

## **Isaiah 58:1-14**

**Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.**

**This chapter can be viewed God's trumpet call to the formalists, Legalist, self-righteous, judgmental hypocrites and fire breathers of every generation.**

**You would not warn a man that his house was on fire in a soft casual voice. Isaiah was here commanded to deliver this warning in a manner of a trumpet call consistent with the urgency of the need of repentance. We wonder if some of the soothing, casual, and conversational voices of our modern preachers should not be more like the urgency of this Divine call for repentance.**

**Isaiah 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.**

**Note the singular "ordinance." What was it? It was the single fast that God had commanded on the day of Atonement! That is precisely the thing they had omitted in favor of all kinds of fasts proclaimed by their false leaders ... all they did was change God's commandment for the commandments of men who thought they could improve upon God's perfect plan.**

**Matthew 15:8-9 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.  
9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.**

**They disregarded the most sacred fast, the day of Atonement but obliged their servants to work all day long on that day, having changed the fast day into feast day!**

**Isaiah 58:3** Wherefore have we fasted, *say they*, and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

The great mistake of our generation of “do-gooders” is thinking that God is not concerned with anything except social justice. It is very significant here that the very first sin God mentions is their neglecting God's “ordinance.” Of course, God is also concerned with social justice; but all social justice, in the final analysis, derives from us paying honor to the Word of God and the holy worship He has commanded.

**Matthew 22:37-40** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**Isaiah 58:4** Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as *ye do this* day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

The strife and contention with those ancient fasts was the “new religion” of the day that the leaders had introduced to change and replace the old way.

ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. This means: You do not keep the day of Atonement, as God has commanded, because that is the only possible day, the observance of which a fast was able to cause one's voice to be heard “on high.”

**Isaiah 58:5** Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? *is it* to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes *under him*? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

**Note also the singular "fast" and the purpose of the day "to afflict the soul." The answer is NO. Note also that God is speaking of the "day I have chosen," the day of Atonement being the only fast day God commanded. They were sitting on sackcloth and ashes when they required their servants to provide them a feast; and they called that a fast!**

**Isaiah 58:6 /s not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?**

**There were widespread violations of the requirements of social justice and mercy to their fellow man. These sins of commission and omission which should have resulted in them "afflicting their souls" and repenting before God on the day of Atonement.**

**Isaiah 58:7 /s it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?**

**"Is it not to deal thy bread ..." This means, Is not the affliction, fasting, and worship of God as the day of Atonement for the purpose of causing one to be thoughtful and concerned for the less fortunate, and leading to their relief provided by the worshippers of God?**

**Here is a beautiful description of what composes true righteousness. It is sharing one's bread with the hungry; it is bringing the homeless, the dispossessed poor, into one's house; it is clothing the naked, etc. The great fault of the human race is that rich people who have plenty frequently have faces of flint toward the poor, hungry, helpless and downtrodden of the earth**

**Matthew 25:31-43 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**

**32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats:**

**33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**

**34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

**35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:**

**36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.**

**37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink?**

**38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee]?**

**39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?**

**40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.**

**41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

**42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:**

**43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.**

**Isaiah 58:8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.**

**“rereward” rear guard ... God will watch your back ...**

**Isaiah 58:9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I *am*. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;**

**"The yoke" refers to burdens and oppressions imposed upon the less fortunate; "pointing the finger" is a reference to accusations against others; and enough of this type of evil can destroy any society on earth including the United States of America or any church or congregation.**

**Isaiah 58:10 And *if* thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness *be* as the noonday:**

**Draw out thy soul ... "This means to impart of thy own goods to those in need." ... the idea of fasting being that you give your own food to the poor and downtrodden.**

**thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness be as the noonday:**

**Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”**

**If you do this congregations, you won't be obscure anymore ... the fancies and fire breathers will hate you and God will see and raise you up ...**

**Isaiah 58:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.**

**The blessings of the LORD flows to those who Love the downtrodden.**

**Isaiah 58:12 And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and**

**thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.**

**Isaiah 61:4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.**

**In context this is a Messianic chapter. The very first scripture Jesus quoted was Isaiah 61:1-3, in His first sermon found in Luke 4:18ff the word “foundation” should be understood, in the New Testament sense:**

**I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

**Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [*stone*]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

**I Peter 2:5-9 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe [*he is*] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [*even to them*] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye [*are*] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

**“Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations ...”**

**The spiritual restoration of Israel ... or today the Church is meant.**

**This formula has worked at our congregation and it will work for you.**

**Isaiah 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words:**

**Note that a tremendous “IF” that stands at the beginning of the verse.**

**Our Pleasures upon the Lord’s day seems to be the problem all along.**

**Isaiah 58:3 “... Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.”**

**IF only Israel had listened and obeyed all things were possible.**

**Isaiah 58:14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.**

**Today the Main Street Church of Christ rides upon the high places of the earth in ways Isaiah could have never believed possible.**

**Through a great number of international World Wide Radio Broadcasts this small congregation Preaches the Gospel to all the World every day ... and it all started with Jesus as the foundation and we added “social justice” feeding the poor and homeless.**

**Acts 6:1-3 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

**Romans 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.**

**Do not withhold from any man mercy and kindness. You, yourself all have been God's enemy, and yet God fed, clothed, and to this day preserved you alive. Do to your enemy as God has done to you. If your enemy be hungry, feed him, if he be thirsty, give him drink. This is how God dealt with and treated you.**

**Has not His goodness and long-suffering towards you been a means of melting down your heart to repent? How do you not know that your similar conduct towards your enemy may not have the same gracious influence on him towards you? Your kindness may be the means of God conveying unto him a sense of his guilt ... and change him from being your enemy and so he may become your real friend!**

**The whole is a quotation from Proverbs 25:21-22, in the words of the Septuagint; and it is very likely that the latter clause of this verse, Thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, is a metaphor taken from smelting metals. The ore is put into the furnace, and fire put both under and over, that the metal may be liquefied, and, leaving the dross, the heavy metal of gold or silver falls down pure to the bottom of the furnace. This is beautifully expressed by the unknown poet:**

**"So artists melt the sullen ore of lead,**

**By heaping coals of fire upon its head.**

**In the kind warmth the metal learns to glow,**

**And pure from dross the silver runs below."**

**Psalm 41:1-4 Blessed [is] he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; [and] he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. 3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his**



**sickness. 4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.**

### **I Corinthians 13:1-3 Love Must Be the Motivation**

**I Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

**I Corinthians 13:2 And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

**I Corinthians 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**

**Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Burton Coffman, B W Johnson & Adam Clark Commentaries**