

# Isaiah 57 - Israel's Futile Idolatry; Healing for the Backslider

## III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1–66:24)

- (2) Israel's deliverer (Is 49:1–57:21)
  - (G) Concluding warnings (57:1-21)
    - (a) Divine judgment to be imposed upon covenant violators (57:1-13)
    - (b) Divine mercy to be given to the contrite (57:14-21)

## Isaiah 57

- (G) Concluding warnings (57:1-21)
  - (a) Divine judgment to be imposed upon covenant violators (57:1-13)

**1** The righteous person perishes, and no one takes it to heart; And devout people are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous person is taken away from evil,

**1** The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; And devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from evil,

**1** "Also the righteous are perishing, but no one takes it to heart; devout people are taken away, while no one understands that the righteous person is taken away from calamity.

**1** The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

**2** He enters into peace; They rest in their beds, *Each one* who walked in his upright way.

**2** He enters into peace; They rest in their beds, *Each one* who walked in his upright way.

**2** Then he enters into peace, and they'll rest on his couches, each one living righteously.

**2** He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

## The Status of the Wicked: Idolatry

- 3** "But come here, you sons of a sorceress, Offspring of an adulterer and a prostitute!
- 3** "But come here, you sons of a sorceress, Offspring of an adulterer and a prostitute.
- 3** "But as for you, come here, you children of a sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes!
- 3** But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore.

4 "Of whom do you make fun? Against whom do you open wide your mouth And stick out your tongue? Are you not children of rebellion, Offspring of deceit,  
4 "Against whom do you jest? Against whom do you open wide your mouth And stick out your tongue? Are you not children of rebellion, Offspring of deceit,  
4 Whom are you mocking? And against whom do you make a wide mouth and stick out your tongue? Are you not children of transgression, the offspring of lies,  
4 Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood,

5 Who inflame yourselves among the oaks, Under every luxuriant tree, Who slaughter the children in the ravines, Under the clefts of the rocks?

5 Who inflame yourselves among the oaks, Under every luxuriant tree, Who slaughter the children in the ravines, Under the clefts of the crags?

5 you who burn with lust among the oaks, under every spreading tree, who slaughter your children in the ravines, under the clefts of the rocks?

5 Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?

- Moloch, set up altar in the Valley of Hinom (2 Kings 3:27; Micah 6:7; 2 Kings 17:7) by Israel

- Child sacrifice...

— Ahaz (2 Kings 16:3; 2 Chr 28:3)

— Manasseh (2 Kings 21:6)

6 "Among the smooth stones of the ravine Is your portion, they are your lot; Even to them you have poured out a drink offering, You have made a grain offering. Should I relent of these things?

6 "Among the smooth stones of the ravine Is your portion, they are your lot; Even to them you have poured out a drink offering, You have made a grain offering. Shall I relent concerning these things?

6 "Among the smooth stones of the ravines is your portion— there they are as your lot. To them you have poured out drink offerings; you have brought grain offerings. Should I be lenient over such things?

6 Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion; they, they are thy lot: even to them hast thou poured a drink offering, thou hast offered a meat offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

7 "On a high and lofty mountain You have made your bed. You also went up there to offer sacrifice.

7 "Upon a high and lofty mountain You have made your bed. You also went up there to offer sacrifice.

7 "You have made your bed on a high and lofty mountain, and you went up to offer sacrifice there.

7 Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.

8 "Behind the door and the doorpost You have set up your sign; Indeed, far removed from Me, you have uncovered yourself, And have gone up and made your bed wide. And you have made an agreement for yourself with them, You have loved their bed, You have looked at *their* manhood.

8 "Behind the door and the doorpost You have set up your sign; Indeed, far removed from Me, you have uncovered yourself, And have gone up and made your bed wide. And you have made an agreement for yourself with them, You have loved their bed, You have looked on *their* manhood.

8 Behind the doors and the doorposts you have set up your pagan sign." For in deserting me you have uncovered your bed— you have climbed up into it and have opened it wide. And you have made a pact for yourself with them; you have loved their bed, you have looked on their private parts.

