

Isaiah 57
Finding Peace

The fate of the righteous (1-2) (Psalm 116:15) – **God watches over the death of His saints.**

Spared from evil (Revelation 14:12-13) – **some He walks through and others He spares.**
Safe and at rest in the arms of the Savior (II Corinthians 5:8) – **at home with Him**

The path of the wicked (3-10)

Born of the wicked – following in the sins of their fathers. (Exodus 20:5)
Burning with lust – sin, which does not satisfy, leads to more sin. (Ephesians 4:19)
Bedded with their idols – they are what is important to them. – **become gods**
Behind doors – pagan practices, hiding who they truly are. (John 3:19-21)
BUT, unwilling to REPENT – not acknowledging the hopelessness of their pursuits.

How corrupt & hardened we can become (Revelation 16:9)

The response of God to the unrepentant (11-13a)

He is incredibly patient, but it does run out (II Thessalonians 2:10-12)

Those who forget Him (Ephesians 4:17-19) – **hearts become corrupt.**
Those who do not fear Him (Romans 3:10-18) – **nothing good remains in us.**
They will be exposed – their works seen for what they truly are (Hebrews 4:13)
They will be emptied – all their hope blown away (Psalm 1:4) – **like the chaff.**

The response of God to those who seek refuge in Him (13b – 19)

They will possess His holy mountain – **He gives us His righteousness.**
They will dwell with Him (Revelation 21:3) – **His desire to be with His children.**
They will be people who are contrite and lowly (Psalm 51:17) – **no merit of our own.**
They will be forgiven (Hebrews 8:12) – **our sins remembered no more.**
They will have peace (John 14:27) – **His peace to comfort now will become reality.**

THERE IS NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED (20-21)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 57

Why do we fear death? How is it different for a believer to face death? (I Corinthians 15:25-26 / II Corinthians 5:1-5 / Philippians 1:20-23 / Hebrews 2:14-15) ***Death remains our enemy. We are created to love life – the death process and the uncertainty of death can make us fearful. As believers we have something beyond death to look forward to. The transformation of our bodies to be like His glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21) God gives us a purpose for living and a hope for when He takes us to be with Himself. By His resurrection, we no longer have to fear what happens after death and therefore, the enemy has lost his control over us.***

What is the danger of giving in to temptation? (James 1:13-16/I Timothy 4:2/Romans 1:21-24) ***Once desire is conceived it leads to sin which leads to death. (Romans 6:23) Once we cross the line of sin, it becomes easier to do it again. Our hearts can become calloused, and our conscience can become seared. When we choose a path apart from God, even our thinking becomes muddled. The last thing we want is for God to give us over to our sin. Our prayer should be, "God, do not let me go my own way." (for we all like sheep have gone astray)***

Does saving faith require repentance? Explain. (Luke 13:1-5 / Luke 1:76; 3:4-8 / Acts 26:20) ***YES! God receives those who are contrite and broken over their sin. Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you too will perish." John the Baptist prepared the way for people to receive Jesus by calling them to repent. Even the apostle Paul, who emphasized that we are saved by faith alone, included in his gospel messages the need for repentance. God has given a call to everyone who is willing to turn from their wickedness, to come and receive His free gift of salvation.***

What does it mean to seek refuge in the LORD? (Psalm 18:1-4; 27:4-5; 62:5-8; 119:1-8) ***Putting all your trust and hope in Him. Seeking to be near Him, knowing that the safest place is always the center of His will. Walking in obedience to Him and keeping short accounts, that is coming to Him quickly when I sin.***

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