

ISAIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 59 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Last week we concluded with God indicting His people, specifically the Southern Kingdom of Judah for their sin. They were spiraling out of control into spiritual adultery, running far away from God by their actions. And yet they remained a very religious people. They went to Temple, offered sacrifices, and even fasted. But they were living a life of sin, immorality and they couldn't understand why God wasn't hearing them, acknowledging them, responding to them.

They were living a life of hypocrisy and God was not going to accept that and God won't accept that. I could never understand this idea of "Fat Tuesday" which is the day before the starting of Lent, Ash Wednesday. The idea of Fat Tuesday is that you party hardy, you sin all you want, you live like the devil before Lent begins and then once Lent begins you fast and do what is right.

That makes no sense to me and it is not accepted by God. But let's face it, people go to church, they may even be involved in church and they are living like the devil thinking that they are okay before God, and again, they are not. I am not saying that to be saved you have to keep the Commandments of God, the Law of God, not at all. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

But make no mistake about it; we are not saved by keeping the Law of God, the Commandments of God but they are the evidence for our faith. In Luke 6:46-49 Jesus said, **“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”** God wants us to be obedient to Him, He wants us to obey what He has said otherwise our faith is empty, it is not real.

James put it like this, **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”** James 1:22. We must receive God’s Word as doers, not merely hearers. To take comfort in the fact you have heard God’s Word when you haven’t done it is to deceive yourself. Keep in mind that it was common in the ancient world for people to hear a teacher. If you followed the teacher and tried to live what he said, you were called a disciple of that teacher. We may say that Jesus is looking for disciples: doers, not mere hearers!

Spurgeon warned, “I fear we have many such in all congregations; admiring hearers, affectionate hearers, attached hearers, but all the while unblest hearers, because they are not doers of the word.” That was the Southern Kingdom of Judah, they may have heard the Word of God but it was not applied to their lives. They went to Temple but they never let God’s Word into their lives. They still worshiped idols, sacrificed their children to the god Molech in the fire and-so-on. It was hypocrisy like I have said!

Now as we move into Isaiah chapter 59 this evening we will see the Lord speak to His people. And what is spoken by the Lord is born out of what His people said in Isaiah 58:3 which says, **“Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ . . .”**

In other words, they were blaming God for what was happening in their lives instead of taking a look at their own lives. And because of what they accused God of doing, not listening to them, not working in their lives, not pay attention to them, the Lord is now going to answer their question and He will show them who is at fault and it is not God!

With that as our background, let’s begin reading in Isaiah chapter 59, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ISAIAH 59

VERSE 1

1. Remember what the people were complaining about. They were wondering if God can respond to the situations that they faced in life, if He was powerful enough to help them. They were wondering if God could hear their cry, if He understood the problems that they faced or maybe He was not even interested in hearing what we were going through!

But to answer those questions Isaiah says that God is not the problem. God can respond to our problems, His strength is not diminished. God can hear their hearts cry, He understood their problems they faced and He was interested in what they were going through. But if God is not the problem then who is the problem? We don’t have to guess because Isaiah is going to tell us!

VERSE 2

1. Isaiah makes it very clear that it is not a lack of God's power, a lack of His knowledge or interest, it is not that He can't hear, the problem is with us, our sin has separated us from God! Now what does that mean? It can't mean that God does not know what sinners are doing because He knows everything. It can't mean that it separates us from the presence of God because His presence fills the universe. (Psalm 139:7). And think about this, even Satan still has access to God; he has an audience with God. (Job 1:6). Sin does not even separate us from the love of God because God loves sinners! (Romans 5:8). Then what does sin separate us from?

- First of all we see that sin separates us from fellowship with God. The reason for that is because we do not think like God thinks, our desires are not His desires!
- Not only that but we see that sin separates us from the blessing of God. God does not have to bless us, answer our hearts cry because we are not His children.
- And sin separates us in some way from the protection of God. The reason for that is that God will allow trials to come our way to correct us.

