### Isaiah

## Chapter 57

1‘See how the righteous ones perish  
 Because they don’t keep watch on their hearts.  
 So the righteous are lifted away,  
 And no one gives it a thought.  
  
 ‘Yes the just are lifted away  
 Before the face of injustice.  
 2And although they’ll find peace in their graves,  
 They’ve been lifted away from your midst.  
  
 3‘Then the sons [of the] lawless are led before Me…  
 The offspring of adulterers and whores!  
  
 4‘In what have you found such enjoyment?  
 Against whom have you opened your mouths  
 To say wicked things with your tongues?  
 Aren’t you the sons of destruction…  
 An offspring without any honor?  
  
 5‘Aren’t you the ones who call out to idols  
 From under all the bushes and trees?  
 Aren’t you the ones who kill your own babies  
 Between the rocks in the valleys?  
  
 6‘Yes, this is your portion… This is your lot;  
 For to [idols], you’ve poured out drink offerings,  
 And to them, you’ve brought sacrifices…  
 Wouldn’t such things provoke Me to rage?  
  
 7‘You make your beds on the tops of high hills,  
 And you carry sacrifices up there.  
 8Then, behind your doors, you place [idols]…  
 Do you think that if you leave Me, you’ll prosper?  
  
 ‘You’ve loved all those with whom you have slept…  
 9Those with whom you’ve been whoring…  
 O how many [lovers] have you left behind?  
  
 ‘You’ve sent ambassadors across all your borders;  
 And for this, you’ve been [cursed] to the place of the dead.  
 10But, although you’ve tired of your many [bad] ways,  
 You’ve never said, ‘I’ll repent!’  
 Yes, you have done all these bad things;  
 And for this, I won’t listen to the things that you beg!  
  
 11‘You’ve held sacred those things that you fear,  
 And against Me, you have all lied…  
 You’ve never stopped to consider  
 Or to think of Me in your hearts!  
 12So, I will report your [in]justice,  
 And your evils won’t benefit you.  
  
 13‘Then, in your [time of] affliction,  
 And when you must call out [for aid],  
 Ask [your idols] to save you!  
 For the wind will take all your things,  
 And a gale will blow them away.  
  
 ‘But, those who choose to hold onto Me  
 Are the ones who’ll inherit [the] land,  
 As well as My Holy Mountain.  
  
 14‘Then, at that time, I will say:  
  
 ‘Come and smooth out the roads…  
 Take the rocks from the paths of My people!’  
  
 15Thus says the Most High God in the heights…  
 The One who rests in His Most Holy Place…  
 That place where He dwells throughout the ages,  
 In His Most-Holy of Holies…  
 Jehovah is His [great] Name.  
 He’s the One who is patient with the meek  
 And gives life to those who have broken hearts:  
  
 16‘I’ll not punish you [again] through this age,  
 Nor will I remain angry with you.  
 I will pour My Spirit upon you;  
 For I’m the One who gave you your breath!  
  
 17‘Because of their sins, I grieved them a while…  
 I turned My face and I struck them…  
 I brought them grief and they traveled in gloom.  
  
 18‘But I saw all their ways and I healed them;  
 I gave them comfort… Comfort that’s true.  
 19Yes, I brought peace upon peace  
 To those who are near and those far away.’  
  
 And Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘As a result, I will heal them!  
 20But the unrighteous will roll like the waves,  
 And they’ll be unable to rest…  
 21There’ll be no peace for the godless,’ said God.