

Isaiah 57:1-21 **Reward for the Righteous – Judgment for the Unrighteous**

Righteous escape Wrath

1 The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.

2 He shall enter into peace; They shall rest in their beds, Each one walking in his uprightness.

Error and expectation of the Wicked

3 "But come here, You sons of the sorceress, You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot!

4 Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth And stick out the tongue? Are you not children of transgression, Offspring of falsehood, 5 Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree, Slaying the children in the valleys, Under the clefts of the rocks? 6 Among the smooth stones of the stream Is your portion; They, they, are your lot! Even to them you have poured a drink offering, You have offered a grain offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

7 "On a lofty and high mountain You have set your bed; Even there you went up To offer sacrifice. 8 Also behind the doors and their posts You have set up your remembrance; For you have uncovered yourself to those other than Me, And have gone up to them; You have enlarged your bed And made a covenant with them; You have loved their bed, Where you saw their nudity.

9 You went to the king with ointment, And increased your perfumes; You sent your messengers far off, And even descended to Sheol. 10 You are wearied in the length of your way; Yet you did not say, 'There is no hope.' You have found the life of your hand; Therefore you were not grieved.

11 "And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, That you have lied And not remembered Me, Nor taken it to your heart? Is it not because I have held My peace from of old That you do not fear Me?

12 I will declare your righteousness And your works, For they will not profit you.

13 When you cry out, Let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry them all away, A breath will take them.

The Believer will inherit the land

But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land, And shall inherit My holy mountain."

Healing for the Repentant

14 And one shall say, "Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way, Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people."

15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

16 For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would fail before Me, And the souls which I have made.

17 For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him; I hid and was angry, And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.

18 I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him And to his mourners.

19 "I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near," Says the Lord, "And I will heal him."

Trouble for the wicked

20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

21 "There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Righteous escape Wrath

- ✧ The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.
He shall enter into peace; They shall rest in their beds, Each one walking in his uprightness. [\[Isaiah 57:1-2\]](#)
- ✧ We so often grieve at the perceived injustice in the death of good people especially in the younger years of life as a tragic event that occurs in an untimely manner.
- ✧ That is because we do not know what is ahead and we don't realize that the person is taken out of the path of evil for his or her own good by a merciful Lord Who does know what lies ahead for each of us.
- ✧ The reward of the righteous makes it all worth while and it becomes a blessing in disguise.
- ✧ This is like the death of the son of Jeroboam in whom God found some good. [\[1 Kings 14:12-13 see the whole story 1 Kings 14:1-20\]](#)
- ✧ ... the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment. [\[2 Peter 2:9\]](#)
- ✧ See the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. [\[Luke 16:19-31\]](#) The rich man was in torment in hell awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment and the eternal Lake of Fire while Lazarus was in Paradise being comforted.

Error and expectation of the Wicked

- ✧ "But come here, You sons of the sorceress, You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot!
Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth And stick out the tongue?
Are you not children of transgression, Offspring of falsehood, Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree, Slaying the children in the valleys, Under the clefts of the rocks?
Among the smooth stones of the stream Is your portion; They, they, are your lot! Even to them you have poured a drink offering, You have offered a grain offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

"On a lofty and high mountain You have set your bed; Even there you went up To offer sacrifice. Also behind the doors and their posts You have set up your remembrance; For you have uncovered yourself to those other than Me, And have gone up to them; You have enlarged your bed And made a covenant with them; You have loved their bed, Where you saw their nudity.

You went to the king with ointment, And increased your perfumes; You sent your messengers far off, And even descended to Sheol. You are wearied in the length of your way; Yet you did not say, 'There is no hope.' You have found the life of your hand; Therefore you were not grieved.

"And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, That you have lied And not remembered Me, Nor taken it to your heart? Is it not because I have held My peace from of old That you do not

fear Me?

I will declare your righteousness And your works, For they will not profit you.

When you cry out, Let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry them all away, A breath will take them. [\[Isaiah 57:3-13\]](#)

- ✧ The warning is to the wicked, and Yahweh describes how He views their wickedness.
- ✧ Their problem is their witchcraft, idolatry, sexual immorality, falsehood, arrogance and mockery of God, combined by the hypocrisy of their offerings to the idols.
- ✧ They have bribed the rulers of the land, and forgot the God of Israel Who called them.
- ✧ Yahweh asked, "Should I receive comfort in these sins?"
- ✧ There is no remorse in their arrogance.
- ✧ Yahweh asked, "Is it not because I have held My peace from of old That you do not fear Me? Delayed judgment does not become a deterrence to evil.
- ✧ Yet the day of Judgment is coming when God will expose all the evil done by the wicked and render judgment accordingly.
- ✧ At that time all the idolatry will be of no help against the wrath of God though the Lord challenged them in that regard..

The Believer will inherit the land

✧ But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land, And shall inherit My holy mountain." [\[Isaiah 57:13\]](#)

- ✧ The Kingdom age is the reward for those of faith in the Word of God.

Healing for the Repentant

✧ And one shall say, "Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way, Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people."

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would fail before Me, And the souls which I have made.

For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him; I hid and was angry, And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.

I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him And to his mourners.

"I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near," Says the Lord, "And I will heal him." [\[Isaiah 57:14-19\]](#)

- ✧ The Word of Yahowah to the prophet is, "prepare the way and take the stumbling block out of the way of My People.
- ✧ The error of the leaders has caused the people to stumble in their walk with the Lord.
- ✧ Yet Yahweh accepts the repentant who humble themselves and return to Him. [\[Isaiah 66:2\]](#)
- ✧ David recognized this fact in His writings. [\[Psalm 34:18, 51:17\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh Who is High, Lofty and Holy desires to dwell with people who are humble, and He will strengthen and exalt them with His presence.
- ✧ The Wrath of God is temporary or the spirit of man would fail him yet wickedness must not go entirely unpunished.
- ✧ God is witness to all the evil done by mortal mankind and had to turn His face away in His anger but people continued their backsliding still God is waiting for the time when we repent and humbly return to Him to be healed. [\[Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, 5\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh creates the fruit of the lips and offers perfect peace for those far or near with healing for the humble and contrite.
- ✧ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting Life. [\[John 3:16\]](#)
- ✧ God provided a way out on the basis of believing faith that repents and returns to Him in obedient love. [\[John 14:15-21\]](#)

Trouble for the wicked

- ✧ But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. "There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked." [\[Isaiah 57:20-21, Luke 16:19-31\]](#)