and to repentance.

III. After this statement of the prevalent sins of the nation, the prophet introduces the people as making confession, that it was for these and similar sins that they were exposed to the divine displeasure. **Identifying himself with the people**, he enumerates the calamities to which they were exposed, as a consequence of the sins which prevailed **Isaiah 59:9-14**.

IV. Yahweh is represented as seeing this state of deep guilt; a state where there was deep conviction of that guilt, and a readiness to make confession; and as wondering that there was no intercessor, and as himself interposing to bring deliverance and salvation **Isaiah 59:15-18**. The characteristics of him who should come to accomplish these purposes, were righteousness, salvation, vengeance, and zeal **Isaiah 59:17**, he would come to take recompence on his foes, and to reward the wicked according to their deeds **Isaiah 59:18**.

V. The effect of this would be that the name of Yahweh would be **feared** from the rising to the setting sun. Yahweh would erect a **barrier** against **the enemy** when he should come in like a flood; and the Redeemer would come to Zion to effect deliverance for those who should truly repent **Isaiah 59:19-20**.

VI. A **covenant** would be established between God and those who would turn away from transgressions **Isaiah 59:21**. The nature of that covenant was, that its blessings would be perpetual. The spirit which God would give, and the words which he would put into their mouths, would abide with them and their posterity forever.

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Isaiah 59:1-2, Behold, the LORD'S **hand (power)** is **not shortened (curtail [diminish])**, that it cannot save; neither his **ear** heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have **separated** between you and your God, and **your sins** have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

NOTE: The prophet here rectifies the mistake of those who had been quarrelling with God because they had not the deliverances wrought for them which they had been often **fasting**

and **praying** for, ch. 58:3. Now here he shows, **I**. That it was not owing to God. They had no reason to lay the fault upon him that they were not saved out of the hands of their enemies; for, **1**. He was still as **able to help** as ever: His hand is not shortened, **his power is not at all lessened**, straitened, or abridged. Whether we consider the extent of his power or the efficacy of it, God can reach as far as ever and with as strong a hand as ever. Note, The church's salvation comes from the hand of God, and that has not waxed weak nor is it at all shortened. Has the Lord's hand waxed short? (says God to Moses, Num. 11:23). No, it has not; he will not have it thought so. Neither length of time nor strength of enemies, no, nor weakness of instruments, can shorten or straiten the power of God, with which it is all one to save by many or by few. He was still as ready and willing to help as ever in answer to prayer: His ear is not heavy, that it cannot hear. Though he has many prayers to hear and answer, and though he has been long hearing prayer, yet he is still as ready to hear prayer as ever. The **prayer** of the **upright** is as much **his delight** as ever it was, and the **promises** which are pleaded and put in suit in prayer are still yea and amen, inviolably sure. (Source: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/isaiah/59.html>)

Isaiah 59:7-8, Their feet RUN to EVIL, and they make haste to shed **innocent blood**: **THEIR thoughts** are **thoughts (plan, imagination) of iniquity**; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is **no judgment (justice) in their goings**: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Thought 1. Speaking of people who're running to EVIL, and how bad "their thoughts" are, some earlier words by Isaiah from God comes to mind.

Isaiah 55:7-9, Let the **WICKED** forsake **his way**, and the **UNRIGHTEOUS** man **his thoughts**: and let him **return** unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For **MY thoughts** are **not YOUR** thoughts, neither are YOUR ways **my ways**, saith the Lord. For as the **heavens** are higher than the **earth**, so are **MY WAYS** higher than your ways, and **MY THOUGHTS** than your thoughts.

Thought 2. Most of the time, as Christians, we hear well-meaning people quote verses 8-9, but they leave out verse 7! As you can see, verse seven tells us that God is speaking to the WICKED and the UNRIGHTEOUS! And verses 8-9 contain the reason for the Lord to tell them to forsake their thoughts and ways! However, the GOOD man, and the RIGHTEOUS man do HAVE God's thoughts and ways! And under this new Covenant, we're told to have the mind of Christ.

