

# The Wall of Separation

Isaiah 59:1-10

## I. Jehovah's full capability to save His people (Isa. 59:1)

Often in Scripture the word *hand* or *arm* in reference to God is equated with His *power* or *strength*. A short hand cannot reach its intended object. God's hand was not too short to reach down to His people.

So the reason that the people are not being delivered has nothing to do with God's inability to reach them. The Lord is omnipotent which means that he has all the power needed to save His people.

*...nor His ear too dull to hear*

The second reason that the people were not being delivered had nothing to do with God's inability to hear them. The truth was that God could hear the people. God cared enough to save His people and His ears were not too *heavy* that He couldn't hear them. God desired to save His people. He was omniscient and saw their plight.

**Truth: Therefore there must be another reason why salvation is not coming to the people. If the people would desire to call out to the Lord He would hear and He would save them.**

## II. The nation's spiritual corruption prevents them from being saved (Isa. 59:2-8).

The people had erected a wall of partition between themselves and God. That wall was the people's depraved lifestyle coupled with their iniquities and sins. The nation's acts of disobedience separated them from Jehovah and this caused Him to hide His face from them.

Sin builds a wall between the sinner and God. God will not answer the prayers of the sinful person. See Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:19.

**v. 3:** Those hands that were stretched out to God in prayer and fasting are *defiled with blood*.

**v. 4:** The people had no concern for justice, either a term referring to legal justice or the justice of God.

They speak vanity or empty pleas before God. Their fasts are empty, their prayers are empty, and none of it is acceptable to God. They are truly acting treacherously against the Lord.

Isaiah's point was that this type of lifestyle, the lies and lack of moral integrity and righteousness, will poison a society and are bound to suck the life out of it.

The wicked not only ruin their lives but anyone with whom they make contact. The deeds of the wicked will manifest more corruption and produce no good fruit.

Just as their webs are useless for clothing, their works are futile and empty. God can see right through their hypocritical acts. And when He looks He sees their sinful deeds and acts of violent crimes.

As a result the wicked does not know peace. They have no justice in their paths because those paths are crooked and perverse. They have no sense of right in their life. They are dishonest and full of deceit.

### **III. The prophet responds with a confession of national sin (Isa. 59:9-15).**

At this point justice was nowhere to be found because a result of living far from God is that His justice is impossible to find when one is blinded by their own sinful ways. The consequences of sin in this chapter are pictured as devastating. Death, no peace, no justice, and no righteousness.

“When men seek for salvation in any way other than that prescribed of the Lord, or when they continue in their sins, they will not find salvation” (Young 434). God desires to change them but in their continual spiritually depraved state, God will not and cannot act to deliver them. Their situation was dire and hopeless but none of this was God’s fault. God can never take the blame for our choices of rebellion and waywardness.