

# Jehovah's Response to Judah's Depravity

Text: Isaiah 59:15b-21

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## III. Jehovah's responses to the spiritual corruption of His people (Isa. 59:15b-21)

### **\*\*Displeasure over lack of justice**

"Whatever distress Israel may have experienced at the hands of the heathen, the greater part of her suffering was self-inflicted, coming from within" (Hailey 482).

### **\*\* Distress over the peoples' helplessness**

God was appalled at the people's spiritual desolation and astonished that there was no man that could act as an intercessor.

No one "defended His cause or proclaimed His truth"..... "The language speaks of a genuine astonishment, which would express itself in displeasure and yet in compassion for His own to such an extent the He Himself acts" (Young 438).

### **\*\*The Deliverer comes to the rescue (Is. 59:16b-17)**

How did God deliver His people?

- God put on righteousness like a breastplate – that which is God's armor is His own righteousness which He uses in judgment upon the wicked and on behalf of His people.
- God places a helmet of salvation upon His head – this represents His power that He will use to save His people. See Eph. 6:14, 17
- His garment is vengeance
- He wraps Himself in zeal like a robe – this word means *His intense concern for His people and determination to eliminate their enemies*. His fervent passion then is to battle for His people and against all those who stand against them.

God will fully and justly dispense to His adversaries the judgment and justice they deserve.

The truth remains God is sovereignly in control and working to deliver His people.

These people will fear God. They will have a reverent, obedient, trusting fear of God's deliverance and judgment. People will acknowledge His name, His work, and His character. His glory will be famous because it will be obvious Who has done the work. **"The fear of God is a profound respect for His holiness, which includes a fear of the consequences of disobeying Him". —Randy Alcorn**

### **\*\*Redeem from all sins**

That is the picture of the coming Redeemer here in Isaiah 59:21. He will pay a ransom price in order to purchase another person's freedom and liberty. And while often in the book of Isaiah the word Redeemer refers to Jehovah, here it refers to the suffering Servant, the Jewish Messiah. In the future, at the Second Coming, Jesus Christ will judge His enemies and bring salvation for His people. See Rom. 11:26-27.

Who will Christ come to save? Those who have converted from their transgressions and rebellious works.

A covenant is a contractual arrangement or legal obligation between God and a person (people). Here the covenant was for the purpose of God's redemptive work on behalf of His people. This covenant is unconditional for God alone made and will keep the conditions according to His gracious work toward His people. The covenant is everlasting and not just for the duration of a period of time. The covenant's basis is rooted in the *sure mercies (hesed)* of God.

### **Conclusion**

Moral collapse? Yes! Depravity of man seen in this chapter? Yes! Spiritual collapse? Yes! But God has the answers! Isaiah confessed the national sin and God responded with the promise that the Deliverer would come to the rescue. God has promised to redeem those who are repentant. While there are consequences for the crumbling, there are great promises of hope and help from the past at the cross and the future when Jesus reigns.

What can we do as Christians?

1. Our prayer life for spiritual revival must intensify in these last days.
2. Each of us must stay spiritually clean before God.
3. We must stand for what is right and against all that is wrong.
4. As Christians, we must take this moment to spread the gospel.

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