

How frustrated the small Remnant of Believers must have been before the giving of the New Covenant found in Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36. They may have wanted to follow God, but they couldn't even trust their evil hearts, their desires or their motives in following Him. They carried their sin like a millstone around the neck, heavy and with no hope of release. God knew of their utter sinfulness and He knew of their frustration as well. He had a better plan, a better covenant, than reconciling sinful Mankind with His perfect Law. His better plan involved the Savior who, by His own blood, would reconcile sinful Mankind to Himself and thus free those Believers from the power sin had over them. He would enable them to be truly obedient from a heart that could please God by His own indwelling Spirit. In God's own time, the promise of the New Covenant to Israel will be realized. Sadly, for most of the Israelites who will be saved, this will occur just prior to Christ's Second Coming while they are still in the time of Jacob's trouble, when they cry out for their Messiah to deliver them.

Days 1-4 - Man is Sinful , but God has Provided for Man's Sinfulness– Double-spaced Worksheet - Isaiah 59

Day 1 – Please mark the following words or ideas in your own unique way:

references to God – note Isaiah's use of human body parts

references to ear, ears, or hearing

behold

sin: iniquity, iniquities and synonyms, i.e., falsehood, wickedness, act of violence, evil, spider's web, webs

works

peace

justice

righteousness

salvation

truth

mantle

all "if/ then" clauses

specific references to the Holy Spirit, i.e., "His glory," and "my Spirit"

all time markings, i.e., "now" and "forever"

and – note there are many "ands" from Isaiah 59:3-17 and 59:20-21

Day 2 – Make lists for the following in the spaces below and in the margins of the double-spaced worksheet for Isaiah 59:

Israel's sin is referred to 32 times in Isaiah 59. List the names of sin used in describing Israel.

List the body parts used in describing Israel's sin.

List the references to the activities of animals or bugs in describing Israel's sin.

Tie all the "ands" together in describing Israel's sin in a list. This sounds like a run-on sentence doesn't it?

Tie all the "ands" together in describing God's salvation.

Is God's salvation much more than Man's sin? In other words, is there any sin of Man that God's blood can not and does not cover? Can a man say, "Christ could not have died for me because my sins were too awful or too many?"

Day 3 – Questions

What is the contrast of "hand (s)" that is made in Isaiah 59:1-3?

I thought God was Spirit. Why does Isaiah use human body parts to describe God in Isaiah 59:1-2?

How many separate charges does God have against Israel in just chapter 59?

Why is Man separated from God according to Isaiah 59:2?

How does this differ from Romans 3:23? Trick question!

Does Man know that he is sinful?

How is Man sinful according to Isaiah 59:3-15?

Is salvation for Mankind provided by God Himself or by Mankind's works? How do you know this from Isaiah 59?

Is there any hope for Jews or Gentiles for salvation without that salvation being provided by God Himself? Why or why not?

Where do you find similar writing in the New Testament to describe the putting on of the armor of God or the putting on of the Spirit of God? In Isaiah 59:17, this is what God did Himself in bringing salvation to us.

Who has to do the undressing and redressing of the Believer? Can they do it themselves? Were the Israelites trying to do it all by themselves without the help of God? Do you remember Eustace in one of the Chronicles of Narnia tales? He became a dragon and the only way he could get out of the dragon skin was to have Aslan, the Lion (the picture of Christ) claw it off of him.¹

When was God displeased enough with the Israelites' sin to offer them His salvation?

When will the Israelites accept this salvation?

Day 4 – Personal Application

How do you see your sin?

When you harbor unconfessed sin, do your prayers to God seem to bounce off the walls?

These questions are as much for me as they are for you:

Have my lips spoken falsehood and my tongue muttered wickedness?

Have I spoken lies?

Have I conceived mischief and brought forth iniquity?

“Wretched man (woman) that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25) God, by His very Spirit indwelling me, will work in me until that time when He will cause me to walk in His ways and my actions are from Him and will be pleasing to Him. One day, when we are with Him, we will no longer have this body of sin to contend with. Oh, how freeing it will be: to love and to act on pure motivation coming from a totally sanctified heart. Do I think this sanctification is possible in this lifetime? I don’t know, but I do know that we are to work towards that goal (Even though it is not me working, but God working His works in me – Does this make sense?) And we can only reach for that goal by the power given to us in His Spirit.

Day 5 – The Holy Spirit with Us from “Now and Forever” – Isaiah 59:16-21

Isaiah 7:14 says this to give hope to the people listening: “Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” “Immanuel” means God is with us. Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us. When Jesus died, was buried, rose again, appeared to many, and then ascended into heaven, He physically left us just for a little while. Who or what did He send in His place to be with us always?

In Isaiah 59, God sees that Man is incapable of saving Himself. He also sees how futile Man’s efforts are to please Him. At the beginning of this chapter God says His own hand is not so short that it cannot save Man nor are His ears unable to hear Man’s groaning. He is capable of saving Man and always has been. So, what has separated Man from God’s salvation?

How does God reconcile Man to Himself? How does God finally deal with Man’s sin and order up his salvation according to Isaiah 59:16?

