

WONDERED

ISAIAH 59

Text: Isaiah 59:16

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¹⁶ *And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*

Introduction:

There are many things that make us wonder. There are things in nature that make us wonder; Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Volcanoes, and numbers of other things.

We too wonder at the great works of God.

Psalm 77:11-14

¹¹ *I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.* ¹² *I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.* ¹³ *Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?* ¹⁴ *Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.*

His Creation

His Cross

The Church

But as we consider this passage this morning – I wonder what makes God wonder?

Note God must wonder at the:

1. PASSIVENESS OF HIS PEOPLE OVER SIN (VS. 2-14)

Isaiah 59:1-14

¹ *Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*
² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.* ³ *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.* ⁴ *None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.* ⁵ *They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.* ⁶ *Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and*

the act of violence is in their hands.⁷ Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.⁸ The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.⁹ Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.¹⁰ We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.¹¹ We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.¹² For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;¹³ In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.¹⁴ And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Note:

A. The Problem Wasn't God's Inability (vs. 1)

B. The Problem Was the Peoples Iniquity (vs. 2)

Note:

- It was a time of violence and dishonesty (vs. 2-3)

Isaiah 59:2-3

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.* ³ *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

- It was a time of injustice and crooked dealings (vs. 4)

Isaiah 59:4

⁴ *None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.*

- It was a time when evil seemed to be triumphing over good (vs. 5-8)

Isaiah 59:5-8

⁵ *They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which*

is crushed breaketh out into a viper. ⁶ Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. ⁷ Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. ⁸ The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

The description of their day is much like our day.

- Confusion reigned among the people (vs. 11)

Isaiah 59:11

¹¹ We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

Note; not only must God wonder at the Passiveness of His People Over Sin but also:

2. THE PERSECUTION OF HIS PEOPLE WHO STAND FOR THE TRUTH

Isaiah 59:15

¹⁵ Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

Those who stand against evil often place themselves in jeopardy.

Consider the persecutions of the prophets in the past.

Consider what the Lord endured.

Note what Paul stated:

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

²³ Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁴ Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. ²⁵

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? ³⁰ If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

Note; not only must God wonder at the Passiveness of His People Over Sin, and the Persecution of His People Who Stand for the Truth but also:

3. THE PRAYERLESSNESS OF HIS PEOPLE IN SINFUL SITUATIONS

Isaiah 59:16

¹⁶ And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

We are to intercede for those for those who are involved in the sinful deeds of the world.

- Abraham Interceded For Lot and His Family in Sodom.

Genesis 18:21-25

²¹ I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? ²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this

manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

- Moses Interceded for Israel When They Deserved Judgment

Exodus 32:30-35

³⁰ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. ³¹ And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. ³² Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. ³³ And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. ³⁴ Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. ³⁵ And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

- Jeremiah Interceded With Tears Over the Sins of His People (Jeremiah 14)

We ought to follow their example and pray fervently.

Close:

Where are those who will speak out against sin?

Where are those who will stand for truth in spite of the cost?

Where are the intercessors we need in this crucial hour?