

# The Righteous And The Wicked

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #27

Isaiah 57 – February 22, 2017 – Wednesday

## I. THE END OF THE RIGHTEOUS, 57:1-2

### A. The Righteous Perish, 1

1. Hebrew ABAD (Perish) indicates that the righteous upon the earth will perish out of the sight of the wicked. One meaning of this word ABAD is to *vanish*.
2. Ecclesiastes 7:15 *All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.*
3. As the ice vanishes when the warmth comes (Job 6:17)
4. As the heavens will vanish away like smoke (Isaiah 51:6)
5. As prophecies, tongues, and special revelation will vanish (1 Cor. 13:8)
6. As the *old covenant* passed away (Heb. 8:13)

### B. No Man Takes It To Heart, 1

1. The wicked men of the world care nothing of the vanishing of the righteous from the earth as they die in their allotted time.
2. Revelation 11:10 *And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*
3. Merciful men are taken away, and this has a negative effect upon society and the attitude of the world at large.
4. The wicked do not consider that the righteous ones have been taken away, or have been saved, from the evil to come, as John the Baptist called for his hearers to *flee from the wrath to come* (Matt. 3:7).

### C. Three Conditions Of The Vanished Righteous, 2

1. “He shall inter into peace”
  - a. John Gill says on this verse:

John Gill on Verse 2 – “. . . he has peace through believing in Christ; he has peace in, though not from, his obedience and holiness of life; and he has peace in the midst of the many trials he is exercised with; and he goes out of the world in peace, with great serenity and tranquillity of mind, as Simeon desired he might, having views of an interest in Christ, and in the glories of another world; and as soon as he is departed from hence he enters into peace, into a state where there is everything that makes for peace; there is the God of peace; there is Christ, the Prince of peace; there is the Spirit, whose fruit is peace; and there are the angels of peace, and good men, the sons of peace: and there is nothing there to disturb their peace . . .”

2. “They shall rest in their beds”
  - a. They will rest in the bosom of Abraham

- b. They will rest in the arms of Jesus
  - c. Their bodies will rest in the grave until delivered
  - d. They will rest from their labors
  - e. They will rest from sickness, pain, persecution, and even death
3. They will walk in his righteousness
- a. They walk in Christ's righteousness in the Spirit
  - b. Romans 8:4 *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
  - c. Matthew 6:33 – seek his righteousness
  - d. Romans 3:25, 26 – declare his righteousness
  - e. 2 Cor. 9:9 – His righteousness remains forever

## II. THE EFFORTS OF THE WICKED, 3-13a

### A. God Calls The Wicked Near, 3

1. He calls them *sons of the sorceress*
  - a. This sorceress is a woman.
  - b. Many false religions are started by women
  - c. Ellen White was influential in the starting of cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses
  - d. Revelation 2:20 *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*
2. He calls them *seed of the adulterer and whore*
  - a. The wicked have left the God whom they should love and serve and to whom they should surrender.
  - b. They have gone after foreign gods and have intimate relationships with them.
  - c. This is spiritual adultery.

### B. God Exposes The Wicked, 4

1. Whom do they sport themselves against? God, their maker
2. Whom do they open their mouths against? God, their maker
3. Whom do they stick out their tongue? God, their maker
4. Don't they know that they are children of transgression (sin)?
5. Don't they know they are the see of falsehood?
6. No, evidently they do not.

### C. God Exposes Their Efforts At Worship, 5-9

1. Their worship beneath the oaks, 5
  - a. They inflame (with passions) with idols under every green tree, some say "beneath the oaks."
  - b. In their worship to their false gods, they slay their children in their worship places under the clefts of the rocks.
  - c. They go among the smooth stones and choose the stone they desire to turn into an idol.
  - d. They fashion and form the stone into their own little house god.
  - e. They pour out their drink offering to these false gods and give meat offerings to these false gods.

2. Their worship upon the high mountain, 7
    - a. They even went upon the high mountain to set up their worship of false gods.
  3. Their worship in their houses, 8a
    - a. Behind the doors and the posts
    - b. Enlarged thy bed, in order to invite others to worship their false gods.
  4. Their worship and proselyting abroad, 8b-9
    - a. This implies that these wicked ones went into other cities and countries making proselytes for the false gods.
    - b. Matthew 23:15 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*
    - c. They went to the king with ointment (9) and perfumes to entice the kings to bring this false religion into their domain, and it was successful.
- D. God Exposes Their Endurance, 10-11
1. They were weary of the greatness (or difficulty) of the way, the way in which they were working so hard to worship and get other people to worship false gods.
  2. Yet they did not see nor say “There is no hope.”
  3. They found life in their own hand; they thought that real life was in their own efforts and their worship of idols.
  4. Therefore, they were not grieved with their hard work but continued on in it.
  5. They were not afraid to lie (11), because God was longsuffering and merciful to them.
  6. They did not bring God into their remembrance but forgot him, going to commit spiritual adultery with other gods.
  7. This is why they did not fear but endured their practices.
- E. God Exposes Their Righteousness, 12-13a
1. Their righteousness and their works amounted to no profit for the wicked.
  2. They were empty and worthless efforts for salvation and for a peaceful life after death.
  3. In their self-righteousness they were to cry in their time of desperation to their idols and even to the kings, whom they had deceived, for help, but these idols and kings will vanish: “the wind will carry them away; vanity shall take them.”

### III. THE EXCELLENCY OF GOD’S INHERITANCE, 13b-19

- A. The Possession of The Land and The Mountain, 13b
1. When Israel comes back from their captivity in Babylon, they will possess the land of Israel.
  2. When Israel has faith in their Messiah, Jesus, they will have an inheritance of God’s holy mountain.
    - a. To the Jew this mountain is Jerusalem.
    - b. To the spiritual Jew, this mountain is Mount Zion
- B. Showing The Way, 14
1. “Cast ye up” is one Hebrew word (SALAL) and means “to raise up, or to make plain.”
  2. We are reminded here of the words of John the Baptist:
  3. Matthew 3:3 *For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths*

- straight.* (Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4)
4. Isaiah 40:3-4 *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*
  5. The way of the Lord is the “way of righteousness” (Matt. 21:32; 2 Peter 2:21).
  6. The way of the Lord is the “way of God in truth” (Matt. 22:16; 2 Peter 2:2)
  7. The way of the Lord is the “way of salvation” (Acts 16:17)
  8. The way of the Lord is the “way of peace” (Rom. 3:17)
- C. God Is The High And Holy One, 15
1. High and holy one
  2. High and holy place
  3. But only with them that are contrite and humble
  4. This is to revive the spirit and the heart.
- D. God’s Wrath Will Not Be Forever, 16-19
1. Psalms 78:38 *But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.*
  2. God has seen the way of the sinners and will heal them, 18
  3. God has peace for both they who are afar and near, 19, and he will heal them. These are the Gentiles and the Jews alike.
- IV. GOD’S EXPLANATION OF THE WICKED, 20-21
- A. They are like the troubled sea, tossing to and fro.
  - B. They cast up mire and dirt.
  - C. There is no peace to the wicked, 21