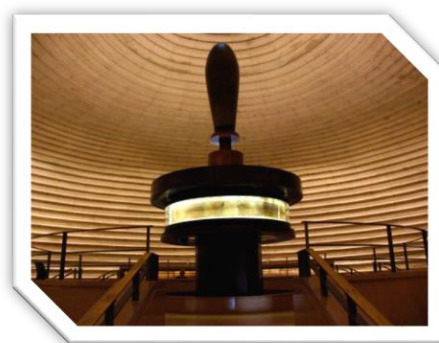


# ISAIAH 57 vs 1

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The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first**: chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second**: chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



We often hear religion is the cause of most wars, but is that so? In the 20<sup>th</sup> century here are 3 names associated with killing and death; none were religious attendees, though the 3 had Jesuit advisors: **Mao** and his regime, responsible for 50- to 60,000,000 victims; **Stalin** for 20- to 40,000,000; **Hitler** for 30,000,000 totaling over 100,000,000 victims; not to mention the millions destroyed by folks like: King Leopold II, Hideki Tojo, Ismail Pasha, Pol Pot, Kim Il-Sung, Mengistu Mariam, Jean Kambanda, Saddam Hussein, Josip Tito, Idi Amin, Benito Mussolini, Ho Chi Min, Jean-Claude Duvalier, Francisco Franco, Robert Mugabe, Augusto Pinochet... not to mention the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and all the NATO and Western Allies inventing enemies and endless wars; creating fearful citizens; of course **demonizing Russians**, who happen to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest community of Christians in the world next to America; while destroying untold hundreds of thousands today advised by some sick roman agenda... at USA taxpayers expense.

**<sup>1</sup> The one doing right perishes, and no one takes it to heart, and the devout are taken away, while no one understands, for the one doing right is taken away from the evil coming** / nobody asks why? The LORD says: those doing what is right are decreasing, while the merciless increase... and nobody asks what is going on? the LORD says, nobody has a clue why increasingly, those doing wrong are who remain... evidenced by all the sirens we hear, and crime statistics we read on fake news; while **In God We Trust** is dismissed as a childish notion of a misguided past; by the enlightened news readers and politicians of the present.

**<sup>2</sup> He enters into peace: and are at rest, each one who walked upright** / this word picture describes a father holding the hands of a **toddler** with a goofy look at me smile, the little one thinks they are walking, but couldn't stand up without the father's help; Isaiah says, each one advancing step by step... there will be no weeping; they will find peace.

**<sup>3</sup> But step forward you sons of sorcery; offspring of an adulterer and a whore** / step forward you workers of demonic hocus pocus; children of the faithless and their favorite floozy; offspring of religious whoring, unfaithful to the Lord God what Revelation 17-18 is about; things don't change much:

**<sup>4</sup> Against whom do you play games? against whom do you open your big mouth, and stick out your tongue? aren't you children stepping over the line, offspring of deceit** / acting like children playing games? Against whom are you jeering and sneering? aren't you always recalcitrant; truly, aren't you just a bunch of rebellious apostates, disloyal and dishonest... just bad genes?

<sup>5</sup> **Enflaming your cravings** / fueling your unruly passions **with idols** / they ignored Moses and the prophets warnings: they forgot His 10 instructions, and became worshipers of Baal; what is an idol? It is any manmade object of devotion... thought to possess some power that, if served will bring benefit and wellbeing; the worst idol to be devoted to is our disordered, unsatisfied self. Those who were greatly blessed, violated the instructions to: have no other gods before Me; to make no graven image of anything in heaven, or on earth to bow down to and serve – Deut.5.

**enflaming your craved idols under every green tree, while killing your children in the valleys, and between the clefts of the rocks?** / these people had become so callous to life; a parent sacrificing their child to Baal or some weird queen of heaven; leaving their dead kid's bones stuffed in some rocky desert crevasse. And you might ask what connection can be made with enflaming unruly passions, and killing children? But do you wonder, why so many children go missing in the world? even in this country. Think about it: all the conveniences available: produced at multinational corporations **often in secret**... to supply our insatiable appetites using the youngest and poorest of global slave labor; not to mention the 60,000,000 aborted babies in the US, whose body parts bring big bucks to the elite's doctors; and the many 100,000s of missing children annually, while no one waits for body parts in surgery. Where are they? Why does govt no longer investigate?/ is this old history, or current events?

<sup>6</sup> **Your portion is among the smooth stones of the stream, they are your lot, even to them you poured a drink offering you offered a meat offering, should I receive comfort in these?** / like the slippery stones of life, they are your lucky number; the enflamed idols, the slippery stones... that's it! That is all you can expect to inherit! offered to gods which are not gods... you sacrifice... you feed them... of course, with whole grain; but no MGO's. the LORD asks: do you really think I'm thrilled with your limited view of reality?

