

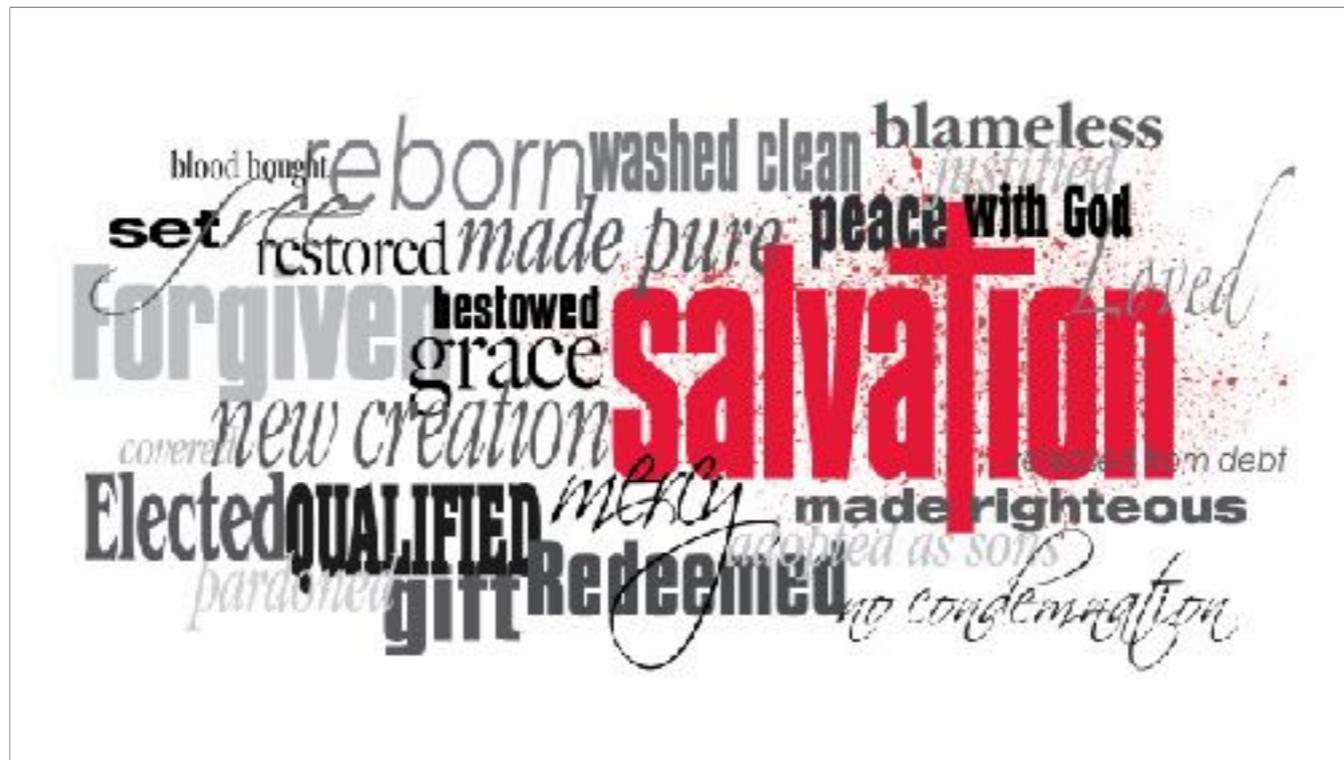


MIGHTY TO SAVE

ISAIAH 63:1



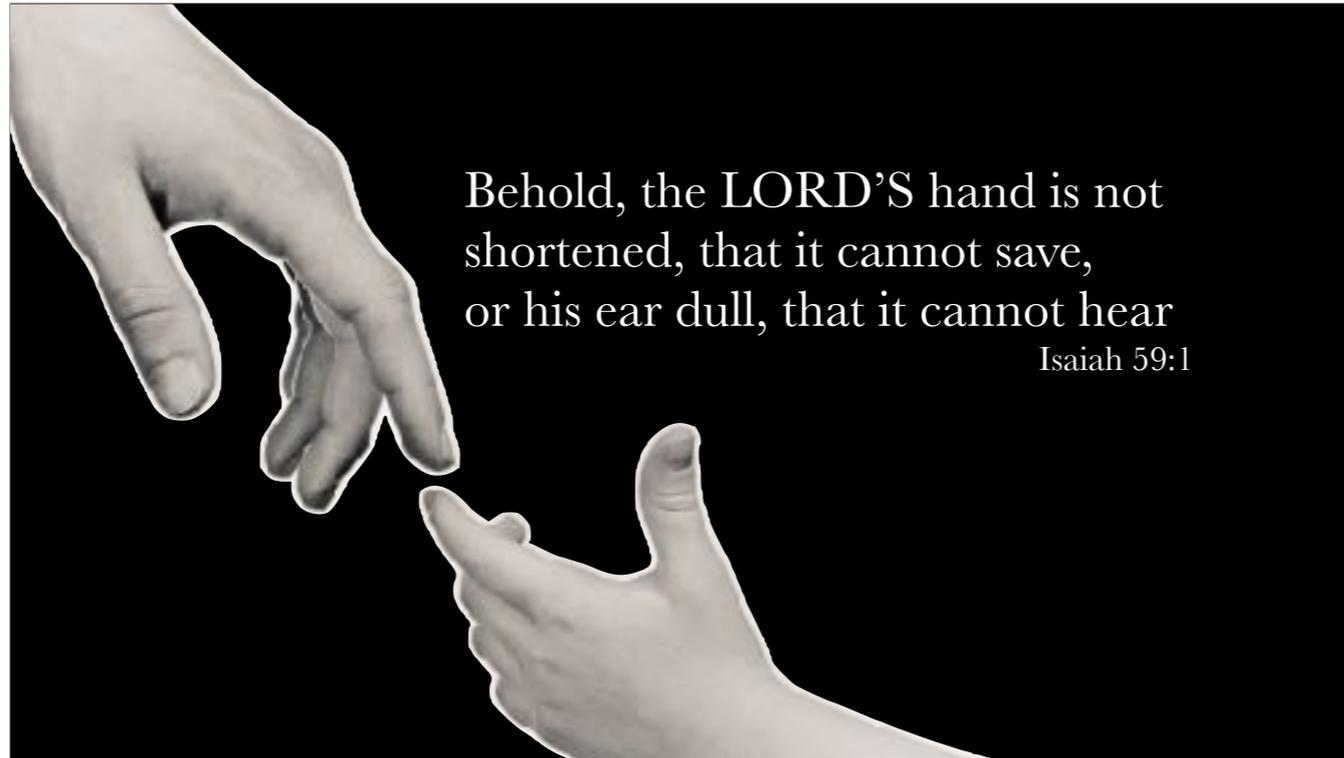
- How do you picture love in your mind?
 - Perhaps parent and child
 - Or husband and wife
 - Mom and Dad holding hands in car