Isaiah 59:11-13, We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we **look for judgment**, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from **US**. For **our** transgressions are multiplied before thee, and **our** sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, **we** know them; In transgressing and **lying** against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

NOTE: US. In Isaiah 59:8, and previous verses, it was "**they**," the third person; here "**us** ... **we**," the first person. The nation here speaks, God thus making them out of their own mouth condemn themselves, just as He by His prophet had condemned them before. **Isaiah** includes **himself** with **his people**, and **speaks in their name**. Neither doth justice overtake us - God's justice, bringing salvation (Isaiah 46:13). We wait for light - the dawn of returning prosperity. But behold obscurity - adversity (Jer. 8:15). (Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Isaiah 59:14-15, And **judgment (JUSTICE)** is turned away backward, and **justice (rightness)** standeth afar off: for TRUTH is fallen in the street, and **equity (integrity [moral soundness or purity])** cannot enter. Yea, **TRUTH** **faileth (find wanting)**; and he that departeth from evil

maketh himself a **prey**: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

NOTE: They owned that there was a prevailing **enmity** (hostility; hatred; animosity) in men's minds to those that WERE GOOD: He that does evil goes unpunished, but **he** that **departs from evil** makes himself a **prey** to those beasts of prey that were before described. It is crime enough with them for a man not to do as they do, and they **treat him** as an **enemy** who WILL NOT **partake with them** in their **wickedness**. He that departs from evil is accounted mad; so the margin reads. Sober singularity is branded as folly, and he is thought next door to a madman who swims against the stream that runs so strongly.

6. They owned that all this could not but be very displeasing to the God of heaven. The evil was done in his sight. They knew very well, though they were not willing to acknowledge it, that the Lord saw it; though it was done secretly, and gilded (overlaid with gold leaf) over with specious (appearing well at first view) pretences, yet it **could not be concealed** from his **all-seeing eye**. All the wickedness that is in the world is naked and open before the eyes of God; and, as he is of quicker eyes than not to see iniquity, so he is of purer eyes than to behold it with the least approbation (approval) or allowance. He saw it, and it displeased him, though it was among his own professing people that he saw it. It was evil in his eyes; he saw the sinfulness of all this sin, and that which was most offensive to him was that there was **no judgment, no reformation; had he seen** any **signs of repentance**, though the sin displeased him, he would soon have been reconciled to the sinners upon their returning from their evil way. Then the sin of a nation becomes national, and brings **public judgments**, when it is **not restrained** by **public justice**.

(Source: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/isaiah/59.html>)

Thought 1. Because of departing from the TRUTH, SOME Christians are like these people.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-4, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for **reproof (conviction: evidence)**, for CORRECTION, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (fresh** [untainted; invaluable, useful]), thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works.

I **charge** thee therefore (for this reason) before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the WORD; be **INSTANT** in SEASON, out of SEASON; **reprove (convince, tell a fault), REBUKE**, exhort with all LONGSUFFERING and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away *their* ears **FROM** the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **fables (fiction ("myth"))**.

Instant defined 2186, be present; assault [AGGRESSIVE, attacking (*teachings, not people*) by words, arguments with a view to shake, impair or overthrow].

Rebuke defined 2008, censure (find fault with and condemn as wrong; to blame; to express disapprobation (disapproval of), **rebuke** (utter words in anger).

2 Timothy 2:19-21, ...The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from **INIQUITY**. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and **SOME** to honour, and **SOME** to dishonour.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every GOOD work.

Isaiah 59:16, And he **saw** that there was *no man (steward [officer of state])*, and wondered that there was **no intercessor** (mediator): therefore **his arm** brought salvation unto him; and **his righteousness**, it sustained him.

Thought 1. One belief that's popular is "there was no man" who was right. That is to say "not ONE person" was doing right. That doesn't stand to reason because the prophet Isaiah had repented some years earlier and was doing right to obey God. Also, when we look back at verse 15, we see there were people doing GOOD, because scripture says "*he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey.*"

So, since God is speaking about "justice" being ministered to those who were due it, whether we're speaking of rewarding the good, or punishing the wrong-doer, the "MAN (officer of state)" with the responsibility of making judgment was NOT doing his job.

Prophetically, this scripture also is pointing to the ministry of our Lord Jesus being made the "mediator" for us before his Father, God.

1 Timothy 2:5 ...there is ONE **God (supreme [highest] Divinity)**, and **ONE mediator** between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus...