In knowing that, in knowing that sin separates us from God it helps us to understand the cry of Jesus from the cross of Calvary as He said, “. . . ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” Matthew 27:46. Jesus stood in our place; He became sin for us as He bore the sins of the world. It was not that Jesus became a sinner but He took our place to pay in full the penalty for our sins taking the wrath that was do us and as He did the Father turned His face from the Son, that fellowship was broken. That is what sin does!

2. Now the people in the Southern Kingdom of Judah may complain and say, “What have we done for God to turn His face from us? We still go to Temple!” That is going to be answered in the next several verses for them and for us.

VERSES 3-8

1. Remember, they saw themselves as righteous before God and that the problem was not them but it was God. And here God is showing them that they are the problem and it is manifested in these sinful actions in their lives.

They approved of violence, of murder and they had their reasons but God sees right through their evil and calls them on it! And with their hands they were doing evil towards people but again, they justified their actions, they were not wrong.

It was not only physical violence that we see but the words that they spoke were lies and they destroyed people's lives with their words. The things that flowed from their lips were evil, perverse. And notice that all these actions here in verse 3 deal with murder, outward or physical murder and the murder that is caused by what we say, not just what we do!

2. Interestingly enough they are not calling for justice because they like the lifestyle that they are living. They are not interested in the truth because they are comfortable in the lies that they believe. And sadly enough, they are trusting in these empty words to save them, to help them, to deliver them and in the end, it will destroy them. And the lies that they are speaking bring forth evil, iniquity or immorality in the lives of others as well as their own!

3. Their actions were deadly towards people's lives and the idea is that they not only poisoned people with their words and actions but they caught people in their web of deceit and crushed them!

4. Because they had no fear of God, they did as they pleased, they went running after evil. But God is saying that their works will not last. They will not prosper, and they leave a path of destruction wherever they go! How true that is.

If God was indicting Israel back then for their evil ways, then why do we think we can do all kinds of evil and God is going to condone it? He is not! And I realize that some people feel that America is okay, we are not doing anything wrong. If you feel that way are you brain dead! Listen to what Solomon tells us in Proverbs 6:16-19, **“These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”** God hates those things and so should we. But we are a nation that loves to call evil good and good evil. We have things backwards and we will be judged if we don't turn back to God!

5. And here's the thing. They will not find the way of peace because they are traveling down the wrong road, they are going down the crooked paths and those paths led to destruction! We are to enter by the narrow gate, the straight gate, Jesus Christ and apart from entering through Him, there will be no peace in our lives.

In Isaiah 57:19-21 we read, **“I create the fruit of the lips: peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,’ says the LORD, ‘And I will heal him.’ But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”**

True peace is only found in Christ. Once you have made peace with God, then and only then can you experience the peace of God in your life. Otherwise your life will be tossed back and forth, churning and kicking up all kinds of dirt, and you will have no rest, no lasting peace!

VERSES 9-11

1. I think Isaiah is still speaking here but he is speaking for the people and expressing the condition of the people. And it just makes sense. If you are living in sin you are walking in darkness and thus, there is no light for you to see where you are going. You are walking aimlessly through life.

Paul put it like this as he was writing about walking aimlessly through life as we are dead in our sins. He tells us that we, “**... once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**” Ephesians 2:2-3.

Now here's the thing. You don't have to walk in darkness, you can walk in the light of God but to do that you must repent of your sins and receive Jesus into your life. But if you refuse, then Isaiah says you will grope around just trying to find a wall to guide you. It may be high noon and yet you are still walking in darkness and stumbling. It is a miserable life, it is a hopeless life and in the end, outer darkness for those who reject the truth, who reject Jesus!

2. And isn't it interesting that this is fun for a time but then comes the reality and you are looking for light, you are looking for justice and you are not finding any because the salvation you sought was not in God!

VERSES 12-15a

1. As you read this you get the picture that God's people have come to their senses. They are not blaming God any longer but as they look at what they have done, their sins before God, they see the reason for what has come upon their lives. They saw the error of their ways!

