

I S A I A H

3. Does the humiliating entrance and exit of the Messiah in history apply to modern man's relation to God?
4. Does the personal refusal of Christ to defend Himself at His illegal trial and death mean Christians must never defend themselves? Why?
5. How can modern men accept and apply the death of a Jewish man (Jesus) nearly 2000 years ago for the atonement of their personal sins?
6. Are there any definitive manifestations of God's *love* in this section that may contradict the allegation that the God of the O.T. is *only* a God of wrath?
7. Are there any teachings in this section which may be applied to the idea that there is salvation for the world *only* in Jesus Christ?

SPECIAL STUDY

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AS MANIFESTED BY THE PROPHETS

by John Butterman

INTRODUCTION

I. God is Righteous in Judging His People

1. God is the judge over all the earth
 - a. From the beginning in the Hebrew community the judges were acting on behalf of God (Deut. 1:17)
 - b. It was unthinkable that he would act unfairly (Gen. 18:25)
2. God is the fountain of justice
 - a. Everything he does may be relied upon as just (Deut. 32:4; Zeph. 3:5)
 - b. God's equity as judge will be seen most clearly "in the day of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Rom. 2:5)

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- c. Man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's judgment
- 3. God is impartial in his dealings
 - a. The prophet Amos called for a similar righteousness in men (Amos 5:15, 24)
 - b. Inflicting retribution is an element of the righteousness of God (Isaiah 61:2)
 - c. If in a world of unrighteousness, righteousness is to be established, God himself must become the indicator and protector of the oppressed
 - d. God's righteousness is manifested in his defense of those who have no helper (Psalms 10:14; 72:12)

II. God is Righteous in Protecting His People

- 1. In his rescue of them from Egypt
 - a. The victories which accomplished this are described as the righteous acts of God (Judges 5:11; I Sam 12:7)
 - b. The pharaoh himself acknowledged that the ten plagues were evidence of God's righteousness (Ex. 9:27)
- 2. In his redemption of his people from exile
 - a. God showed his righteousness by this deliverance
 - b. This righteousness is closely associated with salvation (Isaiah 45:8; 46:13; 51:5-6)
- 3. In his redemption of his people from sin
 - a. The messianic king is just and having salvation (Zech. 9:9)
 - b. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes; in it is revealed the righteousness of God

MAIN THOUGHTS

I. The Prophets Revealed the Righteousness of God

- 1. Man has no righteousness of his own
 - a. It hurts to be told that man's righteousness is but a filthy rag in God's sight

- b. How futile to try to establish our own righteousness by our own works (Isaiah 64:4)
 - c. The human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9) and therefore cannot produce righteousness acceptable to God
 - d. The garment of our own self-righteousness is our pride (Isaiah 64:9)
 - e. Man must turn from his own self-righteousness to Christ who was made unto us righteousness (Isaiah 45:8, 24; 46:12-13; 54:17)
2. God provided for man what he could not do for himself
- a. A way to return to Zion
 - (1) He will come and save you (Isaiah 35:4)
 - (2) There shall be streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:6)
 - (3) The highway shall be called the Holy Way (Isaiah 35:8)
 - (4) The ransomed of the Lord shall return (Isaiah 35:10)
 - b. A river shall flow from the sanctuary
 - (1) Everything will live where the river goes (Ezek. 47:9)
 - (2) This river will enable trees to grow with fruit for food and leaves for healing (Ezek. 47:12)
 - c. A fountain shall be opened
 - (1) To cleanse the inhabitants from sin (Ezek. 13:1)
 - (2) To cleanse them from all uncleanness
 - d. A well of salvation will be opened
 - (1) To draw the water of life from
 - (2) To proclaim that his name is exalted
3. The prophets revealed the righteous One
- a. His revealed birth
 - (1) "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14)
 - (2) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6)
 - b. His revealed ministry
 - (1) Beyond Jordan, in Galilee . . . the light shined

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(Isaiah 9:1-2)

(2) The Lord shall suddenly come to his temple
(Malachi 3:1)

(3) Sent to the lost sheep of Israel (Ezek. 37:11; Jer.
50:6)

(4) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (Isaiah 61:1)

(5) The eyes of the blind shall be opened (Isaiah 42:7)

c. His revealed death

(1) They weighed my price thirty pieces of silver
(Zech. 11:12)

(2) He opened not his mouth (Isaiah 53:7)

(3) They shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod
(Micah 5:1)

(4) He was wounded for our transgressions (Isaiah
53:5)

(5) He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah
53:9)

(6) He made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah
53:12)

(7) They shall look upon me whom they have pierced
(Zech. 12:10)

(8) It shall come to pass on that day, that I will make
the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the
earth on a clear day (Amos 8:9)

(9) He would make his grave with the rich (Isaiah
53:9)

(10) He gave his back to smiters (Isaiah 50:6)

(11) He poured out his soul unto death (Isaiah 53:12)

d. His revealed resurrection

(1) Thy dead men shall live together . . . they shall
arise (Ezek. 37:7-10)

