

**Text: Isaiah 59**

**Title: “When The Enemy Comes In Like A Flood”**

**INTRO:**

We learn from this great chapter in Isaiah that it is a continuation of the judgments concerning the hypocrisy of Israel. The entire chapter involves both the defining and exposing of the sins of the people. He clearly tells them that their sins have separated them from their God. That is, a central wall partitioned the people of God from the Person of God. He also informs them that the Almighty had hid His face from them. This means that their sins had veiled the face of God. Thus, sin is a hindrance to prayers being answered and a cutting off all communications between them and their God. But He assures them that His hand is not shortened that it cannot save nor His ear too heavy that it cannot hear.

Farther on in the chapter, verse 19 to be exact, he speaks of the enemy coming in like a flood (He has and he will.) He says that the LORD will lift up a standard in the very midst of this threatening flood.

We all know what happens when a flood rages upon us. It is non-stoppable. It wipes out everything in its path. It leaves behind its mark of horrific devastation. Things are never the same and many lives are changed forever. But our God is a great Restorer. Ponder for a moment the Great Flood in Noah’s day, and look where we are today.

We have an enemy called COVID-19, better referred to as “The curse of 2020”. It has come upon us like a flood. I would like to share some pertinent thoughts concerning some standards God can raise up in the midst of this flood.

**FIRST** - We must consider the enemy that we are facing. This enemy is an invisible one. It is unseen to the human eye. It shows no mercy

and expresses no pity. It is no respecter of one's age or their health conditions. It has cut family ties and in far too many cases shortened life itself. This enemy is very real. It has filled our hospitals and medical centers with infected individuals. It has emptied personal care facilities of precious souls. It has caused many food businesses especially to close their doors permanently. It has drained revenue from many hard workers. It has taken its toll upon the lives of Drs., nurses, special care workers and first responders. You do not know all that goes on behind the scenes. The enemy has come in like a flood! We must deal with it head-on.

**SECOND** – We must consider the promises of God. Our text says that the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against the enemy. What the Lord promises, He will do! Professionals are working very hard to dam up this flood and protect the people of our nation. God is using every means to get these flood waters assuaged. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. There is now a vaccine. Pray that it will work. (Proverbs 3:5,6) – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

**THIRD** – We must use good, common sense and wisdom in dealing with this enemy that is flooding us. Just follow simple instructions. Don't try to be “invincible”. Be considerate of others (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.) No one is exempt. Stay safe. Don't be a bad example.

**FOURTH** - We must keep our eyes on the Lord. He is able to deliver. He is always in control. The Prophet Isaiah had his work cut out for him, as did all the prophets of old. Do not live in fear, beloved. (II Tim.1:7) – “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

**CONCLUSION:** Isaiah 59 explains to us what sin can cause to happen between God and his people. Perhaps this COVID-19 pandemic is an example. Maybe God is getting the undivided attention of His people. At any rate, it is time for all of us who are saved to repent and do right. (II Chronicles 7:14) – “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humbles themselves, and pray, and seek my face, **AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS**; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

**NOTE:** Judy and I are recovering from this enemy. We hope to be back in the saddle again soon. Thank you for your prayers and support. We are sorry that we closed our church temporarily, and we are sorry that this closing, along with the cancellations has come at Christmas time. We love you and pray for your well-being.