Make no mistake about it; God has placed in our hearts the idea of what is right and what is wrong. Now we can short circuit the system and ignore what God has said, but it doesn't change the fact that you are guilty before Him if you transgress His commands.

Paul put it this way when he said in I Timothy 4:2, “**. . . having their conscience seared with a hot iron.**” The Greek word for “**seared**” is KAUSTERIAZO, (kows-tay-ree-ad'-zo) and it speaks of cauterizing, and thus, there is no feeling, the tissue is dead.

In other words, they knew the truth, but ignored it, suppressed it, rejected it. And the more you do that the more you will become insensitive to sin! It is like repeatedly touching your hand to a hot iron and eventually you will destroy the nerve endings in that part of your hand so that you will not feel the pain. Yes it is a dangerous thing and foolish thing to do, but so is ignoring sin in our lives!

Paul, in Ephesians 4:18-19 tells us, “**having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**” That is the point, they are beyond feeling! The more you harden your heart to God the harder it will be to feel the things of God, the truths of God. The key is to walk in the light as He is in the light and you will not be overtaken by the darkness!

2. And Isaiah is speaking about how far away the people of God had departed from the Lord. There was no justice, they had moved away from righteousness, truth was not seen any longer and they treated each other unfairly. You see, because their relationship with God was off, so too was their relationship with man and it was manifested in the things they said and the things they did! And it was out of all that deception, all those lies that their judicial system was falling apart. Sound familiar!

3. Now there were those who heard the truth and turned from their wicked ways but it was not an easy thing to do, it never is. You see, those that had turned to God, those that were standing up for righteousness and desiring to see justice executed, those who spoke the truth, were being put down by the unrighteous.

They became targets for the wicked to attack. We see this happening even today, when someone stands up for God, stands up for what is right, they are standing up for morality and when they do they are ridiculed, put down, and the media and world try character assassinations to destroy them. You don't need to worry about what they can do. You live a life that will be pleasing to God and He will defend your character, no matter what man has to say!

VERSES 15b-16a

1. Remember what we talked about before in regards to the people of God thinking God does not hear or that God is unaware of what is going on. Well once again we see that God is very aware of what is going on in our lives as individuals and as a nation.

And as God looked upon all that was happening in the Southern Kingdom of Judah it displeased Him or He saw the evil that they were indulging in. And you would think that was bad enough, that someone would see the evil they were in and do something about it. But for the most part, no one did anything.

Thus, God rebukes them again because there was no one willing to stand in the gap for the nation and intercede for them. The nation was going down the toilet and no one seemed to care! No one stepped forward to lead the people in righteousness. There was no one who was going to intercede for the people. I guess they were self-centered!

What a call to us today. We should be interceding for our family, our friends, our co-workers, or neighbors, our state, our nation and this world! We should be leading the people in righteousness and not trying to fit in with the unrighteous. May we be that intercessor that God is looking for to work through and led the people in righteousness and point them to Jesus!

VERSES 16b-19

1. If you think about this for a minute you will see what a sad picture that the Lord has painted for us. God is there waiting for His people to turn back to Him. But they did not turn back. He waited for someone to rise up and be that intercessor and plead for the people of God and lead them back into righteousness. But there was none! So God stepped forward and interceded for them!

Interestingly enough, prior to the final assault on the Southern Kingdom of Judah we read in Ezekiel 22:29-31, **“The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord GOD.”**

God was also looking for someone to stand in the gap for the nation and He again found no one, and this time He poured out His judgment on the people. Why did He choose to act and save in one instance and not in another? Because He is sovereign and He does as He pleases! We may not always understand why, but we can take this away from these passages, in both instances God was looking for someone to intercede for the nation, for the people, and He found none. May that not be the case in America!

2. Today there is this picture of God as this benevolent old man who is just love, love love, that is all you need! And it is true, our God is a God of love but He is also holy and righteous and just and He must deal with sin, He can't ignore it or He would not be just, He would not be holy.

