

DEPRAVED, BUT DELIVERED  
Isaiah 59

Intro: Isaiah 58 and 59 give us the two sides of the sinner:

- 1) Isa. 58, the religious side.
- 2) Isa. 59, the iniquitous side.

But both chapters are speaking of the same people.

After seeing their religious activities in ch. 58, in spite of the protests that the Lord made, they were accusing God for the troubles that had come to them. Why would not the Lord accept them, nor bless them? It must be because of some deficiency in the Lord, as expressed in Isa. 59:1. The blame rested either with the Lord, that He would not because He could not, or with the people. Which was it?

And so the chapter begins with . . .

I. THE ACQUITTAL OF THE LORD. Cf. Isa. 59:1.

The Lord is exonerated, absolved, declared: not guilty!  
If He would, He could help His people. But He would not.  
His hand was just as long as just as strong as it ever had  
been. And there was nothing wrong with His hearing.

So He knew their plight, but chose not to defend them  
against their enemies.

II. THE REAL CULPRIT. Cf. Isa. 59:2-8.

Here is the incriminating evidence. No amount of religious  
activities could cover them, or do away with them.

A. The primary offense: against God (v. 2).

B. The list of charges (vv. 3-8).

No one is guilty necessarily of all of them, but all  
are guilty of some of them.

Note the emphasis on the hands and fingers, the lips  
and the tongue, the feet, and the mind (the thoughts).

See what their fruits are in v. 5.

And you can always detect the sinner because he has no  
peace (as has been stated repeatedly in Isaiah's  
prophecy). Cf. v. 8.

III. THE CONFESSION. Cf. Isa. 59:9-15a.

Note the prevalence of "we" and "our."

We have first . . .

- A. The confession of the effects of sin (vv. 9-11).
- B. The confession of the consciousness of sin (vv. 12, 13).
- C. The hopelessness and despair caused by sin (vv. 14, 15a).

From this point on we begin to see the grace of God.

IV. THE AMAZEMENT OF GOD, THE JUDGE. Cf. Isa. 59:15b, 16a.

And this leads to . . .

V. THE JUDGE'S INTERVENTION. Cf. Isa. 59:16b-21.

The message is not concluded here, but goes on in the chapters which follow.

Neither is the whole message of the Gospel given at this point, but we do have some of the essentials with more to follow. We need to remember, too, that which we have already covered in connection with the Gospel.

Note the details of salvation that are given here.

- A. Salvation is of the Lord (v. 16b).
- B. In salvation the Lord will maintain His own righteousness (vv. 16b-18).

This includes both the deliverance of His people and the judgment of the wicked.

- C. The world-wide extent of salvation (v. 19).
- D. The Person of the Redeemer (v. 20) -- and His advent.
- E. The security of the saved.

Concl: Here we have ample evidence that salvation always is and will be the same--by grace, of God alone, world-wide, in righteousness, eternal, and through a Redeemer. Man will always seek to blame God while carrying in himself a guilty conscience.

But hope is extended to those who turn from their sins and turn to the Redeemer (v. 20). Have you turned? If not, will you turn tonight? It is vain to try to hide our sins, or to compensate for them. We can try to blame God, but He is ever the same. Only through the Redeemer is there hope!