

God's Hand Is Not Shortened

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #19
Isaiah 50:1-11 – December 28, 2016 – Wednesday

- I. THE SIN OF ISRAEL, 50:1-3
 - A. There is a separation between God and his people, Israel.
 1. Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*
 2. Sin will bar our fellowship with God and will harshly slight us of any of the benefits, mercy, and charity of God toward us.
 - B. God asks for proof that he has divorced his people.
 1. Hosea 1:8-11 *Now when she had weaned Loruhamah (no mercy), she conceived, and bare a son. 9 Then said God, Call his name Loammī (not my people): for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. 11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.*
 - C. God did not sell them to his creditors, for he has no creditors.
 - D. They sold themselves to their enemies by their transgressions.
 - E. Their mother, the temple or tabernacle, was put away, or destroyed by the hand of their enemies.
 - F. Our sin is our fault.
 1. James 1:14 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*
 - G. In verse 2 we read that God came, and there was no man to receive him.
 1. God sent prophets to tell them the truth: 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 *And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*
 2. God sent his Son, and they did not receive him: John 1:11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*
 3. Matthew 21:37-39 *But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.*
 - H. They thought little of God and his salvation, verse 2b – Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem?
 1. Deuteronomy 32:15 *But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.*

- I. But God is the Sovereign of the universe, verse 3
 1. God does and will “clothe the heavens with blackness” as in Revelation 6:12 *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*
 2. He will punish Israel for their sins; his wrath will be shown.
 3. But he will also make “sackcloth their covering.”
 - a. Sackcloth is a cloth worn in times of mourning and repentance.
 - b. God’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save – Isaiah 59:1 *Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*
 - c. Israel will repent, and God will save them.

II. THE SERVICE OF CHRIST, 50:4-9

- A. The Lord Heard And Spoke, 4
 1. “The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned” refers to Jesus Christ.
 2. As the prophets of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, so Christ himself spoke what of God as no man can speak like this man: John 7:46 *The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.*
 3. He spoke in season to those who were weary. One commentator (Gill) says this word “weary” is the same as “thirsty.”
 4. Every morning, verse 4, God awakened the Lord Jesus to hear his word as the learned, as one who could understand the words and meaning of what God spoke.
- B. The Lord Was Not Rebellious, 5
 1. Jesus did not rebel against God’s will and plan.
 2. Neither did he turn his back upon God’s will and work.
 3. John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*
 4. Jesus said in the Garden of Gethsemane, “. . . not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).
- C. Jesus Surrendered To His Enemies, 6
 1. His back to the smiters
 2. His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair
 3. His face in shame he did not hide. He was proud to do God’s will no matter how gruesome it may be.
- D. The Lord God Will Help Him, 7
 1. He will not be confounded but always sober-minded.
 2. He set his face like a flint, and he will not be ashamed.
 3. God’s purpose was the only catalyst to Jesus’ work and his attitude in life.
- E. God Was Near Jesus, 8
 1. God, who will justify Jesus, is near, not far away.
 - a. Psalm 22:11 *Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.*
 - b. Psalm 22:19 *But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.*

- c. Psalm 22:21 *Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*
- F. The Lord Help Jesus, In His Hour Of Need, 9
 - 1. No one can condemn Jesus, because he is righteous.
 - 2. His enemies will wax old.

III. THE SADNESS OF REJECTION, 50:10-11

- A. Who Fears The Lord, 10
 - 1. There are some who say they fear the Lord, but they fear him for works' sake, for rewards' sake, not a love, obedient, and reverent fear.
 - 2. Unless they fear him in faith with great reverence and obedience.
 - 3. These who truly believe will walk in the darkness of the world, but they trust in the name of the Lord and "stay" upon their God.
 - 4. Those who do not truly believe and follow Christ are in darkness and has no light.
 - 5. He must trust in the Lord for light.
- B. Some Kindle A Fire, 11
 - 1. The fire that the lost will kindle is a fire of reason, of debate and science falsely so called.
 - 2. The sparks are perhaps new ideas of philosophy and reason, humanism, agnosticism, etc.
 - 3. The Lord here encourages these ones to walk in the light of their own fire and the sparks that they have kindled.
 - 4. But God says they will "lie down in sorrow.
 - 5. This is the sadness of rejection, rejection of the Gospel message of Christ Jesus.