

ISAIAH – LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT

I. ETHICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS (Chapters 58-59)

- A. The need to cry out against the religious formalism and self-righteous presumption of the people of Israel (58:1-14).
 - 1. Cry aloud pointing out the transgression and sins of the people of Jacob (v.1).
 - 2. The people appear to be like a nation seeking God in righteousness (v.2).
 - 3. In their self-righteousness, the people wonder why God does not approve and reward them for their fasting (v.3-4).
 - 4. The character of true worship – loving relationship with others (v.5-7).
 - 5. The blessings connected with true worship (v. 8-14).

- B. The barrier between God and His people will be finally broken down (59:1-21).
 - 1. Israel's iniquities and sins have separated them from God's saving hand and hearing ear (v. 1-8).
 - 2. Confessing the sins of the people, pointing out their true condition (v. 9-15).
 - 3. God clothes Himself in wrath and sends a redeemer to Zion (v.16-21).

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Does God want us to spare the feelings of God's people and not specifically point out their sins?

- 2. Characterize what the true people of God act like?

- 3. Why was God not pleased with the fasting of the house of Jacob?

- 4. What must never be separated from our acts of worship in order for our worship to be pleasing unto God and a blessing to us?

ISAIAH – LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT
PAGE 2

5. Outline *four promises* from verses 8-12 that God will bless His people with when they truly worship God

6. What were the people of God to do when Isaiah instructs them to “turn thy foot from the sabbath”?

7. If God does not hear us, what is the cause for the problem?

8. In what two areas of life had the people of Israel sinned before God?

9. What do the metaphors of “adder’s eggs” and “spider’s webs” point out about the people of Israel?

10. How “frustrating” is it to live in unrighteousness?

11. What *four things* could not be found among God’s sinful people?

12. What does God arm himself to do?

13. Who all is included as objects in God’s judgment?

14. Describe the characteristics surrounding God’s covenant with His people.