

# The Way of God And The Way of Man

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #29

Isaiah 59 – March 8, 2017 – Wednesday

## I. GOD'S UNLIMITED ABILITY, 59:1

### A. God's Metaphorical Hand

1. This is a metaphor, which refers to God's ability or inability to do his own work, to perform his divine will, even among the inhabitants of the world.
2. Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*
3. Of course, there is NO inability with God. He can do all things that are within his nature and his character.
4. Isaiah 50:2 *Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.*
5. Romans 9:15 *For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*
6. God's hand must reach into the earth to accomplish his purpose among the inhabitants of the earth.
7. He is speaking here metaphorically concerning a hand that is real only in our minds, because God does not have physical hands.
8. His hands, metaphorically, are not shortened that they cannot save.
  - a. He can save literally, earthly, physically, which he did many times for Israel.
  - b. He can save spiritually, saving the soul from sin and freeing sinners from judgment for their sins.

### B. God's Earthly Hand

1. Jesus Christ is the Hand of God in his work on earth.
2. When Jesus reached out his hand to touch a person who was sick, to heal him, he was reaching out the hand of God.
3. What Jesus touched, God touched.
4. When the Bible says that his hand is not shortened that it cannot save, he is also referring to the coming of Jesus to the world to be man's Daysman, his Intercessor, his Lawyer before Almighty God.
5. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, and his coming to the earth is God's reaching his hand down to man to save those whom God has given to Jesus, as we noticed in the message last Sunday from John Chapter 17.
6. It is not impossible for God to come to earth, and he did come to earth in the body of Jesus.
7. Jesus humbled himself – Phil 2:8-9 *And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled** himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore*

*God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

8. His name is Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

## II. MAN’S COMPLETE INABILITY, 59:2-8

### A. There are two main words, 2

1. **Iniquity**, which means the perversity of sin; that is, missing the perfection of God, or coming short of God’s glory and his demand in the law.
  - a. Iniquity has made a separation between man and God.
  - b. The only thing man can know is the things that are in his mind and what he can learn from the things around him – 1 Corinthians 2:11a *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?*
  - c. Man cannot comprehend or apprehend the things of God.
  - d. God knows all things – 1 Corinthians 2:11b . . . *even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.* – 1 John 3:20 *For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*
2. **Sins**, which means the pattern of man’s life, his habitual committing of sin against God, which is his nature. Man does all things within the limits of his own nature.
  - a. Sins have hidden God’s face from man.
  - b. It is not God who has hidden his face from man, but sins have hidden God’s face from us.
  - c. It is not God who first sinned in Eden to separate the face of God from Adam and Eve, but it was their sin which hid God’s face from them.
  - d. We should never think that sin is the fault of God.

### B. The Enumeration of Sins, 3-8

1. Hands defiled with blood, 3
  - a. Innocent blood
    - (1) *Cities of refuge were allocated in the Promised Land so that innocent people may go there so that a man could not kill him out of revenge.*
    - (2) *2 Kings 21:16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.*
2. Fingers defiled with iniquity, 3
3. Lips have spoken lies, 3
4. Tongue uttered perverseness, 3
5. None call for justice, 4
6. None plead for truth, 4
7. They trust in vanity (vain things, profane judgments), 4
8. They conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity, 4
  - a. *James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
9. They hatch cockatrice eggs, 5
  - a. A cockatrice is a poisonous snake.
    - (1) If you eat the egg, you die.
    - (2) If you break the egg, it will produce a viper.

10. They weave a spider's web, 5-6
  - a. These spider's webs should not become garments.
  - b. They are too weak to be worn as garments
  - c. This is like trying to cover themselves with their works
  - d. Their works are the works of iniquity; that is the only works they can produce.
  - e. The act of violence is in their hands.
11. Their feet run to evil, 7
12. They make haste (hurry) to shed innocent blood, 7
13. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, 7
14. Wasting and destruction are in their hands, 7
15. They way of peace they know not, 8
  - a. They are interested in the Peacenick kind of peace.
  - b. They do not know the peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7)
16. There is no judgment in their goings, or in their daily lives, 8
  - a. No pure judgment, only perverse judgment
  - b. No godly judgment, only vain judgment.
  - c. Only opinions, no truth.
17. They have made them crooked paths, 8
  - a. They may think their path goes straight to Heaven
  - b. They may think they do God justice
  - c. Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* (See also Prov 16:25).
  - d. Whoever goes in that crooked path shall not find true peace, 8

### III. PERSONAL ADMISSION OF GUILT, 59:9-12

- A. In the former verses we see God's bringing charges against Israel, thus bringing charges against every sinner.
- B. Now the sinners are acknowledging that they are guilty of the charges leveled against them.
- C. So, now the pronoun changes from "they" to "us" and "we."
  1. Judgment is far from us, 9
  2. Justice does not overtake us,9
  3. We wait for light, but we get obscurity, 9
  4. We wait for brightness, but we walk in darkness, 9
  5. We grope for the wall like the blind, as if we had no eyes, 10
  6. We stumble in the noonday as in the night, 10
  7. We are in desolate places as dead men, 10
  8. We roar like bears, 11
  9. We mourn sore like doves, 11
  10. We look for judgment, but there is none, 11
  11. We look for salvation, but it is far from us, 11
    - a. You may look for salvation, and you should
    - b. But you cannot find salvation
    - c. Salvation must find you
    - d. "When I could not go to him, he came to me."

