

Series: Isaiah 40-66

Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-59:21 - Horizontal and Vertical Dimensions

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Theme: The God high and holy sends a preacher

1. Two broad biblical doctrines stand in the background of Isaiah 58 and 59
 - a. Worship:
 - i. Horizontal - how worshipers treat one another.
 - ii. Vertical - how one relates to God in worship
 - b. Forgiveness:
 - i. Horizontal - communities marked by good relationship
 - ii. Vertical - when God forgives human sin

2. Isaiah 58
 - a. Worship rejected (verses 1-7)
 - i. Worship rejected because of oppression.
 - ii. Those who worship God must treat others with righteousness.
 - iii. God identifies their unrighteousness.
 - iv. God rejected their worship.
 - b. Blessings from God (verses 8-14).
 - i. God calls for a different course of action.
 - ii. If the people follow God's action there will be different results.
 - c. Righteous theme
 - i. The people think they are righteous but they are not.
 - ii. God is unwilling to acknowledge their worship because he hears the cries of the people they oppress.

3. Isaiah 59 - Forgiveness
 - a. Israel refused to give up sin (verses 1-8)
 - i. Israel's sin keeps them from enjoying God's forgiveness.
 - ii. The horizontal issues cloud the vertical issues.
 - b. The prophet confesses for sinful Israel (verses 9-15).
 - i. Sin grips the community
 - ii. God is willing to forgive sin, but the community does not seek forgiveness.
 - c. God as warrior comes to attack sin (verses 16-21).
 - i. God travels to Jerusalem to address the sin issue.
 - ii. God comes to take vengeance on sin.
 - iii. God hopes his covenant will continue throughout the generations.