

## Isaiah 57 -- No Justice, No Peace

Right now in the US there is a great divide. The president exemplifies this divide. The news media has lost its credibility being accused of being "fake news". People on either side of this divide see the other side as their enemy. The tea party with Sarah Palin was disrespected, mocked and ridiculed. This has caused an even greater animosity towards the media from those who feel their voices have not been heard. Their concerns are disrespected. 1 The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. 2 Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. If we are going to understand what is happening today we have to consider several critical events. First, the Clinton presidency passed NAFTA. It was a very big political issue where Perot made it very clear that if this is passed your manufacturing jobs will be sent across the border. That is exactly what happened. People with very good jobs in manufacturing became unemployed. Cities like Detroit became abandoned and were boarded up. People in their 40s and 50s lost the dignity of a job that can provide for their families. Overnight alcoholism and poverty swept through like a plague and they knew that this was done to them by Clinton. Yet when you listen to the media no one says a word, when you listen to the politicians no one says a word. Then a new station, Fox news shows up, and they are the only speaking to your pain. This was the first blow, but the second was even worse. The Mortgage crisis was not some accident. It was a manufactured crisis. Banks were writing mortgages that they knew would blow up in five years and end in default. They did this because before they blew up they were able to sell the debt to investment banks who then sold them to pension funds. The banks made very good money selling these mortgages. People would pay the \$1,000+ monthly mortgage for 60 months before defaulting and losing the house. Once they lost the house it went back to the bank who could sell it again. They didn't need down payments because they would get the \$60,000 in monthly mortgages. The investment banks also got rich with commissions selling these mortgage backed securities to pension funds. Independent rating agencies like Moody's would give these a triple A rating not because they were a safe bet but because if they didn't they would lose the business from these huge investment banks. Those were the winners. 3 "But you—come here, you children of a sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes! 4 Who are you mocking? At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongue?

Are you not a brood of rebels, the offspring of liars? 5 You burn with lust among the oaks and under every spreading tree; you sacrifice your children in the ravines and under the overhanging crags. Let's not forget that many more had their kids go to Iraq to fight because of Weapons of Mass destruction only to learn that the government lied to them about that as well. The same people who sacrifice your children in those ravines in Iraq are the ones who are willing to abort their own kids. It is foolish to think that anyone who would sacrifice their own kid to save money wouldn't sacrifice your kid to get rich. 6 The idols among the smooth stones of the ravines are your portion; indeed, they are your lot. Yes, to them you have poured out drink offerings and offered grain offerings. In view of all this, should I relent? However the losers in the mortgage crisis were people who had bought the houses. The bank had a legal obligation to explain the mortgage and represent these homeowners to protect their interest. They were criminally negligent in the handling of this responsibility. Nearly 10 million homeowners lost their homes. If you consider that there might be 3 or 4 people in that home you now have 30 or 40 million homeless people. In addition pension funds lost \$5 trillion dollars as a result of this crisis. Again, they had trusted the rating agencies to tell them the truth, and they hadn't, they also had been complicit in this crime. This is now the second time the government and all those who are legally responsible to watch out for the people scammed them. They have lost their jobs, their homes and their savings. So then, what does the government do about it? They don't arrest a single person even though thousands had very clearly broken laws that were on the books. Instead they take tax payer money and bail out these banks who then give themselves bonuses. 7 You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill; there you went up to offer your sacrifices. 8 Behind your doors and your doorposts you have put your pagan symbols. Forsaking me, you uncovered your bed, you climbed into it and opened it wide; you made a pact with those whose beds you love, and you looked with lust on their naked bodies. 9 You went to Molek with olive oil and increased your perfumes. You sent your ambassadors far away; you descended to the very realm of the dead! 10 You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint. Whenever the government had done anything the media had come out and presented the issues whether it was NAFTA or the Mortgage Crisis, and experts would get on and talk about how this would be good for the country. After the mortgage crisis they argued that the "Banks were too big to fail". How do you think those who are now unemployed,

homeless and who just lost their life savings are thinking? You think they will trust anything you say? 11 "Whom have you so dreaded and feared that you have not been true to me, and have neither remembered me nor taken this to heart? People began to hit the streets. Occupy Wall Street was the first sign. Young, college educated people who understood the corruption took to the streets. But then the shooting at Sandy Hook took place. The most heinous and outrageous act demanding something be done. The vast majority of Americans felt that legislation concerning guns needed to be passed. But they were unable to pass legislation. Why do you think these tens of millions of Americans who had lost their job, home and savings based on actions the government had taken wouldn't trust the government to pass gun legislation? Is it not because I have long been silent that you do not fear me? Meanwhile terrible atrocities like Trayvon Martin were piling up. How is it that a teenager walking home in his neighborhood could be shot and killed and the killer is not charged with a crime? 12 I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you. YouTube exploded on the scene and one killing after another was exposed. Between Facebook, Twitter and YouTube the mainstream media was bypassed and made to appear irrelevant. 13 When you cry out for help, let your collection of idols save you! The wind will carry all of them off, a mere breath will blow them away. Videos, blogs, forums and talk shows fanned the flames and the outrage grew. The judgement is falling hard on the Banks. Defaults on mortgages have skyrocketed. Due to the pandemic there are 40 million who cannot pay their rent, a third of small businesses may wind up going bust, shopping malls, theaters, and stadiums have all had to close. The only solution is for the banks to forgive the debt, otherwise we will have a homeless crisis to rival the great depression. And the judgement is falling hard on foreign trade which is down about 30%. With a pandemic raging in Mexico the border is shut tighter than ever before. People ignored climate change for the sake of the oil industry. Our foreign policy of having wars in the middle east are all about protecting our oil industry and promoting our military industrial complex. The two states that depend the most on these industries are Texas and California. These are also the two states being hit the hardest with fires and floods due to climate change. But whoever takes refuge in me will inherit the land and possess my holy mountain." 14 And it will be said: "Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people." 15 For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the

spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. 16 I will not accuse them forever, nor will I always be angry, for then they would faint away because of me— the very people I have created. 17 I was enraged by their sinful greed; I punished them, and hid my face in anger, yet they kept on in their willful ways. 18 I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, 19 creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the Lord. "And I will heal them." This judgement is a house cleaning. The Lord is removing the children of the sorceress who have devised these wicked schemes to defraud people. He is removing the adulterers who have no respect for covenant. He is removing the prostitutes who will sell themselves to do wickedly. They are the brood of rebels against God, they are offspring of liars. Once they have been removed and swept clean we will again hear praise of our God on our lips and we will be healed. 20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. 21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." What is it that the Black Lives Matter says in their protests? No Justice, No Peace. There is no peace for the wicked.