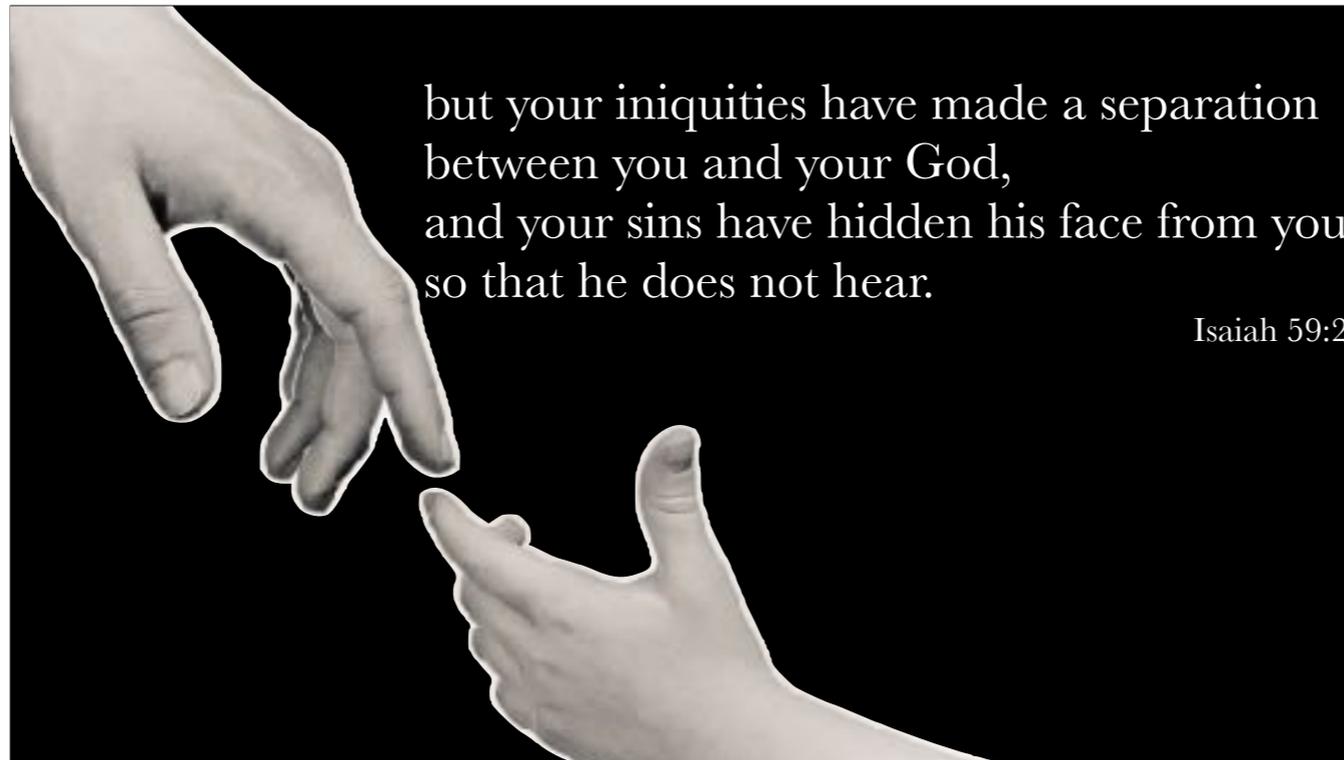
- How do you picture salvation?
 - Rescue from flames, water

How do you picture
Righteousness?

