

ISAIAH 57

Vs.1-2 Righteous men perish (early in life) and nobody cares. Why are devout men “prematurely” removed from the earth? Ps. 73:1-28; Eccl. 2:15-16, 7:15, 8:14

Does not anyone think of the truth that:

1. Evil can no longer touch them.
2. They have entered their place of peace.
3. They are at rest.
4. A loss of life does not equal a loss of blessing.
5. Another possibility – things had become so bad that death is the only place the righteous will be able to find peace.

NOTE: The righteous is defined as the one who “walked in his upright way”.
(1 John 2:3-6)

Vs. 3-11 What follows is description of the rest of the people of Israel – a wicked nation peppered with a scattering of the righteous.

1. Sorcery – 2 Chron. 33:1-13; Rev. 9:20-21; 18:23 – a prevalent “habit” among men.
2. Religious prostitution (remember Isa. 54:4-8). Hosea 4:14; Deut. 23:17-18
3. People who make fun of the “religious”, vs. 4.
4. Who go to “worship centers” on hillsides to be closer to their gods, vs. 5. Ezk 6:11-14
5. Who sacrifice their children to appease a variety of gods, vs. 5. Ezk. 20:27-32; Lev. 18:21
6. Who pour out their offerings in the same place they made their bed with prostitutes all at a high location “closer to the god”, vs. 6-7.

Spent a whole evening talking about their breaking the marriage vow.
Jer. 31:31-32
7. In your homes, instead of Deut. 6:6-ff, you have turned them into sexual perversity and have even called it a demonstration of your faith, vs. 8.
8. You travailed at all costs, even death, to practice your idolatry. No matter how difficult, hopeless, or faint you became, you found what it took to do that which your heart had set itself upon, vs. 9-10.
9. You were mine, but lied and chose not to remember Me. When you were deep in your sin you never gave Me a thought. I was silent so you stopped fearing me, vs. 11.

Vs. 12 I will expose you, your religious practices, but they will not profit you.

Vs. 13 Ask your gods to come to your aid. A puff of wind and they will be carried away.

He who takes refuge in Me might die early, vs. 1-2; but in the long run they will:

1. Inherit the land.
2. Possess My Holy Mountain.

Verses 14 through 21 – The Lord’s promise of forgiveness.

Vs. 14 In Isaiah 40:3-5, the people are told to prepare a road for their God. Here, their God is going to prepare a road for His people (the remnant). Isa. 62:10

Vs. 15 The God, who is high, exalted, lives forever, Holy, and lives on a high and holy place, invites humans who are contrite and lowly of spirit to come to Him to be revived in their spirit and heart. 1 John 3:1-2; Isa. 66:1-2

Vs. 16 God can become angry, but His anger is for a time (in relation to the lost, Rev. 14:10-11). Gen 6:3

Vs. 17 The reason for God’s anger against His people Israel:

1. Greed – unjust gain. Jer. 6:10-13
2. Independence – went on turning away.

Vs. 18 The Lord has seen Israel’s way, but:

1. He will heal him.
2. Lead him.
3. Restore him.
4. Comfort.

Vs. 19 To Israel:

1. Praise.
2. Peace.
3. Healing.

Vs. 20-21 To the wicked – no peace.

They are like a tossing sea, which cannot be calmed.
Garbage and mud throughout its waters.