And even in the New Testament we see that God is going to judge sin, He is going to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. And I realize that many may not think of the Lord like this, but Exodus 15:3 tells us, **“The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name.”**

We need to have a complete picture or the whole picture of who God is, what He is all about. We don't want to deal with this truth, that God is going to deal with sin. Either it will be covered by the blood of Christ or it will be upon your own head. We also read in Numbers 21:14 that there is a Book of the Wars of the Lord, or those battles that God fought for His people. And lastly, as Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom here on earth, we see His garments stained with blood as in a wine press, as His wrath is poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, a world that has not received atonement for their sins by the blood of Christ!

And we see in verse 18 that God will judge His **“adversaries”** or His people who have turned from Him and refuse to repent. We also see that God will judge His **“enemies”** or those Gentile nations that surrounded Judah. And the picture here is seen in what Peter wrote, **“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”** I Peter 4:17. Judgment always begins in the house of God because His people should know better! But it does not end there, all those who reject Him will be judged!

3. The end result is that they will “**fear the name of the LORD.**” This could be looking on ahead into the Tribulation Period as the earth dwellers, the people of this world gather together to do battle against the Lord. And God will defeat them by a standard He has set, by His Word! We are told in Revelation chapter 19 that as the Lord returns He will strike the nations with a sharp or two-edged sword that proceeds from His mouth, and the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. By their rebellion against God and His Word they will be found guilty before God and judged accordingly!

4. Now verses 20 and 21 seem to fit better with chapter 60, for after the Tribulation Period the Kingdom Age will be ushered in, which Isaiah is now going to talk about.

VERSES 20-21

1. Notice who is going to come to Zion, it is the “**Redeemer**” and in Hebrew it is the goel. In other words, the kinsman-Redeemer is coming to Zion! What does that mean, what does this goel mean to us?

In the book of Ruth we see this beautiful story of the Kinsman Redeemer by the name of Boaz. Elimelech and Naomi moved to Moab because of a famine that was in the land and while there Elimelech died. Naomi had two sons and they both married Moabite women. Then the two sons died and their wives were left, Orpah and Ruth. Over the course of time Naomi returned to Bethlehem and Orpah stayed in Moab while Ruth traveled home with her. She wanted to be with Naomi and the God she served.

And upon returning to Bethlehem, through a series of God ordained circumstances, Ruth has an encounter with Boaz, a relative of Elimelech and he could purchase back the land for his relative and bring forth a child for the dead husband to carry on the name for this family by marrying Ruth. And that is exactly what takes place.

And what a beautiful story this is and it is taking place during very dark period in Israel's history, the time of the Judges. This story of Ruth is a story of redemption, which means to, "set free by paying a price." Boaz was able to do that and our Kinsman Redeemer has paid the price for our redemption on the cross of Calvary. He has purchased us to Himself, a bride.

The Bible is a story of redemption from Genesis 3:15 through to Revelation 22:21. That is the primary focus or thrust of the Word of God, that, "**God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**" John 3:16. And let me show you how Jesus fulfilled this role as our GOEL, our Kinsman Redeemer. The one that is spoken of here in Isaiah chapter 59!

A. HE MUST BE A NEAR RELATIVE OF THE ONE WHO HAD LOST THE INHERITANCE

Jesus meets this requirement because He is of the root of David. He was born of flesh and blood and thus able to redeem us and this earth back. Luke 3:38 links Jesus to Adam and thus a relative of man because He was born of the flesh.

John 1:14 says "**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**"

Also, Hebrews 2:14-15 says, "**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**" (Also Galatians 4:45).

B. HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS A REDEEMER

Jesus said in John 10:18, **“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”** Jesus was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

We are told in Colossians 2:14, **“Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

When Jesus cried, **“paid in full”** on the cross of Calvary, He was saying that all our sins have been paid in full. Back in the times of Jesus they would write your transgressions down and after you paid the penalty you would be set free and given this document with the words written across it, “paid in full.” That meant that no one could accuse you of not paying the penalty for the crime.