Isaiah 59:17, For he put on **righteousness** as a **breastplate**, and an **helmet of salvation** upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

NOTE: For he put on righteousness as a breastplate,.... Here the Lord is represented as a warrior clothed with armour, and as Christ is, and as he will appear in the **latter day** on the behalf of his people, and against their enemies, who is called faithful and true, and **in righteousness** will **make war**, Revelation 19:11, he will proceed according to justice and equity in righting the wrongs and avenging the injuries of his people; and both in **saving them**, and **destroying their enemies**, he will secure the honour of his faithfulness and justice, and the credit of his NAME and CHARACTER; which will be preserved by his conduct, as the breast and inward parts are by the breastplate: **and an helmet of salvation upon his head**; the salvation he will work out for his people will be very conspicuous; it will be seen by all, as the helmet on the head; and he will have the glory of it, on whose head are many crowns, Revelation 19:12. The apostle has borrowed these phrases from hence, and applied them to the Christian armour, Ephesians 6:14...

Ephesians 6:11-18, Put on the **whole armour** of God, that ye may be ABLE to stand against the **wiles (trickery)** of the devil. For we **wrestle** not against **flesh** and **blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against **spiritual (religious) wickedness** in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be ABLE to withstand in the **evil** day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **TRUTH**, and having on the **breastplate** of **righteousness**; And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel** of peace; Above all, taking the **shield** of **FAITH**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench ALL the FIERY DARTS of the wicked. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **SWORD** of the Spirit, which is the **WORD** of **God**: Praying always with **ALL (all manner of) prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and **supplication** for all saints

and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing; or, "he clothed himself with vengeance as a garment"^{F11} נקם יגוד וילבש "et ultionem induit tanquam vestem", Tigurine version. ; he wrapped himself in it, and resolved to execute it on his and his people's enemies; the time being come to **avenge** the **blood of his servants**, by shedding the blood of their adversaries, with which his garments will be stained; and therefore is represented as having on a vesture dipped in blood, Revelation 19:13, **and was clad with zeal as a cloak**; with zeal for his own glory, and the interest of his people, and against antichrist, and all antichristian worship and doctrine; and therefore his eyes are said to be as a flame of fire, Revelation 19:12.

(Source: <http://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Isaiah 59:18, According to **their deeds**, accordingly he will **repay**, **fury** to his **adversaries**, recompence to his enemies; to the islands **HE WILL** repay recompence.

NOTE: According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay,... As the **enemies** of his people have treated them, so will the Lord deal with them; as they have shed their blood, he will, according to the **laws of retribution** and **retaliation**, give them blood to drink, as they deserve. The whore of Rome shall be rewarded as the followers of Christ have been rewarded by her, and double shall be rendered to her double, according to her works, Revelation 16:6, **fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies:** the church's adversaries and enemies are Christ's, and so he esteems them; and therefore his wrath and fury is poured out by way of recompence to them, for all the ill they have done them, even the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath, Revelation 16:19, **to the islands he will repay recompence;** even to those who dwell in the more distant and remote parts of the antichristian jurisdiction; for when the cup of wrath shall be given to Babylon every island will flee away, Revelation 16:20.

(Source: <http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Isaiah 59:19, So shall they **FEAR** (**reverence**) the **name** (**honor, authority, character**) of the LORD (Yahweh) from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a **flood**, the **Spirit** of the LORD (Yahweh) shall lift up a **standard** against him.

NOTE: ...those that are left in the antichristian states, and escape the general ruin, shall be frightened at **his judgments**, fear his great and awful name, and **give glory** to the God of heaven, Revelation 11:13.

(Source: <http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Thought 1. One thought among us is that it's God our Father that'll come in like a flood." But, we'll see reasoning and scriptures that prove it's the enemy coming in like a flood.