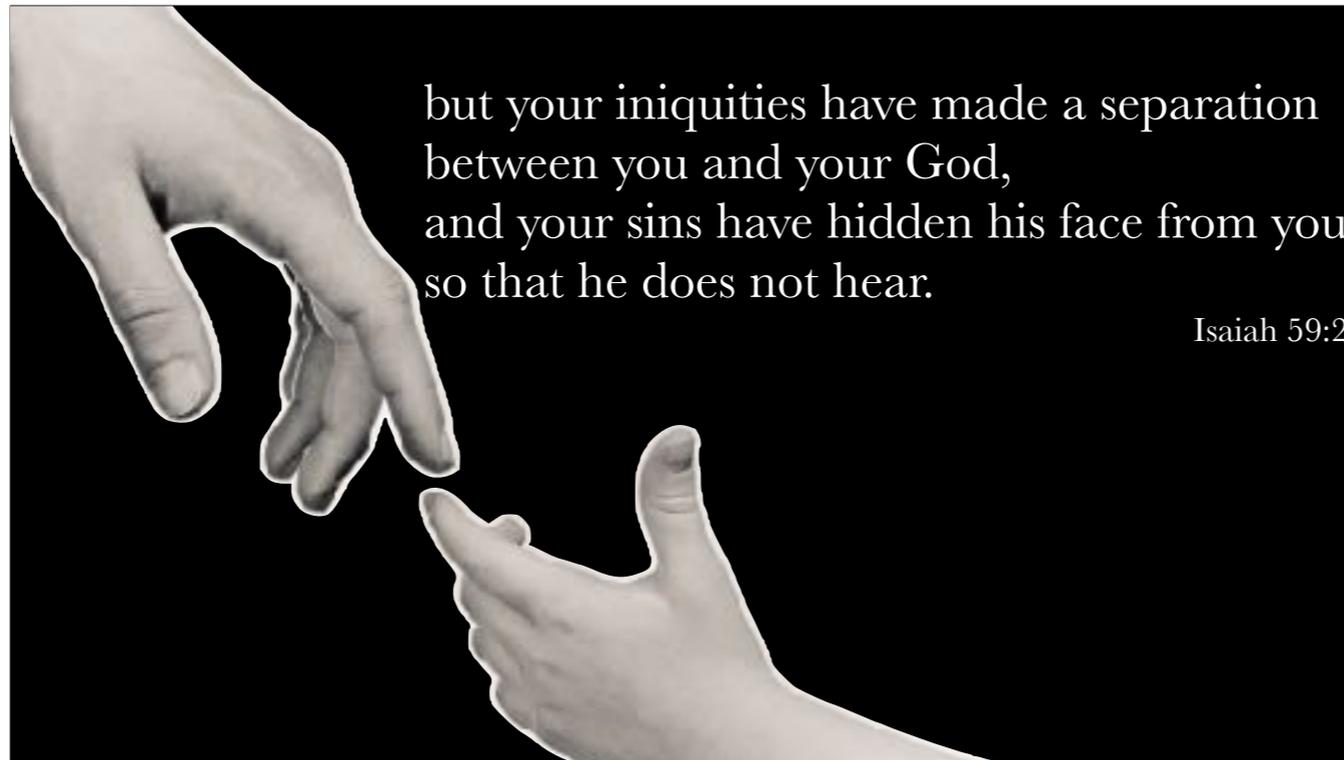
- How do you picture righteousness?
 - Hard to picture!
 - Morals and Ethics
 - Religious term
- Isaiah 59



- Isaiah 59:1 — Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;
- When we look at the condition of the world, our society, our community
 - We often wonder where God is. Why isn't God doing something?
 - And a common conclusion is that perhaps God doesn't know, doesn't care, and/or refuses to do anything to help us.



- Isaiah 59:2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
- Jehovah reminds us that the problem is our sin
 - We've often interpreted this passage to say that it is God who hides his face and will not hear,
 - But it can also mean that because of our sin, we no longer seek God, approach God in meaningful and real ways (as he has declared)



- The first verse tells us that God is not the problem
 - The second verse tells us the problem is our own sins
 - Such that there is a visceral and real separation between us and God
 - That is, ultimately, our doing.
 - vs. 3-8 describe our struggle with sin: specific sins and turning away from peace



