

Powerful Passages from the Old Testament

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

March 23, 2011

Discussion leader: David Mayberry

Isaiah 59:1-2 -- Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.

During the time of Isaiah, God firmly intends to watch over, bless and provide for His chosen people. Yet Judah had not experienced blessing. When something like this happens, some people are sure to blame God. Isaiah reminds the people of Judah that reliance on the useless idols is getting them nowhere but if they would turn to Him, they would receive the blessings that God was ready to give (Isaiah 57:13).

Since the people treated God just like all their idols, they might have incorrectly speculated that God's hearing was bad, or that His arm was a bit weak, so He couldn't produce miracles as He used to. But that certainly wasn't the explanation. The truth is that the fault wasn't with God. It was with the people. Human sin is the barrier that separates us from God. Let's look deeper into this statement and see if there are lessons for us today.

During this study we will look at the nature of God, the nature of sin, God's response to sin and how we can profit from the lessons and warnings from the past.

Nature of God:

Deut:32:4 _____

Psa 33:4 _____

Heb 12:14 _____

Isaiah 59:2 _____

What reaction does God's nature demand of us?

1Pet 1:15-16 _____

Nature of Sin:

How does sin affect our spirit and our relationship with God?

Rom 5:12-13 _____

Rom 6:23 _____

Rom 3:23 _____

Gen 3:1-24 _____

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Thought questions --

Describe sin and its consequences.

Was there a total separation from God?

Did God abandon His creation?

Was there still interaction?

Why were Adam and Eve driven from the garden?

Let's look even closer at the nature of sin. What are the lessons about sin from these passages?:

Jas 1:15 _____

Gen 39:9 _____

John 4:24 _____

What does obedience have to do with righteousness and/or sin?

1 John 3:4-9 _____

God sets before us a choice:

Deut 30:19 _____

Josh 24:15 _____

Jas 4:4-9 _____

What is God's response to sin?

Rom 2:5-6 _____

Rom 1:18 _____

Rom 6:1, 14-15 _____

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1 John 4:9-10 _____

So if God is patient and wants all to come to repentance, how is it that He will turn His face from those that sin. Isn't that contrary to grace?

Jer 5:21-25 _____

How did this truth play out in the New Testament?

Matt13:21-25 _____

Acts 28: 26-27 _____

What can we expect from a life typified by willful sinning?

Heb 10:26-27 _____

Application:

Is there a time that we should expect God to turn His back to us?

Rom 1:21-25 _____

Heb 10:29 _____