(2) Those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall
awake (Dan. 12:2)

(3) In the third day he shall raise us up, and we shall
live in his sight (Hos. 6:2)

(4) I will ransom them from the power of the grave
(Hos. 13:14)

II. The Christ Brought the Righteousness of God

1. Unrighteous man is totally incapable of making himself righteous enough to be accepted by God
2. Jesus brought righteousness to man
 - a. "By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many" (Isaiah 53:11)
 - b. "The righteousness is of me, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 54:17)
 - c. "Unto the Son, God said . . . a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom (Heb. 1:8)
 - d. "To declare his righteousness . . . that he might be just (right) and the justifier (the one who puts right) of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:25-26)
 - e. He (Jesus) is righteous (I John 2:29)
3. Jesus was qualified to become our righteousness
 - a. Because he was just and right in all his ways and witness, ever obedient to his righteous Father
 - b. Because he was never crooked in his dealings with others
 - c. Because his life was never out of the least fraction from the plumbline of truth and morality
4. Jesus brought the justice of God
 - a. "Of the increase of his government and peace . . . upon the throne of David . . . to establish it . . . with justice" (Isaiah 9:7)
 - b. "Behold thy king comes . . . he is just" (Zech. 9:9)
 - c. "I judge and my judgment is just" (John 5:30)
 - d. Peter claims him to be just:
 - (1) "You denied the Holy One and the Just" (Acts 3:14)
 - (2) "Christ . . . the just for the unjust" (I Pet. 3:18)

III. The Believers are Constituted the Righteousness of God

1. The sinner through believing is constituted the righteousness of God
 - a. The devil cannot call in question the fact that God is

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“just and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus”
(Zech. 3:2)

- b. So we can rest secure and serene in the confidence that
 - (1) Christ is our peace—who can disturb it?
 - (2) Christ is our hope—who can destroy it?
 - (3) Christ is our righteousness—who can tarnish it?
- 2. Man’s righteousness came by *someone* not *something*
 - a. Even him who possessed Lordship (Mark 12:36-37)
 - b. Righteousness is not earned, it is imputed to man
 - c. Daniel speaks of the wise turning many to righteousness (Dan. 12:3), which means they are brought to God who alone can justify them
 - d. Such righteousness is said to be reckoned or imputed, and put to the account of a guilty sinner accepting God’s terms of salvation, Isa. 55:1ff.
 - e. It is reckoned unto man on the ground of Christ’s finished work
- 3. Divine righteousness can only become ours by faith in Christ
 - a. By his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities (Isaiah 53:11)
 - b. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness” (Jer. 23:7)
 - c. The righteousness of God by faith (Rom. 3:26; 4:6; II Cor. 5:21)

CONCLUSION

- I. God’s Righteousness is Shown in His Saving of His People
 - 1. The prophets revealed it
 - 2. In Christ he is now doing it
 - 3. His people are no longer a restricted race but include all who believe (Rom. 2:28-29)
 - 4. “As many as call upon the name of the Lord shall be

saved" (Joel 3:32; Acts 2:38-39)

II. God's Righteousness Declares Righteous Those Who Believe in Jesus

1. God justifies those who have faith in Jesus (Rom. 3:22)
2. It is the righteousness of God that is imparted to man, not man's own self-righteousness that he is to seek after (Phil. 3:9)

III. God's Righteousness of His People is Based on Redemption Brought by Christ

1. Men are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption (Rom. 3:24)
2. It is a righteousness through forgiveness, based on the blood of Christ (I John 1:7, 9)
3. God put Christ forward as an expiation by his blood to be received by faith (Rom. 3:25)
4. This was to show God's passing over sins aforetime (Rom. 3:24)
5. It was to prove in the present time that He himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus (Rom. 3:26)

IV. God's Righteousness Provides Manifold Blessings

1. The righteous are blessed with prosperity: "Say you to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doing" (Isaiah 3:10)
2. The righteous are surrounded by divine favor: "For thou, Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor will thou compass him as with a shield (Psalm 5:12)
3. The righteous experience deliverance from affliction: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19)
4. The righteous enjoy peace, quietness, and assurance: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever" (Isaiah 32:17)

V. God's Righteousness Provides Hope in His Glory.

1. The time is coming when the heavens will declare his righteousness.
2. When the Sun of Righteousness appears with healing in his wings (Malachi 4:2) accompanied by all the heavenly saints, what a glorious consummation that will be of his work on our behalf.
3. The ultimate blessing of righteousness by faith is eternity with Him who is our righteousness. This is the glad hope of the righteous (Malachi 3:17-18).
4. "Hope of righteousness" is the sight of the righteous One himself, who promised to return for his own (John 14:3).

VIII. COMMUNION THROUGH GOD'S COVENANT CHAPTERS 54 - 59

A. WED TO THE LORD IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP CHAPTER 54

1. RECONCILED

TEXT: 54:1-8

- 1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith Jehovah.
- 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not: lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.
- 3 For thou shalt spread abroad on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall possess the nations, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.
- 4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou