

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 130

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The Immaculate Conception by El Greco Cir 1610

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

One-Hundred-Thirty

The Search for a Redeemer

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Isaiah 59:16–21

¹⁶And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore, his own arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it upheld him. ¹⁷And he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a mantle. ¹⁸According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, wrath to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. ¹⁹So shall they fear the name of Jehovah from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come as a rushing stream, which the breath of Jehovah driveth. ²⁰And a Redeemer will come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith Jehovah. ²¹And as for me, this is my covenant with them, saith Jehovah: my Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seeds seed, saith Jehovah, from henceforth and for ever (ASV, 1901).

THE LORD SAW NO HUMAN TO CORRECT THE WORLD'S CONDITION

Isaiah 59:16

¹⁶And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore, his own arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it upheld him. (ASV, 1901).

The Lord saw that there was no man, no good man, or faithful and righteous one, that had any regard to truth and justice; that was an advocate for truth, and opposed error, or was concerned for any of these things, and mourned over the general corruption. He wondered that there was no intercessor to save Israel from her sins. God looked for some champion of the oppressed to arise. None stood up to resist the unrighteous and protect the innocent; much less did any stand up to deliver Israel from its heathen adversaries. When it is said that God “wondered” or that no champion was coming to Israel’s rescue, it is important to understand the expression as an anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to God), *therefore his own arm brought salvation unto him*. As there was no human champion that is, none to appear on the side of truth and justice, and on the behalf of those that become a prey to others. Therefore, it became necessary that God should arise in His own Person, and show Himself. “His arm, or His Power” and “His righteousness” were enough and no human aid was needed, or could have added anything to the unparalleled strength of His might and righteousness. Because of Israel’s depraved condition no one but the LORD could save the nation. Being displeased with her injustice, He realized there was no one to intercede on her behalf. There was no qualified intercessor to intervene. Isaiah was not

saying that the Lord did not want to get involved, but that Israel was totally incapable of helping herself. In saying that God was astonished the prophet does not mean that God had been ignorant of the situation until He saw it and then this sight brought astonishment to Him. For God knows everything even before it happens in time and space. Rather, the language speaks of a genuine astonishment, which would express itself in displeasure and yet in compassion for His own to such an extent that He Himself acts. So only God could help her. The power and righteousness of God are here combined with emphasis on righteousness, as often when the work of true salvation is described, both physical and spiritual. This is true of salvation in any era. No one can save himself. Only God can forgive sin and change a person's heart.

WHEN HE APPEARS AS A CONQUEROR

Isaiah 59:17

¹⁷And he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a mantle (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah now continues in detail the thought that the Lord acted on Israel's behalf, and does so by means of figurative language. He begins by describing an ancient warrior's battle outfit that the Lord will wear as He prepares to do battle. In His glorious appearing as a conquering Warrior and King of Kings" (Revelation 19:16), He is prophetically envisioned putting on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon His head. Because of the unity of the Lord Jesus and His people, the Church, our armor is like His (Ephesians 6:14), for they, in union with Him will share His victory.

Ephesians 6:10–18

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (ASV, 1901).

These two passages combined provide insight as to the origin and nature of the battle.

1. Only the Lord has the strength of fight the battle
2. We are to put on His armor to be able to stand against the stratagems of the Devil.

3. The True opponents in the battle are *the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*.
4. Only God is Truth and Righteousness which He imparts to genuine believers
5. The Gospel taken in provides us with an adequate supply of faith to *quench all the fiery darts of the evil one*. Be able to resist the Devil so he flees (James 4:7–8)
6. Our salvation is as a helmet to protect us and the Word of God acting as a sword to defend us as it feeds us His Truth
7. By continuing to connect to God always in prayer and supplication be assured of the outcome of the battle.

However, the Church will have no garments of vengeance, which is a Divine prerogative (Romans 12:19). Neither are we clad with (do they “wrap themselves with”) zeal (judicial fury), punishing the wicked (Matthew 13:36–43; Revelation 16:13-16; 19:16-20:3). That zeal,” as judicial wrath, is also God’s prerogative (Deuteronomy 32:35; Isaiah 9:7, 37:32; Zechariah 1:14; II Thessalonians 1:8-10). In fact, Jesus made it quite clear that in the Church Age we are not to extract vengeance on the wicked.

Matthew 13:24–30; 36–43

²⁴Another parable set he before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man that sowed good seed in his field: ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶But when the blade sprang up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. ²⁷And the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst thou not sow good seed in thy field? whence then hath it tares? ²⁸And he said unto them, An enemy hath done this. And the servants say unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ²⁹But he saith, Nay; lest haply while ye gather up the tares, ye root up the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather up first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.