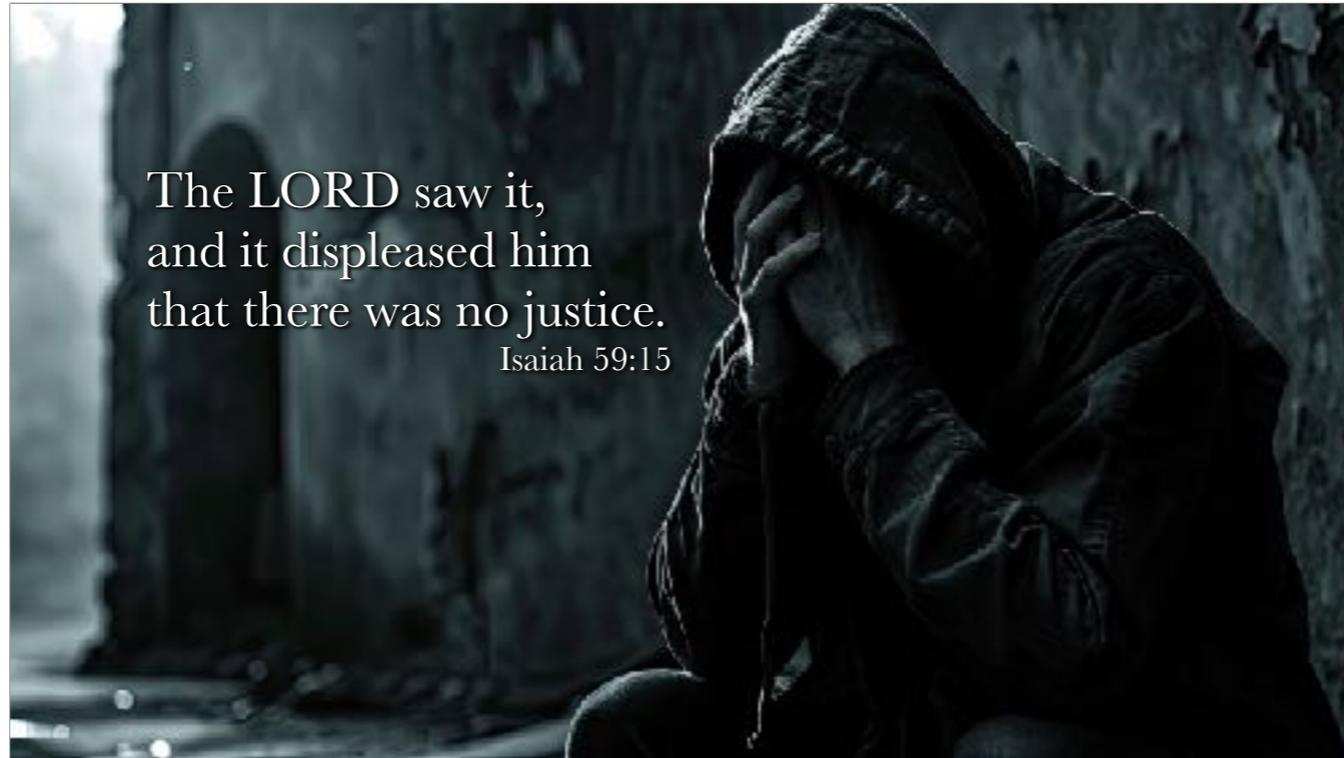
- vs. 9-15a discusses the realization of man in light of our sins
 - no justice: far from us (9); hope, but none (11); turned back (14)
 - no righteousness: does not overtake (9); stands far away (14)
 - no light
 - darkness and gloom
 - no salvation: hope, far from us (11)
 - no truth: stumbled (14); lacking (15)



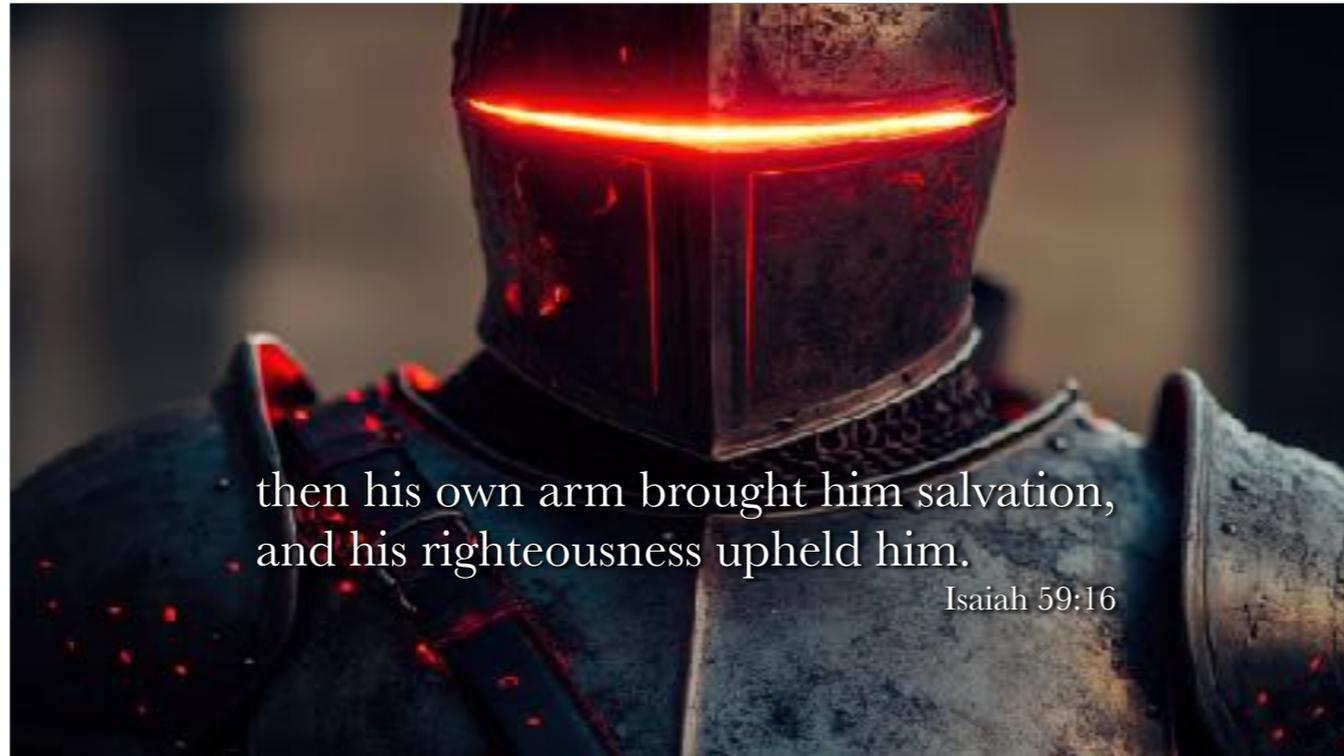
Therefore justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not overtake us;
we hope for light, and behold, darkness,
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

