

Isaiah 57

Isaiah 57:1-2 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. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

I Kings 14 : 11-13 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it. Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Does any remember the story of King Jeroboam and his sons? What do we think about the death of this Child?

Isaiah 57:3 But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore. 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. Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the clifts of the rocks?

Why would God be displeased with a “son” or the “seed” of an evildoer?

Isaiah 57:6-8 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? Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice. 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.

Pulpit Commentary: Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion. Smooth stones, rounded by water-action, were among the objects worshipped by many Semitic peoples. Such stones were called βαίτυλοι or βαῖτύλια - Bethels, or "houses of God" - and received libations of oil and wine from their worshippers (see Genesis 28:18; and comp. Herod., 3:8; Arnob., 'Adv. Gentes,' 1:39; Lucian

Why all the references to the bed?

Isaiah 57:9-13 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. 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. 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? **I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee.** 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**; (*"a gathering; a throng; a collection."

What King? "There is no hope"

[Isaiah 57:14-16](#) And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, **prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.** 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.** 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.

[I Nephi 3 : 201](#) And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their **stumblingblocks**, if it so be that they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God; and if it so be that they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father;

[Jeremiah 6 : 21](#) Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay **stumblingblocks** before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish.

[I Corinthians 1 : 23](#) But we preach Christ crucified, **unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**

[III Nephi 4 : 49-50](#) And ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood; yea, **your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away**, for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall **offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit.** And whoso cometh unto me with a **broken heart and a contrite spirit**, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me, at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not.

[Psalms 51 : 17](#) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a **broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

[Moroni 6 : 2](#) Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; **neither did they receive any**

unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.

Psalms 34 : 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a **broken heart**; and saveth such as be of a **contrite spirit**.

The term “contrite” “spirit” is found 4 times in the Old Testament and 9 times in the Book of Mormon. It is a fundamental condition of doctrine of repentance and salvation. However, the word “contrite” is not found in the New Testament (NT) and the term broken hearted is only found one verse when Jesus is reading an Isaiah passage in the Temple. I don’t think this is an accident. Humble, and words with **humble as the root** are only found 16 times in NT but 82 times in the Book of Mormon. The word **pride** is only mentioned 3 times in the entire NT but a staggering 61 times in Book of Mormon. Other glaring disparages include to the doctrine of “**endure to the end**”. Again, this fundamental doctrine of salvation is found 16 times in the Book of Mormon but only 3 times in the New Testament. To critics, these three verses are passed off as only applying to the tribulation period and nothing to do with salvation now. Finally, the word “**faithfulness**” is conspicuously absent from the entire NT of the KJV but it is found 11 times in the Book of Mormon.

*And after they go forth by the **hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have **taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants** of the Lord have they taken away. And all this have they done that they **might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.** 1Ne 3:165-175*

Isaiah 57:17-21 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.** I have seen his ways, and **will heal him:** I will lead him also, and **restore comforts** unto him and **to his mourners.** 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.** But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. **There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.**

(Has anyone heard of the expression “no rest for the wicked”?)

Matthew 23 : 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour **widows' houses**, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Titus 1 : 10-11 For there are many unruly and **vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:** Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, **for filthy lucre's sake.**

Hebrews 13 : 15 By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise to God** continually, that is, the **fruit of our lips giving thanks** to his name.

Who are the “mourners”?