³⁶Then he left the multitudes, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Explain unto us the parable of the tares of the field. ³⁷And he answered and said, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; ³⁸and the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; ³⁹and the enemy that sowed them is the devil: and the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰As therefore the tares are gathered up and burned with fire; so shall it be in the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity, ⁴²and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears, let him hear (ASV, 1901)

When the Lord Jesus was here the first time shortly after He began His ministry, He was in a synagogue in Nazareth where He grew up and stood up to read.

Luke 4:16–22

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and he entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And he opened the book, and found the place where it was written,

*¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor:
He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are bruised,
¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

²⁰And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down: and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹And he began to say unto them, To-day hath this scripture been fulfilled in your ears. ²²And all bare him witness, and wondered at the words of grace which proceeded out of his mouth: and they said, Is not this Joseph's son (ASV, 1901)

He read from Isaiah chapter 61:1 and stopped there. This verse describes the mission He was sent to the earth for the first time. He did not read the second verse because it was directed to His mission during His Second Advent to bring vengeance upon the earth.

Isaiah 61:1–2

¹The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me; because Jehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ²to proclaim the year of Jehovah's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn (ASV, 1901).

GOD WILL REPAY

Isaiah 59:18

¹⁸According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, wrath to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense (ASV, 1901).

This passage is referencing Deuteronomy 32:35. I will repay, or recompense, as it is also quoted in Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30 and as we just saw in Matthew 13. Vengeance belongs only to a divine Person. God has ordained government to punish evil persons through magistrates. They being in public office, and representing God, are His avengers to execute wrath on them that do evil. But it is God's prerogative only. Having its origin from His hatred of sin, His strict justice, and His faithfulness to carry out His threats as well as His promises. He always does what He says. Some examples of His vengeance are of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Flood. He has the power to put to death and raise from the dead. This great God swore by Himself that He would take

vengeance on his adversaries over the whole world (*to the islands*). This ultimate victory over all enemies calls for rejoicing at His promises.

The text gives the degree of vengeance. It will be *According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay*. As the various enemies of His people have treated them, so will the Lord deal with them. If they have shed their blood, He will, according to the laws of retribution and retaliation, shed their blood as they deserve. The final culmination of the Lord's vengeance will be done in the Tribulation. This is what the Lord Jesus will do during the campaign of Armageddon. A very graphic passage from Isaiah 63, places Isaiah on elevated terrain in Israel looking eastward toward Edom (Southern Jordan today). He then suddenly sees a magnificent bloodstained character approaching him. The character is glorious and splendid in His appearance. Isaiah asks this splendid character a question, the first of several.

Isaiah 63:1a

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength (KJV)?

Interestingly the figure what is approaching him is coming from the land of Edom and the city of Bozrah. His features are reflecting His glory and His strength is apparent. This character is clothed with gloriousness and strength. This is analogous to the view the apostle John had of the Lord Jesus in His resurrected glory, which is described in the first chapter of the Revelation. This is a man arrayed with the Shekinah glory. He is Messiah

The Lord then gives Isaiah an answer to his question.

Isaiah 63:1b

I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save (KJV).

There is only one person in all of creation and Heaven who can "speak in righteousness" and has the power to save. It is our Lord Jesus. He is marching toward Israel from the city of Bozrah. Isaiah then responds to the Lord with another question.

Isaiah 63:2

Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat (KJV)?

Isaiah sees that the garments of this person are stained with blood. Isaiah then asks how is it that He received these stains.

Isaiah 63:3-6

³I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the peoples there was no man with me: yea, I trod them in mine anger, and trampled them in my wrath; and their lifeblood is

sprinkled upon my garments, and I have stained all my raiment. ⁴For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. ⁵And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my wrath, it upheld me. ⁶And I trod down the peoples in mine anger, and made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth (ASV, 1901).

The Lord's bloodstained garments were caused by the battle He fought in the land of Edom within the city of Bozrah. He fought against the nations alone. During the course of the battle the blood of the combatants were sprinkled on His clothes staining them red. He had to conduct the fight to redeem the nation Israel. He fought all alone as there were none to help Him.

Clearly the battle is initiated at Bozrah and by the time Christ reaches Israel He has stained His garments with the blood of the enemy. This is how He appears at the Second Coming

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipt in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (KJV).

JESUS THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 59:19–21

¹⁹So shall they fear the name of Jehovah from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come as a rushing stream, which the breath of Jehovah driveth. ²⁰And a Redeemer will come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith Jehovah. ²¹And as for me, this is my covenant with them, saith Jehovah: my Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seeds seed, saith Jehovah, from henceforth and for ever (ASV, 1901).