Isaiah 59:9

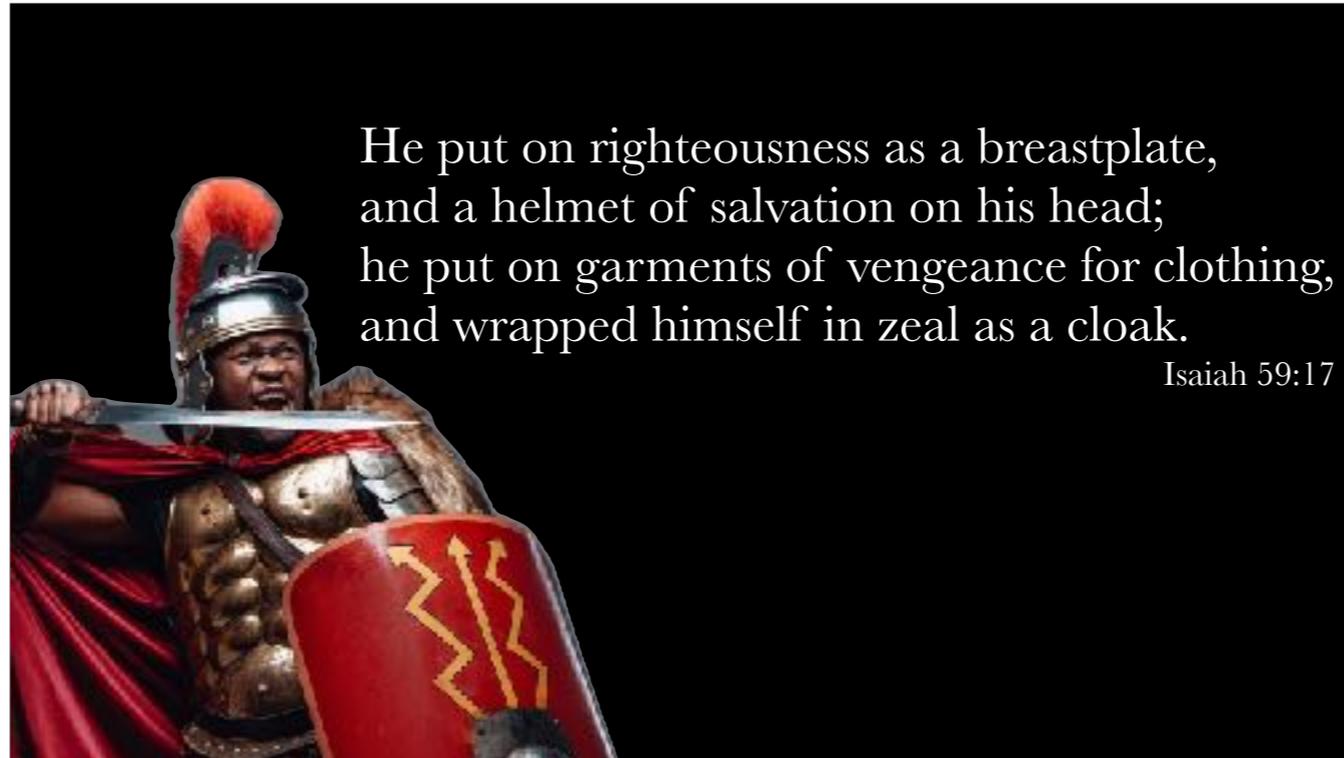
- Why?
 - Transgressions, sins, iniquities — multiply
 - Denying Jehovah
 - Turning back from following God
 - oppression, revolt
 - lying



- 15b - 21
- Jehovah sees it (back to verse 1!)
 - — all the sin, all the iniquity
 - — all the lack of hope, justice, righteousness, salvation
- It displeased him
 - What displeased Jehovah?
- NO JUSTICE.
 - and ...
 - no man
 - no one to intercede
- So what is Jehovah's response?