<sup>7</sup> **Upon a lofty and high mountain you set your bed, you even went up there to offer sacrifice** / it sounds like they lounge in the posh Beverly Highlands; on the highest place they find, they park their prowess. In a country where 84% of the population think they are not just important; but... **very important**... so that population has no shortage of self-esteem, that lesson took hold... in a country like that, this verse is not too difficult to imagine... remember the part about: killing children in the valleys and between the clefts of the rocks. So, this twisted society reasoned some things should be private... kept out of view: in their climb to the top, they elevated their devotion to snoozing and bleeping around, they proudly assumed those works should not go unnoticed. It's interesting, as the LORD elaborates on this party prone, orgiastic, ego excited culture; the LORD says...

<sup>8</sup> **Behind a door and doorpost, you set up your memorial, for you went far from Me, and exposed yourself for another; you have enlarged your bed, and made a bargain with them** / you set up your adult toys and tokens and trophies: you made a naked promise with your many lovers and partners and devotees, and slippery whatever... and of course your enflamed idols, too;

**you loved their bed where you saw** \_\_\_ / what? You name it, fill in the blank as to what they saw. The King James Bible says: **it**... but there is no word in the original; they probably saw what they were looking for, at least in that fleeting moment.

**9 And you went to the king with ointment, and did increase your perfumes, and did send your envoys far away, you sent them down even to hell** / and if it wasn't so serious, it almost is funny; now, the king was already anointed; so? Perhaps they planned to bring him into their skeleton bones partnership? And he didn't have any KY gel. / so with a little lube and sweet fragrances, they hoped to sell the King with their finest flattery; even in the devil's lair; since from the highlife to the lowlife... they knew a sucker was born every 15 minutes – if they could find him; and no place was off limits to their envoys with their cheesy proposals.

**10 You grew weary on your many journeys, yet you did not say, it's hopeless. You renewed your strength; so you were not grieved** / it's a great way, my way; it's a broad way; it's not a narrow way; often it is an exhausting way; certainly, it is a tiring drudgery and lengthy way... Moffatt wrote: you wearied yourself out, but you never gave up; you all were definitely hopeful.

**11 And who did you fear or dread, that [1] you lied, and [2] did not remember Me, or [3] take it to heart? Have I not been silent for a long time, yet you did not fear Me?** / they were fearless and faithless playing games with God, which is not a good thing, when the LORD stops talking and training; it's probably time to stop running around in circles. Prophet Isaiah said, [let the Lord be your fear; let the Lord be your dread](#)... whatever you fear and dread -- something any healthy person should do... well, put the LORD God in that place; and He will be your Sanctuary.

**12 I will expose your imagined rightness, and your works; they will not profit you** / their works are inadequate; so they will be recorded in the loss column, on the loser's ledger.

**13 When you cry aloud for help, let your greasy idols deliver you, but the wind will carry them all away; vanity will take them** / let all your faithless alliances with your slippery idols, come to your rescue; in total, those companions are **no** weightier than a dry, brittle leaf... blowing in the wind:

**but he who shelters in Me [1] will possess the land, and [2] will inherit My holy mountain** / in Hebrew: **hasa**, means: to take shelter, like little chicks scurrying to the mother bird's wing; not a bad thing;

**14 And [3] will say, Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove the slippery obstacle from the way of My people.**

**15 For thus says the High and Lofty One who lives in eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones** / so He is situated a little higher than where any of us snooze; and being able to see the big picture, has the better outlook. The Lord says to some, we need to look higher! this One who lives on high; dwells near the crushed and broken; but does not lodge in Hell, not even for a night; and did you notice: He does not dwell in a stone edifice. Where He lives has a spectacular view; and He invites but does not beg all to come and see.

**16 For I will not contend for ever, I will not always be angry, for the spirit would fail before Me: the souls I have made** / eternity will not be filled with earth's trailer trash; as a loving Father, He trains with mercy and grace, but knows when training is over. He has no competition: His eternity will have untold billions, but not one dumb fool who did not grow up.

**17 For the crimes of his greediness, I was angry and struck him; I hid My face, yet he just returned to the desires of his heart** / this chapter began with the right ones perishing; now in focus are those who claim to be ruled by God; always joking, but are rarely funny; who provoke God in their desire for more stuff... suggesting He does not adequately provide for His family. You know if someone goes the wrong way down the freeway, it is good to get their attention, right? God on occasion slaps some awake, to train them; the Lord looked away; but those desires didn't go away, even after giving a royal wakeup call.

**18 I have seen his unhealthy ways, but now [1] I will heal him: [2] I will lead him, [3] restoring him, [4] giving comfort to him [5] and to all his mourners;**

**19 creating 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** / His favorite words He speaks to the one who wandered, or who shelters near, He says: **grace and peace**. We know God is powerful, we are not in any way His equal. So we better learn to approach Him correctly. In case some of us are still caught... on the part where God slapped the guy; for a second time the Lord says: He will heal him.

**20 But the wrongdoers are like the stormy sea, that cannot rest, whose waters stir up mire and mud** / sadly, the LORD God -- loving to His own hurt has done all; yet some fools refuse to respond.

**21 There is no peace for the wicked, says my God.**