And in Hebrews 12:2 we read **“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

C. HE MUST BE ABLE TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION

Understand that the sacrifice for our sins must be perfect, without inherited or acquired imperfection or sin. I Peter 1:18-21 says, **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Christ met that requirement and thus Peter goes on to say, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.”** I Peter 3:18.

Jesus met those requirements needed to be the kinsman redeemer. He was born of the flesh and thus a relative of man. He was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. And He was without sin, perfect before God, and thus able to pay the price for our redemption. And thus, this promise of the Lord in Isaiah 59:20 could be reworded, ***“I will send My Messiah, the Redeemer for all humanity, Jesus of Nazareth!”*** And that is exactly what He has done!

2. Make no mistake about it, God has made a covenant that the Redeemer is coming to Zion.

There will never be a time when this promise will be entirely forsaken, for this is God's purpose.

It will be fulfilled in His good time. You see, after God puts down the wicked, He will set up His Kingdom here on earth and rule and reign for 1,000 years from Jerusalem.

And we will make a yearly pilgrimage to Mount Zion to worship the King of king's and Lord of lord's! Now just prior to His return the Jews as a nation will welcome Jesus as their Messiah, and Hebrews 8:10-11 tells us of this time. We read, "**For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.**"

And we can rest in these words that are spoken for God has sent forth His Spirit and His enduring Word so that we can rest in them knowing what He has promised He is more than able to bring to pass!

ISAIAH 60**VERSES 1-3**

1. Remember the darkness we read about in Isaiah 59:9-11, **“Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us.”**

Then, as the chapter concluded we saw the promise of the Redeemer to come and save them. Now we see that come to pass here in Isaiah chapter 60. That darkness is expelled by the light that has come, Jesus Christ! And specifically God is speaking to the Jewish people here because as we get down to verse 3 we see that the Gentiles will gather together and worship the Redeemer because the light of the Jewish people will draw them to Him! That tells me that God is not done with the Jewish people and one day they will come to the Savior, the Redeemer, the Messiah, to Jesus!

2. I think the picture here is looking towards the Tribulation Period where we will see darkness permeate the land. And before the Lord returns, it is pitch black in this world that is filled with sin and rebellion against God. But, as the saying goes, “It is always darkest before the dawn” that is what we will see here.

You see, the light of God will pierce this darkness as the Lord returns and sets up His Kingdom on this earth to rule from the throne of David for 1,000 years! And the Lord tells us what it will be like when He returns in Matthew 24:27-30, **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

3. In the spiritual and physical darkness of this period of time the Lord shines on Israel and through Israel to the rest of the world! That means the Jewish people will turn to the Lord. Now some like to say that the Jews are saved differently than Gentiles, but that is foolish and it is wrong. Salvation is only found in Jesus and not in the keeping of the Law!

Paul put it like this in Romans 11:25-27, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”**

The only way a person's sins can be taken away is by the shed blood of Christ on the cross of Calvary and that is for both Jews and Gentiles! Israel will be saved during the Tribulation Period and they will not be put down by Gentiles any longer for the "**times of the Gentiles**" that Jesus spoke of in Luke 21:24 will be over. And what that means is that the dominion over the Jews by Gentile nations will be complete, there will be no more anti-Semitism in the Kingdom Age. What we will see is that the Gentiles will honor the Jews! Both Jews and Gentiles will gather together in Jerusalem to worship the King of king's and Lord of lord's, the Redeemer who has come!

VERSES 4-13

1. Make no mistake about it, when the Lord returns He is going to regather the Jewish people together into the land of Israel. We see this in Matthew 24:31 where Jesus tells us, "**And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**"

What we see today in Israel, the regathering of the Jewish people is just a partial fulfillment of that promise. The complete fulfillment will be at the end of the Tribulation Period as the Lord sets up His Kingdom on this earth!

2. In saying that and as you read these passages it seems like Jerusalem will be the commercial center of the world. We see all these nations, all these people, these Gentiles bringing gifts to Jerusalem and there is so much that the gates will be open continually to allow this.

