

*Where Are You, God?  
Why Aren't You Paying  
Attention?*



*Isaiah 57:15-21*

*Isaiah 58:1-8*

*James 1:26-27, 2:1-17*



# Israel's Sin List (Isaiah 57:3-14)

- Sons of a Sorceress (3)
- Offspring of fornication (3)
- Rebellion and insolence (4)
- Idol worship complete with child sacrifice (5-7)
- Trusting/Aligning with foreign nations (8-11)

Then when they needed help, Israel came  
running to YaHWeH!!! (12-14)



"I dwell on a high and holy  
place,

And also with the contrite and  
lowly of spirit

In order to revive the spirit of  
the lowly

And to revive the heart of the  
contrite.

For I will not contend forever,

Nor will I always be angry;

For the spirit would grow faint  
before Me,

And the breath of those whom I  
have made.

Because of the iniquity of his  
unjust gain I was angry and  
struck him;

I hid My face and was angry,

And he went on turning away, in  
the way of his heart.

I have seen his ways, but I will  
heal him;

I will lead him and restore  
comfort to him and to his  
mourners,"

-The high and exalted One, Who lives forever, whose  
name is Holy in Isaiah 57:15-18



“Creating the praise of the lips.

Peace, peace to him who is far and to him  
who is near,”

Says the LORD, “and I will heal him.”

But the wicked are like the tossing sea,

For it cannot be quiet,

And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

“There is no peace,” says my God, “for the  
wicked.”

-The high and exalted One, Who lives forever, whose name is Holy in  
Isaiah 57:19-21



# YaHWeH Will Not Be Mocked

- YaHWeH dwells with the humble not the proud.
- YaHWeH's anger does not last forever. He wants to forgive His people.
- Peace will not be offered to the wicked.





Cry loudly, do not hold back;  
Raise your voice like a trumpet,  
And declare to My people their  
transgression  
And to the house of Jacob their sins.  
(Isaiah 58:1)

**ISRAEL SIMPLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND  
WHO YaHWeH IS. THIS CAUSED THEM TO  
MISUNDERSTAND WHAT HE WANTED.**



Yet they seek Me day by day and delight to know  
My ways,

As a nation that has done righteousness  
And has not forsaken the ordinance of their God.

They ask Me for just decisions,  
They delight in the nearness of God. (Isaiah 58:2)

➤ Fasting... YaHWeH does not see (3)

➤ Humbled themselves... YaHWeH  
didn't notice (3)



# What About Us?

- Do we treat God like the neighbor next door?
- Do we only turn to God when we want something or need help?
- Do we seek to be humble or do we exalt ourselves?
- Are we convinced we are doing everything God's way and forgetting to actually seek Him?



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# Is this the humility and repentance YaHWeH wants?

- Your fasting is all about YOU!
  - Find your desire, push your workers (3)
  - Contention, strife, victory over the wicked (4)
  - Self-exaltation (4)
- The Sabbaths were all about THEM not YaHWeH  
(implied in Isaiah 58:13-14).



# What About Us?

- Do we spend our Family worship time focusing on ourselves and our outside duties or goals?
- Do we spend our worship time more concerned with what others think of our service instead of seeking to be pleasing to God?
- Do we leave the Assembly saying, "I didn't get anything out of church today"?



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“Is this not the fast which I choose,  
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the bands of the yoke,  
And to let the oppressed go free  
And break every yoke?”

Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry  
And bring the homeless poor into the house;  
When you see the naked, to cover him;  
And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”

-YaHWeH's Response in Isaiah 58:6-7



# YaHWeH Says...

- He wants righteousness not wickedness.
- He wants freedom offered by His people.
- He wants justice and mercy extended to others even if they have nothing to offer in return.





# What About Us?

- Do we seek to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves?
- Do we seek to make other's burdens lighter or is it all about us?



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The World's *View* of Religious  
Practices and Faith



My brethren, hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes because he has more to offer the church. Give him the best seat in the house and the biggest coffee cup. The poor man cannot put as much in the plate so let him sit in the harder pew. Only offer him a cup of water. We would not want to spoil him! Obviously these two people have chosen their position in life and want to be treated that way. Listen, my beloved brethren: does not God love the rich more than the poor? We would be wrong to not to play favorites here.

**(Mock) James 2:1-7**



If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR ONLY AS MUCH AS THEY LOVE YOU,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, don't worry it's natural. Everybody does it. For we can pick and choose which commands to keep and when to keep them. For He who said, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “DO NOT COMMIT MURDER.” God just gave us suggestions as to what might be a good idea. After all, some people just need killing! So speak and so act as however you want. For God will not judge anyone. Judging is clearly wrong.

**(Mock) James 2:8-13**



(1:26-27) If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not shoot off at the mouth, is obviously misguided. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to sit in the pew and be entertained every Sunday morning.

(2:14-17) What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has to use works to show it? Can a working faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, just pray for them. They'll be fine. If you have to do something, you obviously are not a faithful Christian.

**(Mock) James 1:26-27, 2:14-17**



# True Religion and Faith



My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

**James 2:1-7**



If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “DO NOT COMMIT MURDER.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

**James 2:8-13**



(1:26-27) If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

(2:14-17) What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

**James 1:26-27, 2:14-17**



# What About Us?

- Do we show favoritism to those who have more to offer us?
- Do we extend mercy to others?
- Do we put our faith in action daily?



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