8 Behind the doors also and the posts hast thou set up thy remembrance: for thou hast discovered thyself to another than me, and art gone up; thou hast enlarged thy bed, and made thee a covenant with them; thou lovedst their bed where thou sawest it.

9 "You have journeyed to the **king** with oil And increased your perfumes; You have sent your messengers a great distance And made *them* go down to Sheol.

9 "You have journeyed to the king with oil And increased your perfumes; You have sent your envoys a great distance And made *them* go down to Sheol.

9 You went to Molech with olive oil and increased your perfumes; you sent your ambassadors far away, you sent them down even to Sheol itself!

9 And thou wentest to the king with ointment, and didst increase thy perfumes, and didst send thy messengers far off, and didst debase thyself even unto hell.

- "...king" - *melech*, same letters as Molech. False worship described idiomatically as adultery.

10 "You were tired out by the length of your road, Yet you did not say, 'It is hopeless!' You found renewed strength, Therefore you did not faint.

10 "You were tired out by the length of your road, Yet you did not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewed strength, Therefore you did not faint.

10 You grew tired with your many wanderings, but you wouldn't say: 'It is hopeless.' You found new strength for your desire, and so you did not falter.

10 Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.

11 "Of whom were you worried and fearful When you lied, and did not remember Me Nor give Me a thought? Was I not silent, even for a long time, So you do not fear Me?

11 "Of whom were you worried and fearful When you lied, and did not remember Me Nor give Me a thought? Was I not silent even for a long time So you do not fear Me?

11 "Whom did you so dread— and while you feared me— that you lied, and you did not remember me, and did not lay to heart these things? Haven't I remained silent for a long time, and still you don't fear me?"

11 And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

12 "I will declare your righteousness and your deeds,  
And they will not benefit you.

12 "I will declare your righteousness and your deeds,  
But they will not profit you.

12 "I will denounce your righteousness and your works,  
for your collections of idols will not benefit you.

12 I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee.

13 "When you cry out, let your collection of *idols* save you. But the wind will carry them all up, *And* a breath will take *them* away. But the one who takes refuge in Me will inherit the land And possess My holy mountain."

13 "When you cry out, let your collection of *idols* deliver you. But the wind will carry all of them up, *And* a breath will take *them* away. But he who takes refuge in Me will inherit the land And will possess My holy mountain."

13 When you cry out, let your collection deliver you! The wind will carry them all off, and a mere breath will sweep them all away." But whoever takes refuge in me will possess the land, and will inherit my holy mountain.

13 When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;

(b) Divine mercy to be given to the contrite (57:14-21)

14 And it will be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle from the way of My people."

14 And it will be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people."

14 And one has said: 'Build up! Build up the road! Prepare the highway! Remove every obstacle from my people's way.'

14 And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.

15 For this is what the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, says: "I dwell *in* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

15 "For this is what the high and lofty One says, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "He lives in the height and in holiness, and also with the one who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

16 "For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would grow faint before Me, And the breath of *those whom* I have made.

16 "For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would grow faint before Me, And the breath of *those whom* I have made.

16 For I won't accuse forever, nor will I always be angry; for then the human spirit would grow faint before me— even the souls that I have created.

16 For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

17 "Because of the wrongful act of his unjust gain I was angry and struck him; I hid *My* face and was angry, And he went on turning away, in the way of his heart.

17 "Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry and struck him; I hid *My* face and was angry, And he went on turning away, in the way of his heart.

17 Because of his wicked greed I was angry, so I punished him; and I hid my face, and was angry— but he kept turning back to his stubborn will.

17 For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

18 "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners,

18 "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners,

18 I've seen his ways, yet I will heal him, and restore for him comfort to him and for those who mourn for him

18 I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.

19 Creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far away and to him who is near," Says the LORD, "and I will heal him."

19 Creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near," Says the LORD, "and I will heal him."

19 when I create the fruit of the lips: Peace to the one who is far away or near," says the LORD, "and I'll heal him.

19 I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

### **The Condemnation of the Wicked**

20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

20 But the wicked are tossed like the sea; for it is not able to keep still, and its waters toss up mire and mud.

20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

21 "Yet there is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.