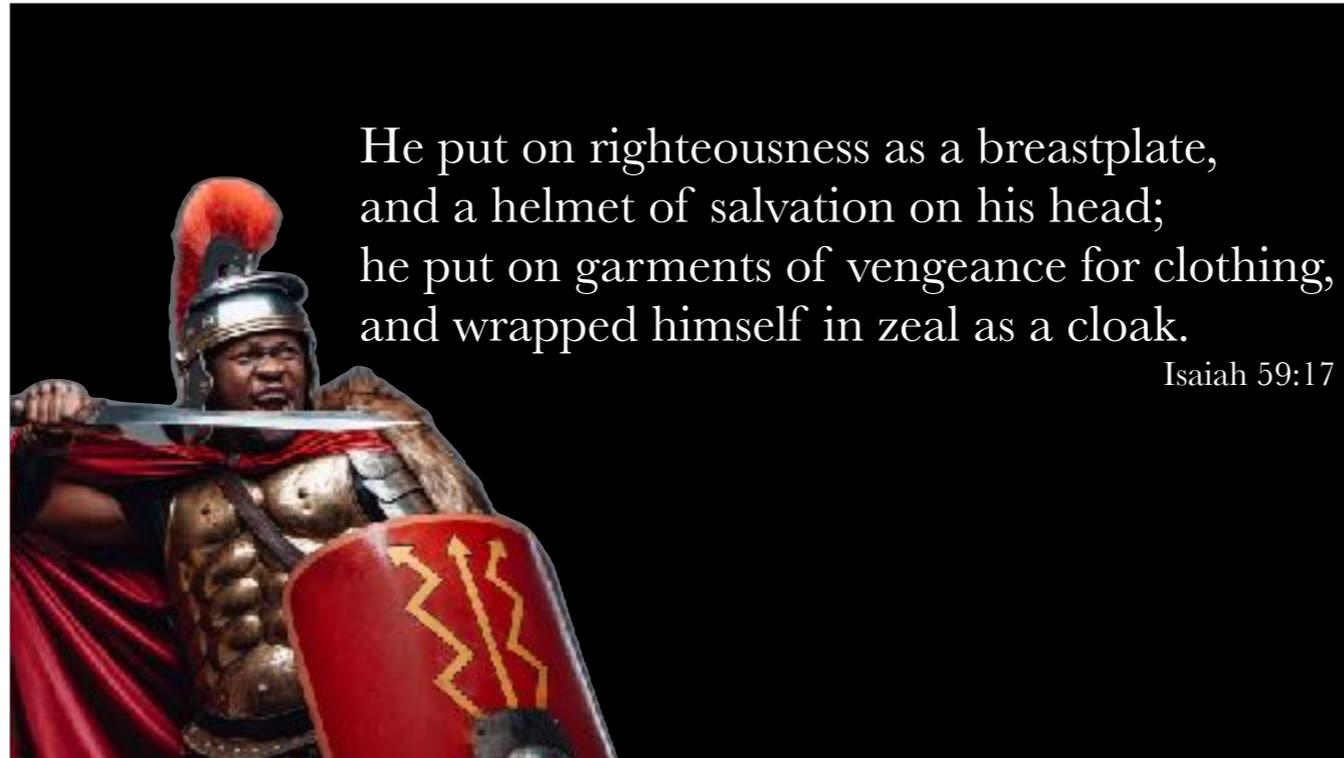
- Isaiah 59:16 — then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.
- Jehovah decides to act. He chooses to intercede. Why?
 - What about all our sin? denying? rebellion?
 - With his own arm, he brings salvation!
 - righteousness upheld him
 - that is, he is faithful to his covenant with Israel
- Jehovah is going to war against sin.