NOTE: when the enemy shall come in like a flood; when **Satan**, the common "**enemy**" of mankind, the avowed and implacable (relentless; unyielding) enemy of Christ and his people, "shall come" into the world, and into the church, as he will in the latter day; and has already entered "**like**" an **impetuous** (raging) **flood**, threatening to carry all before him, introducing a FLOOD of immorality and profaneness, as in the days of Noah and Lot, to which the times of the Son of Man's coming are likened, Luke 17:26 or else a **flood** of **error** and **heresy** of all sorts; see Revelation 12:15 and likewise a **flood** of **persecution**, as will be at the slaying of the witnesses, that hour of temptation that will come upon all the earth, to try the inhabitants of it, Revelation 3:10. Aben Ezra compares this passage with, and illustrates it by, that **time** of **trouble** which will be, such as never was since there was a nation, Daniel 12:1 when this will be the case, which seems to be near at hand: **the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him;** Christ and his Gospel, or Christ the standard lifted up in the ministry of the Gospel, Isaiah 11:10 a set of ministers shall be raised up, having the everlasting Gospel, which they shall publish to all nations, and which shall have an universal spread; and by means of which the earth shall be filled with the **knowledge** of the **Lord** as the waters cover the sea; and which will be a sufficient check to the enemy's FLOOD of immorality, error, and persecution; and which, after this, shall be no more; see Revelation 14:6.

SOME render the words, "when he", the glorious name of the Lord, or he who is the glory of the Lord, the brightness of his glory; **shall come like a narrow flood**, that flows with great swiftness and force, and carries all before it;

the Spirit of the Lord lifting him up for a standard^{F12} כי יבא יבא "etenim veniet (sub. Dominus vel nomen Domini) instar fluminis angusti, spiritu Domini levante ipsum pro vexillo", Bootius, Animadv. I. 1. c. 1. p. 68. , that is, in the ministry of the word; "so shall they fear", &c.; then multitudes shall serve the Lord, and worship him. The Targum is, "**they that afflict** shall be as **the overflowing** of the **river** Euphrates; by the

word of the Lord shall they be broken;' and Vitranga thinks there is an allusion to the **river** Euphrates; interpreting the **enemy** of the Ottoman Turks, Tartars, and Scythians, stirred up by **Satan** to distress the church: all this may be applied to the case of particular **believers** under the **assaults** of **Satan** their **grand enemy**; who seeks all occasions to disturb their peace and destroy their comfort, though he cannot ruin their souls; **HE comes in**, not only into their houses where they dwell, and gives them disturbance there; and into the house of God where they worship, and does all he can to hinder them in attending on the word and ordinances, and to prevent all usefulness, edification, and comfort thereby...

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)

Thought 2. Now, let's look some verses to confirm its Satan that comes in like a flood.

Revelation 12:15-17, And the **serpent** cast out of his mouth **water as** (like) a **FLOOD** after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the FLOOD. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and **swallowed up** the **FLOOD** which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to **make war** with the **remnant** of her **seed**, which **KEEP** the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 59:20, And the **Redeemer** shall **come to Zion**, and unto them that **turn from transgression in Jacob**, saith the LORD.

NOTE: Thy Redeemer shall come; it is applied to Christ, Rom. 9:26 . There shall come the deliverer. The coming of Christ as the Redeemer is the summary of all the **promises** both of the **Old** and **New Testament**, and this was the redemption in Jerusalem which the believing Jews looked for, Lu. 2:38. Christ is our Goël, our **next kinsman**, that redeems BOTH the person and the estate of the **poor debtor**. Observe, [1.] The place where this Redeemer shall appear: He shall come to Zion, for there, on that holy hill, the Lord would set him up as his King, Ps. 2:6 . In Zion the chief corner-stone was to be laid, 1 Pt. 2:6 . He came to his temple there, Mal. 3:1. (Source: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/isaiah/59.html>)

Isaiah 59:21, As for **me**, this is **my covenant** with them, saith the LORD; **My spirit** that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in **thy mouth**, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

NOTE: As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord,... Which shall be manifested and made good to them that repent of their sins, and, BELIEVE in Christ; and to whom the particular blessing of it shall be applied, the forgiveness of their sins; see Romans 11:27, **my Spirit which is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth**; the Spirit of God, with his gifts and graces, which were upon Christ the Redeemer WITHOUT measure; and the doctrines he received from his **divine Father** to **teach** others, and which he gave to his apostles; the same Spirit which in measure was put upon them, and the same truths which were delivered to them: **shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever**; that is, shall always continue with the church and her spiritual seed, such as are BORN in her, and brought up by her, throughout all successive ages, and to the end of time; and it may be observed, that after the conversion of the **Jews**, to which this prophecy has a special regard, they shall **no more apostatize**; the Spirit of the Lord shall not depart from them; and the Gospel shall always be professed by them...

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=isa&ch=59#1>)