

The Cure to Distrusting God

Text: Isaiah 57:11-21

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****Following the heathen nations and lack of trust in Jehovah**

If Judah had feared Jehovah there would have been no place for anxiety or worry. In their fear of the Lord they should not have feared idols, heathen nations, or foreign kings. They feared the very things and people that could not deliver them. They sought man's favor only to find that it fell woefully short of salvation. In the end all that their deceit brought them was judgment and heartache. Whether as a result of negligence or indifference or open rebellion, the people lived out a lie before God. They deceitfully pretended to live their lives out before Jehovah while their actions proved that in times of crisis they trusted man instead.

Judah's "righteousness" was a phony man-centered righteousness rooted in their depraved hearts.

Man is blinded by his own ideas of what right and wrong are. Had the nation not been so polluted by its love for idols and unfaithfulness, they may have realized that their righteousness was nothing but filthy rags.

No collection of dead idols or heathen kings can save the nation. They are so dead and impotent that the wind will take them away. Even a simple breath can do them in.

In the end the idolater's lot or portion are the idols themselves, an emptiness that cannot be filled. The person who trusts Jehovah will have an eternal inheritance.

"Whereas the wind will carry away the vain idols in which the faithless had placed their trust, the one who waits upon the Lord in hope looks forward to the inheritance of the promises and the rich blessing of fullness of life with God" (Young 409). Read Ps. 37:3-7.

III. The love of God shown through His promises (Isa. 57:14-21).

****Promise of restoration**

Here is the reason why God is to be trusted above all else: God can restore the unrighteous to Himself.

What can we learn about God in this verse?

- He is eternal.
- He has the right to issue these commands.
- He guarantees the promises associated with His commands.
- He is holy; that is, the sum of all His perfections and His perfect being are set apart from all that is profane.
- The One who is high and holy has issued this command, and on that basis His promises are sure and trustworthy.

While God transcends His creation and inhabits eternity, He condescends to dwell with the humble.

The humble is the person who bows the knee to Jehovah and surrenders his life to Him as Master and Lord. **This is the cure to distrusting God!**

Application: This person then acknowledges his sin and total dependence upon the Lord. It is to this person that Jehovah will stoop and revive. Those who accept His chastening for their sin and submit to His will He will revive their spirit. When God dwells with the person who has been crushed, He has the power to endue life into their spirits. "No greater blessing can come to the heart oppressed by sin than the presence of the living God" (Young 411).

****Promise of God's anger ending**

God will not oppose His people forever. Neither will He continue in anger forever. If God's anger is forever man's spirit would grow faint. If God did not limit His anger all of mankind would be utterly consumed.

God is promising that at some point His anger will be completed based on His grace.

****Promise of healing**

Despite all their sins against Him, God will yet heal His people.

This healing includes *forgiveness of sins* and a *complete restoration back to Him*.

What will God bring into existence that He will be praised for? Peace!

The promises of God give peace. For so long Israel has not known peace, but God has desired peace with His people and He will keep the peace of His covenant with them.

The promise of peace is not for those who fail to believe.

In being separated from God the wicked find no peace or rest; they only find the restless, unnerving, unending wild waves of their own ways (Jude 13).