12. Our transgressions are multiplied before thee (God), 12
13. Our sins testify against us, 12
14. Our transgressions are with us, 12
  - a. We can blame no one but ourselves
  - b. Only we alone are responsible and answerable for our transgressions
15. We know our iniquities, 12

#### IV. GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF ISRAEL'S SIN, 59:13-19

- A. Lying against the LORD and departing from him, 13
- B. Speaking oppression and revolt, 13
- C. Conceiving and uttering falsehoods from the heart, 13
- D. Judgment is turned away backward, 14
- E. Judgment standeth afar off, 14
- F. Truth is fallen in the street, 14
- G. Equity (true value of righteous judgment) cannot enter, 14
- H. Truth faileth, 15
- I. He that departs from evil makes himself a prey, 15
  1. I just read this week of two street preachers in Britain who have been charged and jailed for preaching that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
  2. Those charging the two say that the words of the King James Bible are not true, so these men have no right to preach these words from the Bible.
- J. There was no man, 16
  1. There was no man who could save Israel, just as there is no man on earth who can save any other man from his sins.
- K. There was no intercessor, 16
  1. The man who saves must be an intercessor between man and God, and there was no one who would plead with God to save Israel, nor was there a man on earth who could be a true intercessor between God and sinful man.
  2. There is not even one man who is worthy to be an intercessor
    - a. Psalms 14:2-3 *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
    - b. Psalms 53:2-3 *God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. 3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
- L. His (God's) arm brought salvation, 16
  1. There was no man on earth who could bring salvation, so it came from God.
  2. The "arm of the Lord" is Jesus' work on the earth in righteousness and his death, burial, and resurrection, and his eternal mediation from Heaven for all believers; and so he brought salvation to the sinner.
  3. And Jesus' righteousness sustains the believers.
  4. He put on righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation on his head.
  5. He put on the garments of vengeance as clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke, 17

- a. He was prepared from head to foot for the work that God gave his Son to do.
- b. He put on the whole armor of God – Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
  - (1) Loins with truth
  - (2) Breastplate of righteousness
  - (3) Feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace
  - (4) Shield of faith
  - (5) Helmet of salvation
  - (6) Sword of the Spirit
  - (7) Praying always, as Jesus did many times in his life.
  - (8) Watching with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.
- c. Also, he is seen in the book of Revelation having a garment “dipped in blood.”
- d. These are the garments of vengeance
  - (1) Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* (See also Hebrews 10:30). Vengeance on sin at the cross.
  - (2) 2 Thessalonians 1:8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- e. Jesus had a great zeal to save his people from their sins.
- 6. Jesus will repay according to their deeds, 18
  - a. The most current meaning of this verse is that God will avenge Israel on their enemies and give the enemies what the enemies gave to Israel.
  - b. The spiritual meaning is that God avenged us of the devil’s sorceries and tricks, redeemed us, and brought us into his Kingdom.
- 7. People from around the world will fear God, 19
  - a. From the west
  - b. From the rising of the sun, the east.
  - c. Isn’t that how far the Lord has cast our sins? Psalms 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*
  - d. And when the enemy comes in like a flood, God will lift up a standard against him.
    - (1) “life up a standard” is one Hebrew word, and it is a verb
    - (2) This is not a standard as used in other scriptures. This is an action.
    - (3) When the devil floods his way in to harm or destroy God’s people, the Spirit of the Lord will bring a “driving out” against him.
    - (4) So, this word “standard” meanings “a driving out.”
    - (5) This is done by preaching, living, and publishing the word of God.

#### V. THE REDEEMER HAS A COVENANT, 59:20-21

- A. The Redeemer will come to Zion, the Kingdom of God, to be king over it, and to the people of it who turn from their transgressions, 20
- B. This is the Redeemer’s Covenant, 21
  - 1. My Spirit is upon thee
  - 2. My words have I put in thy mouth.
  - 3. These words will not depart from the mouth of believers, nor of their seed, nor of their

- seed's seed henceforth and forever.
4. The word of God will be preached by believers always.

## VI. CONCLUSION

- A. We have seen the way of man, and we have seen the way of God.
- B. Man is pretty much helpless in the doing's of God's will and work.
- C. It is God who brings redemption and salvation and who preserves his people.
- D. Man has complete inability through his iniquity and his sins.
- E. Man must admit his sins and turn from transgressions.
- F. God agrees with us when we confess our sins to him, and he will wash them clean by the blood of the Lamb of God.
- G. That because God has a covenant with Israel, and he has made a covenant with all of the people who will repent and believe in Jesus Christ as God's son.
- H. And the Redeemer will come to Zion.
  1. Perhaps there is a small suggestion here of the second coming of the Lord.
  2. If so, then he is intimating our being with him in Zion, the temple in heaven and eventually on earth, as he makes all things new.