

PREPARE THE WAY

ISAIAH 57:13-15, 62:10

Text: Isa 57:14

(Isaiah 57:14) "And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people."

Introduction:

As we have entered this new year there are some things that we need to get rid of and get right.

1. GET RID OF OUR STRENGTHS (13)

We need holy power

(Isaiah 57:13) "When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;"

A. God witnesses to a time of fear (13a)
"When thou criest"

B. God warns of a time of faithlessness for the people of God. (13 b) “let thy companies deliver thee”

C. God warns of a time of futility for the people of God. (13 c & 13 d)

1. We see the results of trusting in the flesh. (13 c) “wind shall carry them all away”

2. We see the reason for trusting in the flesh. (13 d) vanity shall take them

3. We see the rescue from trusting in the flesh (13 e-f)

a. Note the person “but he”

b. Note the practice “that putteth his trust in me”

c. Note the promises

1. The possession of the land
“shall possess the land”

2. The presence of the Lord
“shall inherit my holy mountain”

2. GET RID OF OUR STUMBLING BLOCKS (14)

We need holy preparation

(Isaiah 57:14) "And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people."

A. An initial call to the saints (14a) "And shall say, Cast ye up"

B. An important cause for the saints (14b)
"prepare the way"

C. An imperative command to the saints (14 c)
"take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people"

3. GET RID OF OUR SIN (15A - B)

We need a holy place

(Isaiah 57:15) "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

To have such a place we must

A. Understand the person of God
“High and lofty One”

B. Understand the presence of God
“inhabiteth eternity”

C. Understand the purity of God
“whose name is Holy”

D. Understand the place of God
“high and holy place”

4. GET RIGHT IN OUR SPIRIT (15 E)

We need a holy people

(Isaiah 57:15) "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

A. We see God's two requirements for his people

1. Contrite (crushed) spirit

2. Humble spirit

B. We see God's two responses to His people's right spirit

1. God will revive the humble
2. God will revive the heart

5. GET A RIGHT STANDARD (62:10)

We need a holy position

(Isaiah 62:10) "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."

A. The way of revival (10a)

"go through, go through the gates"

B. The work of revival (10 b)

"prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones."

C. The witness of revival (10 c)

"lift up a standard for the people"