He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Isaiah 59:17

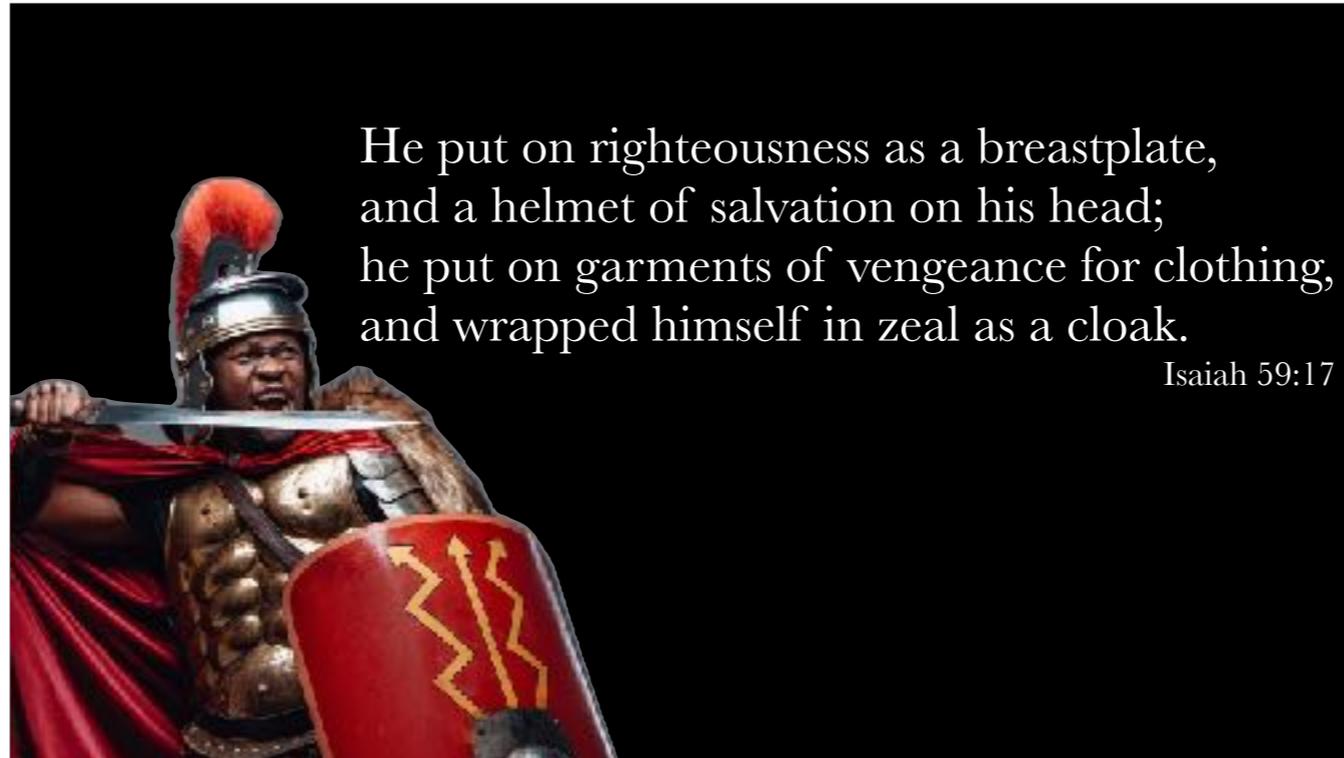
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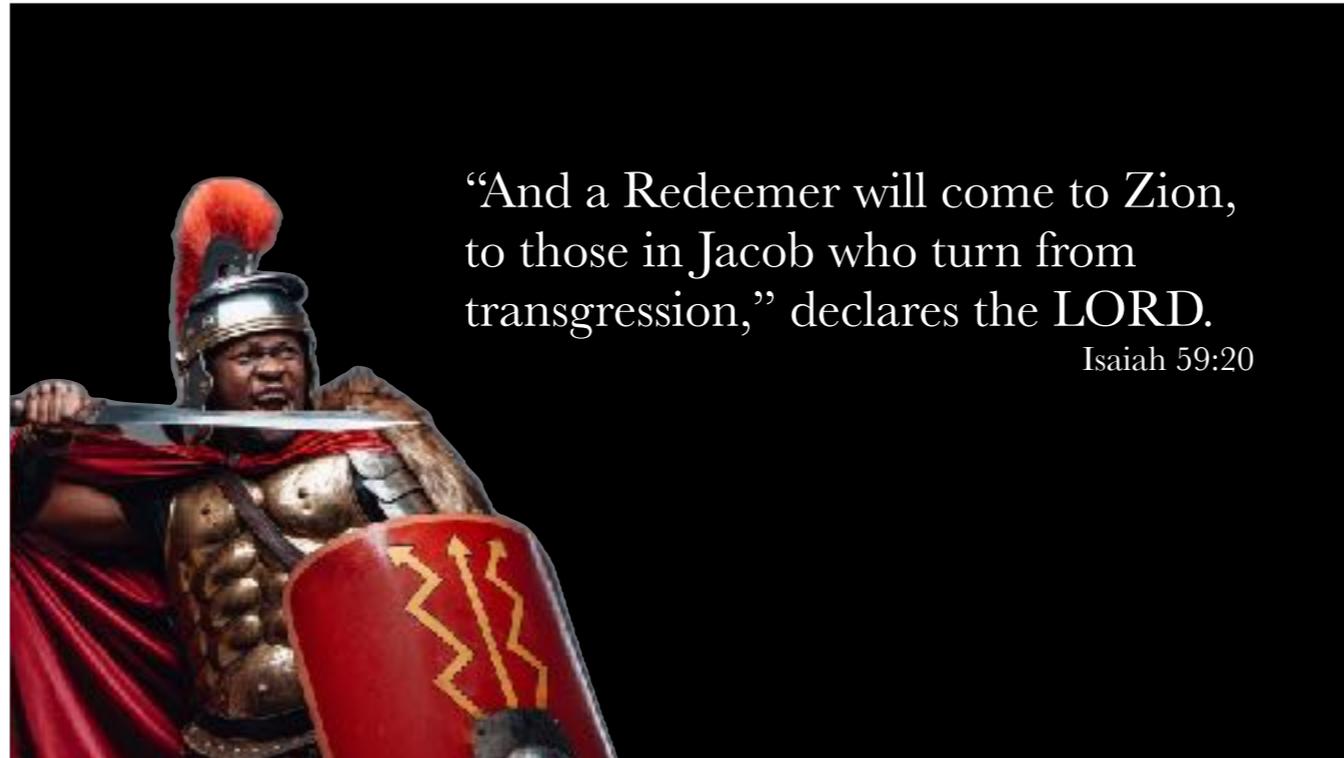
- How does one prepare to defeat sin?
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 — For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.



He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Isaiah 59:17

- Righteousness — right, faithful
- Salvation — rescue, redeem
- Vengeance — repay, wrath
- Zeal — eagerness, determination



“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from
transgression,” declares the LORD.

Isaiah 59:20

- Isaiah 59:20 “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.
- Isaiah 63 ...



- Isaiah 63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."
 - Isaiah 34:6 The LORD has a sword; it is sated with blood; it is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom.



- Who is this???
 - Note apparel:
 - crimsoned garments
 - splendid
- It is I
 - speaking in righteousness
 - mighty to save
- Jehovah is coming to Jerusalem.
 - This is good news
 - And yet the red garments are concerning
 - 2 Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?



- 63:3-9: What it means

- Alone

- 3) no one was with me
 - 5) no one to help
 - 5) no one to uphold

- 5) So my own arm brought me salvation

- 3, 5, 6) anger, wrath
 - 4) vengeance



- Dealing with sin is an unpleasant business
 - trodden (3)
 - trampled (3, 6)
 - lifeblood (3, 6)
 - spattered (3)
 - stained (3)



- 7) The steadfast love of Jehovah
 - 7) the great goodness to Israel
 - 7) his compassion
 - 7) abundant steadfast love
- 8) He became their savior
 - in their affliction he was afflicted!
 - love: pity and redeem
 - lifted up and carried



- When God delivered Israel... it clearly involved His righteousness
- Psalm 143:11: For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!



For the LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face.

Psalms 11:7

- Psalms 11:7 (ESV)
 - For the LORD is righteous;
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Psalms 11:7



Jehovah is
always righteous.

But the LORD of hosts
is exalted in justice,
and the Holy God shows
himself holy in righteousness.

