

Part II, Lesson 30

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

God
Accused
The Wicked

Isaiah
57:3-13

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 30

God Accused the Wicked

Isaiah 57:3-13

Today we will hear some terrible things. We will read some frightening words from God Himself. We should know from the beginning that these very bad words were spoken to people who had ignored God's word and looked to idols for help. Read Isaiah 57:3-13.

Wow! What awful language. Why would that be in the Bible? The anger of God is worse toward those who claim to be His people. One can look through the Bible and find God's wrath against sinners, but we will also find that His anger is always strongest toward the people who should be closest to Him.

We don't have to look very far into the life of Jesus to see Him upset with religious leaders. He had to cleanse the Temple because, obviously, the priests would not. He denounced the prayer of the religious man and praised the prayer of the sinner. Jesus said that you are to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, soul mind." We could go on. However, let's just say that Jesus could not agree with the way religion was practiced in His day.

The awful language here lets us know that God is angry with the people of Judah, because they have deserted their worship of Him. He has just said (verses one and two) that the righteous may be killed, but they will find rest in Him. Then He said, "but you..." That is a very strong contrast. He calls them to come before Him. We are in the courtroom again. The Judge is calling the accused to face the bench.

He called them illegitimate children. They have rejected God as Father and have chosen to serve other gods. Yet they want to continue to be part of His "special children." They want His blessing, but they also want to be part of the cults and idol worshippers of their day.

God said that they were people who mocked. They sneered. They stuck out their tongues. This is the picture of people who have gone past disrespect, they have adopted a lifestyle of sarcasm.

They were disrespectful of God's laws and of their own children. Some of the cults of that day led people to offer their children as sacrifices to their gods, and God said that their reward for doing that were the lifeless idols that sat on smooth stones in the valleys. That's all they got, lifeless idols.

Now, these people have made offerings to the idols that they worshipped. They have gone up to the altars built on hilltops. They have put symbols of the idols on their doors and doorposts. They have followed all the rules and done all the religious things expected in idol worship.

Then comes the conclusion: They have forsaken God. They have gotten into bed with false gods. They have replaced the true God with false gods. They are like the person who is unfaithful to their spouse. They had, as a nation, broken the vows they had made to God. They had gone to the idols and the false religions and had made vows to them. Of course God was angry. Who wouldn't be?

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Isaiah said that they went to Molech. This could be the Canaanite god or the Ammonite god. They had poured olive oil and special perfumes all over themselves as an act of worship to this god. So we can add this to all the other things they have done to please the idols.

They even went so far as to send representatives to foreign lands to consult with their gods. Not satisfied with all the gods around them, they continued their search for additional gods who could bring them good luck, good fortune and good crops. And these representatives got very weary from their travels.

However, they “found renewal of their strength.” What does that mean? Well, it very likely means that they would follow all the practices of worshipping idols, and they were refreshed by that, at least emotionally and physically. It made them *feel good*. That is not necessarily spiritual refreshment. It is a momentary high.

God speaks as a forsaken lover in verse eleven. He said that they had been false to Him. They had not feared Him...that is, they had not respected Him. They had not remembered Him and all that He had done for them.

God said that He would show their righteousness and the good things that they do. And, when all that is exposed, it will be worth nothing. This reminds us of what Isaiah said later. “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...” Isaiah 64:6.

He said that they would “cry out for help” and when they did, God would just let their “collection of idols” save them. The word translated “collection” here actually means gathering, like you gather up some things or you pile up things. They had so many gods, they would have to make piles before they prayed for help.

And that pile would be scattered like so much dust. Just a puff of air would blow them away. All their gods put together would be of no help at all.

God said, “but,” and that is a strong contrast, like in verse three. God continued, “the man who makes me his refuge...” Psalm 46:1 and 2 say, “God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...”

God promised that those who depended on Him would not do so in vain, like those who depended on idols. Those who chose God would “inherit the land and possess my holy mountain.” God can deliver where idols cannot.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: “But the man who makes Me his refuge will inherit the land and possess My holy mountain.”
Isaiah 57:13b

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to trust God above all else.

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God Accused the Wicked—Isaiah 57:3-13

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. To whom were the awful words in today's lesson spoken?
2. God said that they were people who _____. They _____. They _____ their tongues.
3. These people have made offerings to the idols that they worshipped. They have gone up to the altars built on _____. They have put symbols of the idols on their _____ and _____. They have followed all the _____ and done all the _____ things expected in idol worship.
4. They had, as a nation, broken the _____ they had made to _____. They had gone to the idols and the _____ religions and had made vows to them. Of course, God was _____.
5. Who was Molech?
6. What did Isaiah say in chapter sixty-four, six?
7. Those who chose God would “_____ the land and _____ my holy mountain.” And God can deliver where the idols cannot.

Page Four

Scripture Memory: “But the man who makes me his refuge will inherit the land and possess my holy mountain.”
Isaiah 57:13b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.