

Introduction: A few years ago there was a very clever cartoon in the New Yorker Magazine, which I do not read regularly for, though cleverly written and sophisticated yet it usually illustrates exactly what we see described in Isaiah 59. But once in a while unbelief, in spite of itself, will hit a right note. This was a classic illustration in the Springtime of a robin pulling a worm from the ground in the front yard of a beautiful home. Coming out the ornate door of the house was a man and his young daughter, who looked distressed. The man said, “Do not worry. They are both good guys.” Huh? Tell that to the worm. Tell that to the robin when the cat catches him and leaves only a few feathers scattered around. Tell it to the cat, when the raccoon eats him and leave only a pile of bloody fur. Or to the raccoon when the fox eats him. Etc. Morality always has a point of view; if men reject the point of view, then the weak has no defense against the bully and all that is left is the moral relativism described in Isaiah 59

## I. Man’s Hopeless Condition: No Intercessor. Vs. 1-15

- A. The situation was not God’s fault. His arm is strong; his ears are ok.
- B. The problem was sin. He will not hear.
- C. There is no repentance: but excuses and vanity: vs. 3, 4
- E. All is evil: vs. 5-8. We have made our paths crooked. Quoted in Romans 3 as evidence of man’s total depravity.
- F. We find no hope anywhere we look. Vs. 9-13 For we have covered ourselves with excuses:
  - 1. 10 we have eyes but don’t use them; we grope for the wall like the blind. WE replace eyes with feeling. Fingers are poor

substitutes for eyes. They had the light; they had the law and the prophets. Their wickedness was their own, and Isaiah is calling them to own their iniquity.

2. We roar and moan. We roar like bears and use fear to hide ourselves from God and from others; we moan, and use pity to keep folks away.,

3. We do not know judgement: tell the difference Geneva Bible of 1599 uses “equity” and “Health” for judgment and salvation.

4. Transgressing and lying about it; departing from God: words of oppression and revolt; lying from the heart.

5. Truth fell in the street, and equity cannot enter. No fairness or equality, for everyone judges himself by a different standard.

G. There was no intercessor. What? No Savior. No they had a Savior, but they looked everywhere but to Him Isaiah 55:6- also: Isa 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 2Sa 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; thou savest me from violence. Ps 106:21 They forgot God their savior, which had done great things in Egypt; Isa 45:21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Ho 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no savior beside me. Lu 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

II. The Lord, a Man of War. Geneva Bible: 1517 “And when he saw that there was no man, he wondered that none would offer himself.

Therefore his arm did save it and his righteousness itself did sustain it.

A. The time for roaring and moaning is over: Time to put on the armament of God and do battle. In this God is showing us the way, His way. See Ephesians 6:10-19 The intercessor is called to the Battle. David was the great champion. While Saul and Israel were moaning and roaring, David was preparing for battle, using the means that God have him. He said to Goliath, the mother of all bullies: “1Sa 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”

B. 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. His arm is long; His ear is open to our cry. Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

C. This is the way of God’s Intercessor, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is clothed with all the armament of God. He is a man of war. Revelation 19:11ff. This is our intercessor. He made war with sin and death and hell and overcame them and calls us to follow him and receive his righteousness and peace.

III. The Everlasting Covenant 19-21

A. Based upon the fear of God, which is taught of God and refined in the fires.

- B. Lift up a standard: put him to flight. “chase him away.” Geneva Bible
- C. Call to faith: The Redeemer shall come. Salvation comes now by faith and hope. Comes to those who turn from idols to the living God.
- D. Covenant of faith New Testament in my Blood.
- E. You and your seed forever. The covenant in Christ is for all ages: you and your seed. Those right then, Isaiah, those who have God’s words in their mouths. Who love His words; who speak his words; who believe his words. To have his words and to have his spirit is the same thing. Amen and Amen.

Conclusion and Application. No more excuses. No more moaning; no more roaring. The simplicity and sincerity of faith and trust. 2 Corinthians 1: 12 ¶ For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. Pr 17:24 Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.