

By His Own Arm

Isaiah 59:14-21

1. No One Who _____ Between (v. 14-16a)

- a. A society in moral _____
 - i. No _____
 - ii. No _____
 - iii. No _____
 - iv. No _____ (“straightness”)
- b. A people in grave _____
 - i. Truth and standards _____
 - ii. Moral civilians _____
 - iii. System of justice _____
 - iv. No hope of _____

2. The _____ Who Saves from Evil (v. 16b-18)

- a. The Mighty _____
 - i. Power to _____
 - ii. Character brings _____
- b. The Mighty _____
 - i. _____ to do the work
 - ii. _____ to repay the enemy

3. The _____ Who Saves to Eternity (v. 19-21)

- a. _____ prevails
 - i. From _____ to _____
 - ii. Like a rushing _____
- b. A _____ arrives
 - i. For those returning from _____
 - ii. With the LORD’s _____
 - iii. In the LORD’s _____
 - iv. With the LORD’s _____
 - v. For all _____

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” *Ephesians 6:13-18a*

John Calvin on Isaiah 59:17

17. *And he put on righteousness as a coat of mail.* Here he equips God with his armor, for the purpose both of confirming more and more the confidence of believers, and of stripping all men of all confidence in their own strength. The meaning of the verse amounts to this, that God is in want of nothing for discomfiting his enemies and gaining the victory; because from his righteousness, power, and grace, and from his ardent love of his people, he will make for himself πανοπλίαν complete armor. And this is again worthy of remark; for, although we acknowledge that God is sufficiently powerful, yet we are not satisfied with it, but at the same time seek other help. Thus our minds are always inclined to unbelief, so that they fasten on inferior means, and are greatly entangled by them.

In order to correct this vice, Isaiah presents this lively description; as if he had said, “Know ye that God has in his hand all the safeguards of your salvation, and will be in want of nothing to deliver you in spite of enemies and bring you back to your native country; and therefore there is no reason why you should tremble.” Besides, there is nothing to which we are more prone than to imagine that we bestow something on God, and thus to claim for ourselves some part of the praise which ought to remain undivided with him.

When he clothes God *with vengeance, and with indignation as a cloak*, this relates to enemies, against whom God is said to be enraged for the sake of his people; and thus, the more that Satan labors and makes every effort against us, so much the more does God kindle with zeal, and so much the more powerfully does he rise up, to render assistance to us. Although, therefore, Satan and all the reprobate do not rest, but raise up obstacles of every kind to prevent our salvation, and even exert themselves furiously to destroy us, yet, by his power alone, God will defeat all their efforts.

Read through the Bible in a year!

Nov 14: **Lam 3-5; Hebrews 10:19-39** Nov 18: **Ezekiel 8-10; Heb. 13**
Nov 15: **Ezekiel 1-2; Hebrews 11:1-19** Nov 19: **Ezekiel 11-13; James 1**
Nov 16: **Ezekiel 3-4; Hebrews 11:20-40** Nov 20: **Ezekiel 14-15; James 2**
Nov 17: **Ezekiel 5-7; Hebrews 12**

*** Lord willing, all who complete the reading at the end of the year will be invited to a dinner and celebration at the end of the year!***