God will repay or recompense those who are against Him. What does this word “recompense” mean?

After God repays His adversaries and His enemies, the rest of the world will see Him and they will fear His name. How far reaching will the fear of His name go?

How is God described in Is. 59:19 – 20?

“And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.” – Acts 2:1-4

The Spirit of God is referred to as a noise like a violent rushing wind in Acts 2:2. Where do you see His Spirit likened to the “wind” in this Isaiah 59 passage?

What does a Redeemer do?

God promises a Redeemer who will come to what people? Have these people turned to God and turned away from their transgressions?

What is His covenant with Zion and those who turn from transgression in Jacob?

What was and is so important in passing this covenant and blessing on to the offspring for generations?

Please record the theme of Isaiah 59 on the respective double-spaced worksheet and on the Isaiah-Theme-Summary chart in the appendix.

“Oh, the wonderful cross bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.”ⁱⁱ

ⁱ C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, New York, NY, HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2001, pp. 474-475.

ⁱⁱ Chris Tomlin and Matt Redmond, *The Wonderful Cross*, The Noise We Make CD, EMI Recording Co., 2001.

GOD TO ZION: BY MY SPIRIT

Isaiah 59

Zechariah 4:6 “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” declares the LORD.

Part 7

Lesson 3-1

Man’s Utter Sinfulness - Isaiah 59	God’s Complete & Everlasting Salvation - Isaiah 59
Israel’s sin tied together with “ands”	God’s salvation tied together with “ands”
- Israel’s sin referred to 32 X in Isaiah 59	(1-2)
- God charges Israel 23 X in Isaiah 59 ¹	
(59:3)	
(59:4)	
(59:4)	
(59:4)	
(59:4)	(16-17)
(59:5)	
(59:6)	
(59:7)	
(59:9)	(20-21)
(59:12)	
(59:12)	
(59:13)	
(59:14)	
(59:14)	
(59:15)	

GOD TO ZION: BY MY SPIRIT

Isaiah 59

Part 7

Lesson 3-2

Zechariah 4:6 “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” declares the LORD.

God	Man	God’s Responsibility-Salvation	Man’s Responsibility-Salvation
<p>God is holy-separated from man by man’s sin Only by God’s arm can Man be saved</p> <p>God requires of Man recognition of sinfulness & need for Savior, repentance, & acceptance of His Way of salvation</p> <p>Cover for sin. How?</p> <p>garden-God covers w/ animal skin</p> <p>Must have Spirit of God working in you to stop sinning & to please God</p> <p>re: <u>righteousness</u> God’s uprightness upheld Him; God put on righteousness like a breastplate</p> <p>re: <u>salvation</u> God’s own arm brought S, helmet of S on head.</p> <p>re: <u>Truth</u> only way to Father is JC, He is way, truth, life</p> <p>re: <u>vengeance</u> God exacts own vengeance by putting on garments & wraps self w/ zeal as mantle</p> <p>re: <u>transgression</u> God will take payment of transgression for us</p>	<p>Man is sinful - separated from God</p> <p>Cannot save himself-no hope of salvation w/o coming from God</p> <p>Necessity of salvation: needs to recognize sinfulness & need for Savior</p> <p>Tries to cover-up His sinfulness. How?</p> <p>garden-sew fig leaves together illicit sex-abortion</p> <p>cannot stop sinning/ cannot please God-try w/good works, but transgressions multiplied</p> <p>re: <u>righteousness</u> - does not overtake them, stands far away, their uprightness cannot enter into the streets</p> <p>re: <u>salvation</u> Man hopes for <u>salvation</u> but salvation far from them</p> <p>re: <u>truth</u> stumbles in street & is lacking</p> <p>re: <u>vengeance</u> tries to take into own hands - molestation, murder, suicide</p> <p>re: <u>transgression</u> Man will be repaid a.t. his deeds by God</p>	<p>Dying for Mankind’s sins (Cols 1:19-20)</p> <p>Forgiveness of sin (Cols 2:13-14)</p> <p>Sending Holy Spirit so we can live manner worthy- Cols. 1:9-12</p> <p>God putting on His armor for us - Isaiah 59</p> <p>Growing us up in Christ through His Holy Spirit - Presenting us complete in Christ - Cols 1:28</p> <p>Romans 8:28-29</p> <p>Transference to the kingdom of His Son - Cols 1:13</p>	<p>Recognize sinfulness & need for Savior</p> <p>Accept God’s provision for salvation (JC) (payment for sin)</p> <p>Repentance of sin - moment by moment</p> <p>Put on, put off:</p> <p>- Ephesians 6:11 put on the full armor</p> <p>- Romans 13:14 put on the LORD JC, make no provisions for flesh</p> <p>-Ephesians 4:22-32 put on the new self, lay aside old self</p> <p>-Cols 3:2 set mind on things above</p> <p>-Cols 3:5 consider members of earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, etc.</p> <p>Cols 3:8-15 put these all aside</p> <p>- anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech; put on new self, put on heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, bearing one another, forgiving each other, put on love</p> <p>Gals 5:22-23 fruit of the Spirit</p>