Keep in mind that the gates of the city were important for protection. Normally the gates of the city would be closed at night so the enemy could not enter the city. But in the Kingdom Age the gates will be open at all times, for righteousness will fill the land and if anyone gets out of line the Lord will deal with that person immediately with His rod of iron. In fact, if any nation comes against the Jews in the Kingdom Age they too will be dealt with very quickly, God will not let unrighteousness continue in His Kingdom!

Why do these nations bring these gifts to Jerusalem? One of the reasons is to honor the Lord, to bring Him these gifts. But there seems to be another reason they are doing this, to help with the upkeep of the Millennial Temple. Now I don't want to spend a lot of time on this right now because we will cover it more when we get to the book of Ezekiel because Ezekiel chapters 40-47 describe this Temple in great detail. It is not a symbolic Temple as some like to think, it is a real Temple with sacrifices.

That is a difficult subject because if the work is finished by Christ why do we see sacrifices in the Temple during the Millennial Reign of Christ? Keep in mind that the work is finished; these sacrifices are not for atonement but probably more for worship, consecration, and maybe looking back on the finished work of Christ. Again, we will deal more with this when we get to Ezekiel, but just keep that in mind, the Temple will be rebuilt!

3. Notice in verse 6 we see gold and incense mentioned but there is one thing that is missing, the myrrh. When Jesus was born, maybe some 2 years after His birth, we see the Wise Men come and worship Him and they bring gold, incense and myrrh. Why the difference? Because in His First Coming the myrrh represented His death, it speaks of suffering. Myrrh was used as burial spices and thus, He is risen and has finished the work that the Father has sent Him to do!

Now that the work is finished, the atoning work for our sins as Jesus suffered on the cross of Calvary for us, when He comes again there is no more myrrh. You see, there is no more suffering for our Messiah in His Second Coming, but what we do see is gold that speaks of His royalty, majesty, glory and incense which speaks of His position as priest and it also speaks of worship.

VERSES 14-18

1. Make no mistake about it, anti-Semitism is on the rise throughout the world and it will continue to grow on into the Tribulation Period where all the nations of the world will turn against her! Listen to this report and you will see what I mean. We are told,

A website with close ties to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has outlined why it would be acceptable to kill all Jews and annihilate Israel.

Conservative site Alef has published a doctrine detailing why the destruction of the nation and the slaughter of all its people would be legally and morally justified.

The doctrine, first reported by WND.com, warned that the chance to remove the 'corrupting material' of Israel must not be lost - and that it would only take nine minutes to wipe it out.

And it said it was a 'jurisprudential justification' for Iran's Islamic government to then take the helm.

- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2097252/Kill-Jews-annihilate-Israel-Irans-supreme-leader-lays-legal-religious-justification-attack.html>

Please understand that the state of Israel is not on any maps in the countries that surround Israel, they do not see it as a legitimate state and thus, it is the state of Palestine. Jews can't travel to Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations but they can travel to Israel! Tensions are growing as this report shows us and we need to pay attention to what is going on. This is from February 18, 2014 and we are told,

In November 2013, the U.N. Security Council (U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia, plus Germany) met with Iranian officials to discuss Iran's nuclear program. That meeting concluded with a six-month accord in which Iran agreed to cap its nuclear program in return for limited sanctions relief by the West.

This week, the Council is meeting in Vienna in hopes of finalizing that deal, though many, including Israel, are doubtful the talks will be successful.

Indeed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a meeting of Jewish leaders from the United States that the interim deal reached last November has slowed Iran's nuclear program by only four weeks, reports CBN News.

Netanyahu told conference participants that Iran has given "practically nothing . . . but it's receiving a new position in the world. It's being legitimized."

