

The Terrifying Truths About God - Isaiah 59  
8-10-14 PM

In Isaiah 59:1-14, Isaiah spoke of the great terror that Israel lived in because of God. It was something they had earned for their years of faithlessness. What is the "Fear of the Lord"? It is commended to men throughout the Bible (Psalm 111:10, 1 Peter 2:17). Perhaps people lack this fear because they do not consider the characteristics of God that are so terrifying? What are these frightening characteristics?

1. Numbers 23:19: God is not a man

Because God is not a man, who can we reason with Him for mercy (Job 9:14-15)? There is no common ground to begin with, leaving us to be without hope.

2. Exodus 20:5: God is a jealous God

God made it clear that His jealous nature will not permit our faithlessness (Nahum 1:2). The wrath of God is earned when we do not give Him all things.

3. Psalm 7:11: God is a just judge

We ought to be in fear of true justice. We all have guilt (Romans 3:23), and God is absolutely just. Our only expectation is fiery wrath from a just God (Hebrews 10:27).

4. Job 9:13: God does not relent

God does not forget. That means, that unlike people, His anger does not lessen over time. He promises NEVER to forget anything (Amos 8:7), and that includes sin.

5. John 9:31: God does not hear sinners

In Isaiah 59, Isaiah began by telling us that sin cut us off from God. If we are cut off from God, how could we even ask for mercy?

6. Hebrews 6:18: God cannot lie

God promises that He will bring justice for sin. If God never lies, this ought to terrify us each

The terror of knowing God in Isaiah 59:10-14 is then contrasted with a simple but powerful idea in the subsequent passages: God does not want it to be this way. God therefore enacted of His own will a means to overcome these characteristics that cut us off from God. God's Solution is found in Jesus.

1. To Mediate between God and Man

"For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both." Job 9:32-33

2. To Satisfy God's Jealousy

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:10

3. To Be Excused From God's Judgment

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

4. To Satisfy God's Anger

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Hebrews 8:12

5. To Be Heard by God

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." John 16:23

6. To Cause God to Change His Mind

(Jesus Christ) bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24