

### Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—A Call to Obedience (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 56:1–8

- 1 Thus says the LORD,  
“Preserve justice and do righteousness,  
For My salvation is about to come  
And My righteousness to be revealed.
- 2 “How blessed is the man who does this,  
And the son of man who takes hold of it;  
Who keeps from profaning the sabbath,  
And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”
- 3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely separate me from His people.”  
Nor let the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”
- 4 For thus says the LORD,  
“To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths,  
And choose what pleases Me,  
And hold fast My covenant,
- 5 To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial,  
And a name better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.
- 6 “Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD,  
To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath  
And holds fast My covenant;
- 7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain  
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.  
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;  
For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” [\[Matt 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46\]](#)
- 8 The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares,  
“Yet *others* I will gather to them, to those *already* gathered.”

### Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Denunciation of the Wicked (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 56:9–57:13

#### A Picture of Adulterous Israel

- 56:9 All you beasts of the field,  
All you beasts in the forest,  
Come to eat.
- 10 His watchmen are blind,  
All of them know nothing.  
All of them are mute dogs unable to bark,  
Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber;
- 11 And the dogs are greedy, they are not satisfied.  
And they are shepherds who have no understanding;  
They have all turned to their own way,  
Each one to his unjust gain, to the last one.
- 12 “Come,” *they say*, “let us get wine, and let us drink heavily of strong drink;  
And tomorrow will be like today, only more so.”
- 57:1 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,
- 2 He enters into peace;  
They rest in their beds,  
*Each one* who walked in his upright way.
- 3 “But come here, you sons of a sorceress,  
Offspring of an adulterer and a prostitute.
- 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,
- 5 *Who* inflame yourselves among the oaks,  
 Under every luxuriant tree,  
 Who slaughter the children in the ravines,  
 Under the clefts of the crags?
- 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?
- 7 “Upon a high and lofty mountain  
 You have made your bed.  
 You also went up there 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 on *their* manhood.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 12 “I will declare your righteousness and your deeds,  
 But they will not profit you.
- 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.”

### Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—The Holy and the Humble (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 57:14–21

#### Comfort for the Contrite

- 14 And it will be said,  
 “Build up, build up, prepare the way,  
 Remove *every* obstacle out of the way of My people.”
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 18 “I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;  
I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners,
- 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.”
- 20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea,  
For it cannot be quiet,  
And its waters toss up refuse and mud.
- 21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

## Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Please God Not Yourselves (c. 689 BC)

### Isaiah 58

#### The People’s Complaint

- 1 “Cry loudly, do not hold back;  
Raise your voice like a trumpet,  
And declare to My people their transgression  
And to the house of Jacob their sins.
- 2 “Yet they seek Me day by day and delight to know My ways,  
As a nation that has done righteousness  
And has not forsaken the ordinance of their God.  
They ask Me *for* just decisions,  
They delight in the nearness of God.
- 3a ‘Why have we fasted and You do not see?  
*Why* have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?’

#### God’s Response—The Proper Kind of Fasting

- 3b Behold, on the day of your fast you find *your* desire,  
And drive hard all your workers.
- 4 “Behold, you fast for contention and strife and to strike with a wicked fist.  
You do not fast like *you do* today to make your voice heard on high.
- 5 “Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?  
Is it for bowing one’s head like a reed  
And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed?  
Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?
- 6 “Is this not the fast which I choose,  
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the bands of the yoke,  
And to let the oppressed go free  
And break every yoke?
- 7 “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry  
And bring the homeless poor into the house;  
When you see the naked, to cover him;  
And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- 8 “Then your light will break out like the dawn,  
And your recovery will speedily spring forth;  
And your righteousness will go before you;  
The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
- 9a “Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

#### How to Have Prosperity and a Good Relationship With God

- 9b If you remove the yoke from your midst,

- The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,  
 10 And if you give yourself to the hungry  
 And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
 Then your light will rise in darkness  
 And your gloom *will become* like midday.  
 11 “And the LORD will continually guide you,  
 And satisfy your desire in scorched places,  
 And give strength to your bones;  
 And you will be like a watered garden,  
 And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.  
 12 “Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;  
 You will raise up the age-old foundations;  
 And you will be called the repairer of the breach,  
 The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.  
 13 “If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot  
 From doing your *own* pleasure on My holy day,  
 And call the sabbath a delight, the holy *day* of the LORD honorable,  
 And honor it, desisting from your *own* ways,  
 From seeking your *own* pleasure  
 And speaking *your own* word,  
 14 Then you will take delight in the LORD,  
 And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
 And I will feed you *with* the heritage of Jacob your father,  
 For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

### Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Consequences of Sin (c. 689 BC)

#### Isaiah 59

##### Israel's Sin Prevents God from Acting

- 1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short  
 That it cannot save;  
 Nor is His ear so dull  
 That it cannot hear.  
 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,  
 And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.  
 3 For your hands are defiled with blood  
 And your fingers with iniquity;  
 Your lips have spoken falsehood,  
 Your tongue mutters wickedness.  
 4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly.  
 They trust in confusion and speak lies;  
 They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.  
 5 They hatch adders' eggs and weave the spider's web;  
 He who eats of their eggs dies,  
 And *from* that which is crushed a snake breaks forth.  
 6 Their webs will not become clothing,  
 Nor will they cover themselves with their works;  
 Their works are works of iniquity,  
 And an act of violence is in their hands.  
 7 Their feet run to evil,  
 And they hasten to shed innocent blood;  
 Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,  
 Devastation and destruction are in their highways. [\[Rom 3:15–17\]](#)  
 8 They do not know the way of peace,  
 And there is no justice in their tracks;  
 They have made their paths crooked,  
 Whoever treads on them does not know peace.  
 9 Therefore justice is far from us,

- And righteousness does not overtake us;  
We hope for light, but behold, darkness,  
For brightness, but we walk in gloom.
- 10 We grope along the wall like blind men,  
We grope like those who have no eyes;  
We stumble at midday as in the twilight,  
Among those who are vigorous *we are* like dead men.
- 11 All of us growl like bears,  
And moan sadly like doves;  
We hope for justice, but there is none,  
For salvation, *but* it is far from us.
- 12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You,  
And our sins testify against us;  
For our transgressions are with us,  
And we know our iniquities:
- 13 Transgressing and denying the LORD,  
And turning away from our God,  
Speaking oppression and revolt,  
Conceiving *in* and uttering from the heart lying words.
- 14 Justice is turned back,  
And righteousness stands far away;  
For truth has stumbled in the street,  
And uprightness cannot enter.
- 15a Yes, truth is lacking;  
And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.

#### **God Will Rise Up and Execute Justice**

- 15b Now the LORD saw,  
And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.
- 16 And He saw that there was no man,  
And was astonished that there was no one to intercede;  
Then His own arm brought salvation to Him,  
And His righteousness upheld Him.
- 17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,  
And a helmet of salvation on His head; [cf. [Eph 6:11-17](#)]  
And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing  
And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.
- 18 According to *their* deeds, so He will repay,  
Wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies;  
To the coastlands He will make recompense.
- 19 So they will fear the name of the LORD from the west  
And His glory from the rising of the sun,  
For He will come like a rushing stream  
Which the wind of the LORD drives.
- 20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion,  
And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the LORD. [[Rom 11:26](#)]
- 21 "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."