So, all the survivors and now believers of the worldwide final judgment preceding the establishment of the Messianic kingdom will revere the name of the Lord from the rising of the sun to the west. This will happen when the enemy shall come in like a flood (Jeremiah 46:7-8; Revelation 12:15), like mighty, overflowing river, referring to the world culmination of human wickedness and rebellion (Psalm 2:1–3) under Antichrist during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 13:1-18). The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him, meaning against Satan and his

wicked earthly offspring, even Antichrist and Satan as in Genesis 16:12; Deuteronomy 13:9; I Samuel 5:9; 18:17. Israel's foes will come in like a flood capture Jerusalem and cause the population remaining to quiver and fear unless they become believers in Messiah and heed His words of escape.

Matthew 24:16

¹⁶Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains (KJV):

According to Jesus' words the place of escape is unto the mountains.

Revelation 12:6, 14

⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days. ¹⁴And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent (KJV).

Isaiah 33:13-16

Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling hath seized the godless ones: Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from taking a bribe, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from looking upon evil: He shall dwell on high; his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; his bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure (KJV).

The context of these verses is the End Times. Since the protection is focused upon the faithful Remnant, we see how this is accomplished in the last verse of these passages, verse 16.

He shall dwell on high;
His place of defense shall be the mountains of rocks;
His bread shall be given him;
His waters shall be sure;

The following verse provides the exact location of the City of Refuge.

Micah 2:12

¹²I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of [the multitude of] men (KJV).

The Remnant is gathered “*together as the sheep of Bozrah.*” This means that they are to be gathered in Bozrah. Israel is the flock of God and they will be gathered in Bozrah. Ancient Bozrah was located in the region of Mount Seir, which means “hairy mountains.” They are very rocky mountains. This meets the requirements of the Matthew passage being in the mountains. It is located in the wilderness area of ancient Edom which fulfills the Revelation passage. The Mountains of Seir are quite defensible which fulfills the Isaiah passage. This area today is in Southern Jordan. The most likely city today that meets all the qualifications set forth so far is modern day Petra. Petra is located within Mount Seir and is surrounded by mountains and cliffs. The only way in and out of the city is a narrow passageway. It must be entered on foot or on horseback. This makes it very easy to defend. The name Bozrah means sheepfold and most modern Bible translations simply exchange that word Bozrah for sheepfold. The ancient sheepfold had a very narrow entrance so the shepherd could count his sheep. The Anti-Christ will conquer the whole world. Three nations will escape his domination according to the following passage.

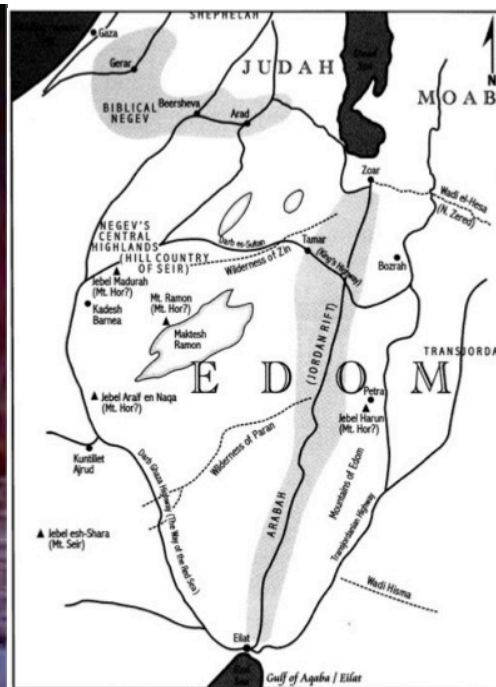
Daniel 11:41

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, [even] Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon (KJV).

The ancient nations of Edom, Moab and Ammon are all presently located within Jordan. Since Bozrah, (Petra) is located in ancient Edom it is logical for the Jews to flee to this location for safety during the last half of the Tribulation. God will provide Petra for the Jews as a city of refuge outside of the Antichrist’s domain. It will be defensible and located in Mount Seir. As they flee, they will be given food and water, which will be miraculously provided as God did for them in the Exodus.



Entrance to Petra



Ancient Edom

This chapter closes with the appearance of the Redeemer our Lord Jesus coming according to all God's promises. When the "adversaries" and the "enemies" shall have been punished, repentant Israel shall be saved by the coming of Messiah. *And as for me, this is my covenant with them, saith Jehovah:* The Lord is referring to His promise of the New Covenant which was announced to the nation Israel and will become inaugurated at the beginning of the Messianic kingdom (Jeremiah 31:31-34). It will involve putting His Spirit upon her and God's Word in her mouth, perpetually through the Messianic age and on into the eternal Israel's election to blessing which is not only for the Kingdom age. But forever.

Next message: THE GLORIOUS FUTURE OF ZION

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