

YOUR JOURNEY TO JESUS

Bible Study Group



**He Changes the Hearts and
Minds of All Who Receive Him**

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Bible Study Notes

Isaiah 57: Israel's Idolatry Is Condemned

Good morning, welcome to our Sunday morning Bible Study. This morning, we begin our study of Isaiah 57. In this chapter, God is speaking through the prophet Isaiah concerning:

- The spiritual state of both Israel & Judah;
- His offer of restoration and redemption to His people, and
- The trouble set aside for the wicked who plot and plan against Him.

In the previous chapters, God referred to His people as being married to Him; and in the marriage, the accusation brought against them was spiritual adultery. Both Israel and Judah had fallen victim to idolatry and sexual immorality. Idolatry and sexual immorality was the tactic used by Balak, King of the Moabites, to cause Israel to stumble, and this tactic was taught to Balak by Balaam.

When Balak requested that Balaam curse Israel, God forbade him to do so. Although Balaam was unable to curse the Israelites directly, he chose a different path to please the request from Balak; he counseled the Moabite king to tempt them into sexual immorality and idolatry (the story of Balaam and Balak is located in [Numbers 22-25](#)).

As it was back then, and still is today, many have gone after false idols and false gods, made sacrifices to them, and bowed down before them in worship and in praise; but those who are protected under the Mighty Hand of our God and Father are not subject to the curse that has plagued the land since the beginning.

As the chosen of God, our proclamation is this; we will only bow down, praise, worship, honor, and glorify the only true and living God, and we will only recognize and show reverence to the chosen authority over His people, the only one whom He Himself chose; and that is Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God ([Jeremiah 10:10-13](#); [John 17:1-5](#); [John 3:16-21](#); [John 10:1-5,7-18,25-30,34-38](#)). The topics we will be reading and discussing in this study are as follows:

- Israel's Idolatry Is Condemned (verses 1-13)
- God's Promise of Help and Healing (verses 14-21)

As believers we know and understand that peace with our God is found in obedience to Him; and Isaiah is emphasizing the importance of repentance. Only the Lord our God is ready and able to forgive and restore those who return to Him. In the Word of our God, constant comparison is made between the consequences of spiritual unfaithfulness and unbelief, and God's offer of forgiveness, mercy, grace, restoration, and peace ([2 Chronicles 7:13-14](#); [Acts 17:24-31](#); [Ephesians 4:4-6](#); [2 Corinthians 5:14-19](#); [Romans 5:6-11](#); [Colossians 1:13-21](#)).

The Lord our God is warning us all about idolatry by condemning unfaithfulness, unbelief, and hypocrisy; we are to reject the false gods of the foreign nations, remembering that through the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are made one nation and one people ([1 John 5:18-21](#); [Jeremiah 29:11-14](#), [Ezekiel 36:19-28](#); [1 Corinthians 10:1-22](#))

Obedience & Disobedience (Blessings and Curses)

- [Deuteronomy 28:1-14](#) (Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth)
- [Deuteronomy 28:15-66](#) (But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you...)
- [Daniel 2:34-45](#) (Interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream)
- [Jeremiah 2:3-9,11-14,19-22,28-31](#) (Israel was holiness to the Lord, the firstfruits of His increase)
- [Isaiah 51:1-23](#) (Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug)

Married to God

- [Hosea 2:16-21](#) (And it shall be, in that day," says the Lord; that you will call Me My Husband, and no longer call Me My Master)
- [Isaiah 54:5-8](#); [Isaiah 50:1](#); [Ephesians 5:30-32](#) (For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth)
- [James 4:2-6](#) (...Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God)
- [Ezekiel 23:37-39](#) (For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They

have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them)

- [Jeremiah 50:6-7](#) (My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray)
- [Ezekiel 37:21-23](#) (Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land)

A Call to Repentance

- [Jeremiah 3:6-22](#) (The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done)
- [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#) (But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you)
- [Ephesians 5:8-14](#) (For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light)
- [Ephesians 6:10-13](#) (Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might)
- [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#) (Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness)
- [2 John 1:7-11](#) (...Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.)
- [1 John 2:15-29](#) (Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him)

The Faithful and the Faithless

- [Psalm 12:1-8](#) (Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases; for the faithful disappear from among the sons of men)
- [Isaiah 1:2-7](#) (Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken: “I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me)
- [Isaiah 9:26](#) (Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah)
- [Jeremiah 5:12-16; 20-26](#) (They have lied about the Lord, and said, “It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine)
- [Jeremiah 2:3-14,19-26](#) (Israel was holiness to the Lord, the firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; disaster will come upon them, says the Lord)
- [Matthew 16:1-4](#) (Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven)
- [Matthew 23:1-39](#) (Woe to the scribes and Pharisees)
- [Matthew 21:33-44](#) (The parable of the wicked vinedressers)
- [John 15:1-8,9-17](#) (I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser)
- [John 15:18-25](#) (If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you)

- [Psalm 50:1-23](#) (The Mighty One, God the Lord, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down)

I Will Establish A New Covenant and A New Priesthood

- [Ezekiel 16:60-63](#) (Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you)
- [Ezekiel 11:19-21](#) (Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh)
- [Jeremiah 31:1-9](#) (...I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people)
- [Jeremiah 31: 27-30](#) (Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast)
- [Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 32:37-42](#) (Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you the sure mercies of David.)
- [Ezekiel 37:26-28](#) (Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore)
- [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) (Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt)
- [Isaiah 42:1-25](#) (Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles)
- [Hebrews 7:11-28](#) (Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron)
- [Hebrews 8:1-6](#) (Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man)
- [Hebrews 8:7-13](#) (For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second)
- [Hebrews 13:7-17](#) (Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct)

The Dismantling, and the Impending Destruction

- [Habakkuk 8:12,19-20](#) (Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you, because of men's blood and the violence of the land and the city, And of all who dwell in it)
- [Romans 1:18-32](#) (For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness

and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them)

- [Romans 9:21-29](#) (Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor)
- [Revelation 18:1-8](#) (Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird)
- [Revelation 18:9-20](#) (The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come)
- [Revelation 18:21-24](#) (Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore)
- [Revelation 19:1-10](#) (After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God)
- [Revelation 19:11-16](#) (Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war)
- [Revelation 19:17-21](#) (Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God)