

Why Obey God?

Isaiah 56

Entry into God's kingdom is based on obedience to God.

A. The Reward of the Righteous (Isaiah 56:1-8)

1. The program for righteousness (56:1a)

a. Keep ye judgment

b. Do justice

2. The purpose for righteousness (56:1b)

a. Salvation is near to come

b. God's righteousness to be revealed

The Righteous Are Looking For God

Why Obey God?

Isaiah 56

Entry into God's kingdom is based on obedience to God.

A. The Reward of the Righteous (Isaiah 56:1-8) - continued

3. The profit of righteousness (56:2-8)

a. Blessing those who keep His commandments (v 2)

b. Position for those who trust in God (v 3)

c. Everlasting fruit for those in impossible circumstances (v 4-5)

d. The capacity to love and serve God (v 6)

e. Accepted worship (v 7)

f. Restoration to God (v 8)

Why Obey God?

Isaiah 56

Entry into God's kingdom is based on obedience to God.

B. The Rebuke of the Religious Leaders (Isaiah 56:9-12)

1. A destructive end predicted (56:9)

2. A distressing report pronounced on the watchmen (56:10-12)

a. Blind (v 10)

b. Ignorant (v 10)

c. Silent (v 10)

d. Sleeping (v 10)

e. Greedy (v 11)

f. Dull (v 11)

g. Selfish (v 12)

C. A Similar Rebuke (Revelation 3:14-22)

Different Outcomes

Isaiah 57

The righteous and wicked will not spend eternity in the same place

I. The Outcome of the Righteous (Isaiah 57:1-2)

Isaiah 57:1-2

1 The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

2 He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

A. Not given or considered by the world (57:1)

B. Future peace and reward (57:2)

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13)

1. By heritage (v 3)

Isaiah 57:3

But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore.

2. By childish pride (v 4)

Isaiah 57:4

Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13) - continued

3. By blatant idolatry (vv 5-8)

Isaiah 57:5-6

5 Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?

6 Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion; they, they are thy lot: even to them hast thou poured a drink offering, thou hast offered a meat offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13) - continued

3. By blatant idolatry (vv 5-8)

Isaiah 57:7-8

7 Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.

8 Behind the doors also and the posts hast thou set up thy remembrance: for thou hast discovered thyself to another than me, and art gone up; thou hast enlarged thy bed, and made thee a covenant with them; thou lovedst their bed where thou sawest it.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13) - continued

4. By unholy alliances (v 9)

Isaiah 57:9

And thou wentest to the king with ointment, and didst increase thy perfumes, and didst send thy messengers far off, and didst debase thyself even unto hell.

5. By reprobation (v 10)

Isaiah 57:10

Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13) - continued

6. By spiritual blindness (v 11)

Isaiah 57:11

And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

A. The wickedness revealed (57:3-13) - continued

7. By self-righteousness and vanity (vv 12-13)

Isaiah 57:12-13

12 I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee.

13 When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

B. Certain if God is rejected (57:14-21)

1. If the stumbling block is not removed (v 14)

Isaiah 57:14

And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.

2. If repentance is not made (vv 15)

Isaiah 57:15

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

B. Certain if God is rejected (57:13b-21) - continued

3. If God's nature is not understood (16)

Isaiah 57:16

For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

a. Chances will run out

Genesis 6:3

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

b. Judgment will remove sin and the sinner from God's presence

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

B. Certain if God is rejected (57:13b-21) - continued

4. In this life (v 17)

Isaiah 57:17

For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

Proverbs 8:35-36

35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

B. Certain if God is rejected (57:13b-21) - continued

5. Because God's mercy is spurned

Isaiah 57:18-19

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

19 I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

Romans 10:21

But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

II. The Outcome of the Wicked (Isaiah 57:3-21)

B. Certain if God is rejected (57:13b-21) - continued

6. The eternal outcome (vv 20-21)

Isaiah 57:20-21

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, saith my God, to the wicked.

a. Torment and no rest (v 20)

b. No peace (v 21)

**Which Outcome Are You
Destined For?**