The Prime Minister also cautioned of the consequences of failed negotiations. He warned that Iran's new centrifuges are 50 times faster, and that the country is developing ICBMs - intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"By the way, the range is geared to Europe and soon to the United States. It's not for us," he explained. "And there's only one purpose in the world to develop ICBMs. You don't develop intercontinental ballistic missiles to deliver some hundreds of kilos of TNT. Believe me, nobody does that. You develop an ICBM to deliver a nuclear payload."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee told CBN News that current U.S. policy toward Iran is naïve.

“This is not a government our country can trust,” Huckabee said. “I’m amazed at the naiveté of the Obama administration when it comes to Iran.”

The talks in Vienna are expected to last three days.

- <http://www.crosswalkmail.com/ShareArticle.do?perform=view&articleID=wwvdljsfvs&siteID=eydzsprhgzdrqkktlwvjvrpqyllqdbvrssk&recipID=523349699>

This hatred towards the Jewish people is growing and the world will want them destroyed. But God has other plans for His people; they will not be destroyed, never! And in the Kingdom Age we see that all change as the Gentile people and nations will have a tremendous love for the Jews!

Keep in mind that the city of Jerusalem has been destroyed some 18 times and rebuilt 19. And God is saying that will no longer be the case, for as He sets up His Kingdom and rules and reigns from Jerusalem; it will not be destroyed again!

2. Now why is God doing this? Why is the Lord raising up the Jewish people once again? Is it because they are so great? Is it because they have achieved so much through all their hard work? No, no, no! The Lord made a promise to the Jewish people and what He has promised them He will bring to pass. And in doing all this listen to what happens in the lives of the Jewish people and for that matter, the Gentiles. In verse 16 we are told, “**. . . You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**” He does a work so great that all know it is His doing.

VERSES 19-22

1. Now the question is, “Is Isaiah speaking of the Kingdom Age or the Eternal State where God creates a New Heavens and a New Earth?” There two views on this, which just makes sense. I think you can make a case for the Eternal State being spoken of by Isaiah. And let me just share with you what I am talking about in regards to the Eternal State. We are told of God creating a New Heavens and a New Earth with a New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:1-3, **“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”**

Now, in this New Heavens and New Earth we are told Revelation 21:23, **“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”** So in the Eternal State there is no need for the sun or moon because the Lord will light up the New Heavens and New Earth with His presence!

We also see this spoken of in Revelation 22:5 where we are told, **“There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”** If there is no light, no sun to light the land then what will light the land? The glory of the Lord shall light the land brighter than any sun could ever light it. And once again here in Revelation we are speaking of the Eternal State!

And look at what the Eternal State will be like. We are told in Revelation 21:4, “**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.**” No more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain because these things have been taken away and there is great joy in the Eternal State!

Now here is why I don't believe Isaiah is speaking of the Eternal State here but the Kingdom Age. In Isaiah 60:20 we are told, “**. . . days of your mourning shall be ended.**” Now let's think this through. Is there going to be mourning in the Kingdom Age? Not at all because the Lord will be ruling and reigning and righteousness will fill this land. So this can't be speaking of mourning leading into the Eternal State because there is no mourning in the Kingdom Age as I have said.

Thus, I think Isaiah is speaking of the Kingdom Age and the mourning spoken of is the events that took place during the Tribulation Period. There is great mourning, sorrow, pain, suffering in the Tribulation Period but there is great joy in the Kingdom Age as the King of king's and Lord of lord's rules and reigns! Not a big deal but I think that just makes sense.

2. Now as we look at this world today we don't see much righteousness flowing but we do see a lot of wickedness! And sometimes it is easy to get discouraged but keep in mind that God is very patient and longsuffering and His desire is that none should perish but all would come into a relationship with Him.

The problem is that most will reject Him and the time of grace will come to an end and the Lord will pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. It is in God's *time* and not ours! As Isaiah said, "... I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time." We need to keep a proper perspective of things or we can become very discouraged.

Remember what David said in Psalm 37:7-22, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret - it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away. The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives. For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, but those cursed by Him shall be cut off."

As I have said, we need to keep things in perspective, we need to keep our eyes on the Lord and as we do, may we be able to say as John said in Revelation 22:20, “**. . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**”