

A Personal salvation:

❖ The nature of sin. Isaiah 59:1-15.

- Faced with the question “Why [...] have You not seen; [...] and why did You take no notice?” (Isaiah 58:3), God’s response was: “The Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.” (Isaiah 59:1)
- Then (in v. 2), He explained that the problem is not God, but humanity. Sin separates humanity from God. Humanity’s response to this separation is to run away from God and to surrender to sin (Genesis 3:8).
- If we keep giving in to sin and we don’t want to come to God (that is, we silence the voice of the Holy Spirit), then the impassable breach between God and us will never go away.

❖ Forgiveness is offered. Isaiah 59:16-21.

- What’s the key to Redemption?
 - (1) If it was to stop sinning for good, then we’d have a serious problem because “there is none who does good.” (Romans 3:12)
 - (2) It is to accept the forgiveness that God offers. This is the right way (Isaiah 1:18; Jeremiah 31:34). And we can get it for free! (Romans 3:24).
- What does “to turn from transgression” mean?
 - Repentance and a desire to abandon sin are necessary for true repentance (Acts 3:19). The faith that we are saved by is shown by our works (James 2:18).

❖ The work of the redeemed. Isaiah 60.

- Those who have received the light of Redemption should reflect that light and light up the world with it (Matthew 5:14).
 - (1) Noah was “a preacher of righteousness” in the antediluvian world (2 Peter 2:5)
 - (2) God’s covenant with Abraham included a blessing for all the nations (Genesis 22:18)
 - (3) Jesus commissioned the Church to spread the Gospel “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)
- God promised the following to everyone who accepts Redemption: “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.” (Isaiah 60:19)

B Universal salvation:

❖ The year of the Lord’s favor. Isaiah 61:1-3.

- What was the Messiah’s work during “the year of the Lord’s favor”?
- Is this only Jesus’ work (Luke 4:16-21)? Or is it also our work to announce “the year of the Lord’s favor”?

❖ The day of vengeance. Isaiah 61:2.

- When Jesus was reading from Isaiah while in Nazareth, He stopped just before “the day of vengeance.” Why?
- The work of Jesus in that moment was not to judge the world (John 12:47). Vengeance could wait.
- Today is not the moment to expect God’s ultimate justice yet. We’re encouraged to leave vengeance to God (Romans 12:20).
- One day God will take vengeance on His enemies and will do justice (Isaiah 63:4; Nahum 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Revelation 19:15). He will do so with equity, then every knee will bow before His perfect justice (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:9-11).