Isaiah 5:16

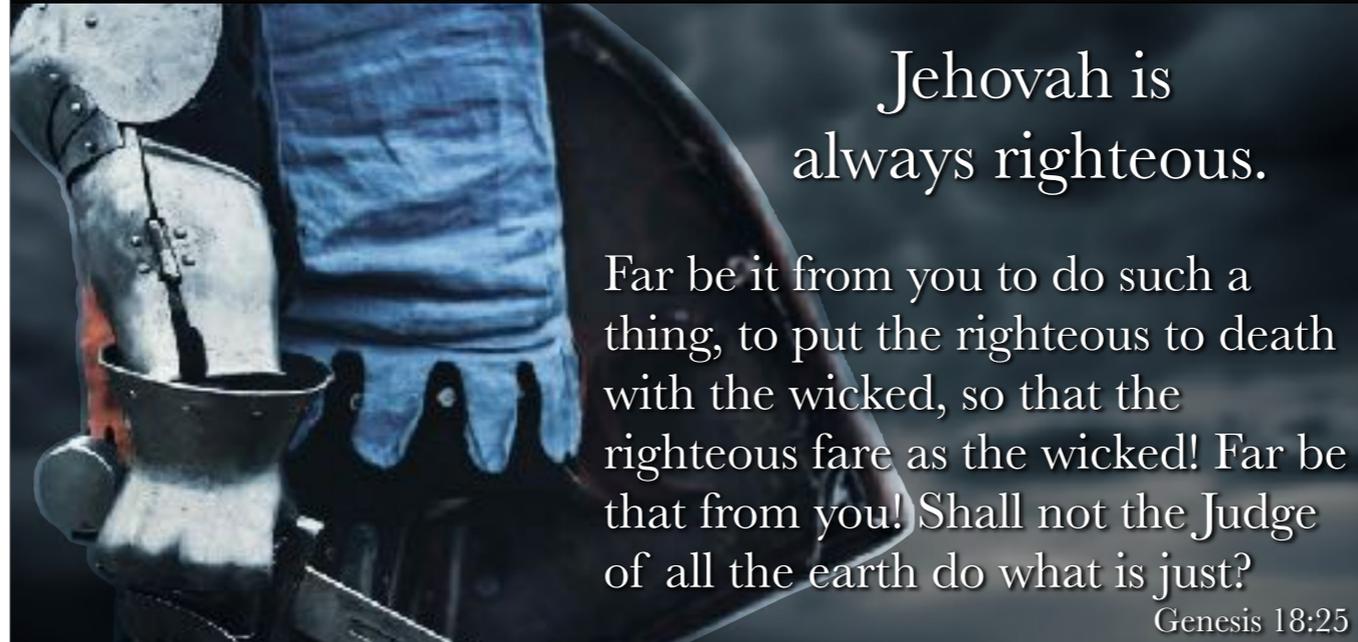
- Jehovah is always righteous.
 - Because righteousness is his character
 - not just a choice he makes about how he will act in certain situations.
 - Before any covenant or commitment to mankind.
 - This is an aspect of his absolute holiness
 - He will always act in a way that is right, because that's who he is

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
Psalms 11:7



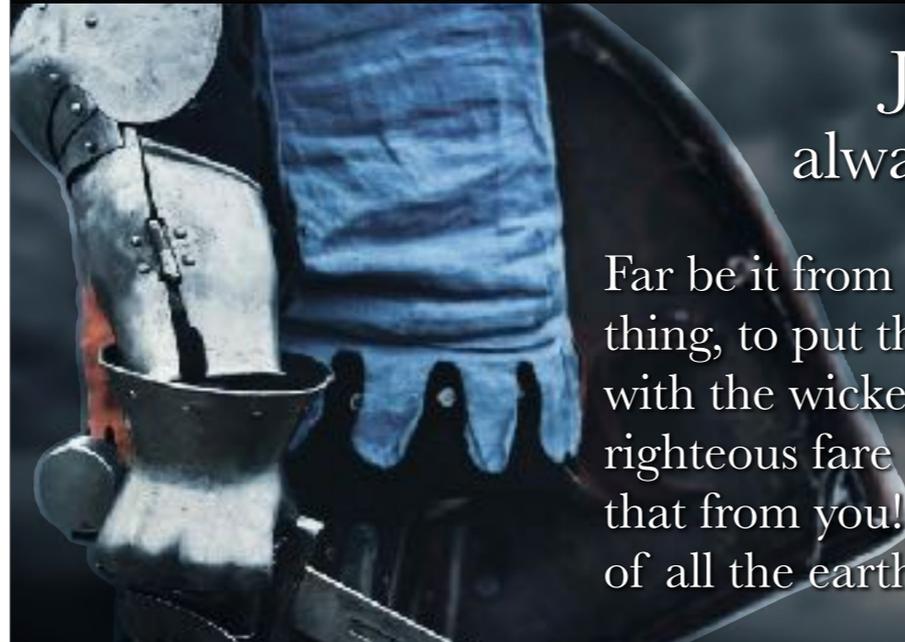
- Isaiah 5:16: But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.
 - It seems that this is often said when we are most questioning why God is acting the way that he is acting.
 - Why is he doing this?
 - Why isn't he doing that?
- Consider Abraham's appeal to Jehovah

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
Psalms 11:7



- Consider Abraham's appeal to Jehovah
 - Genesis 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked!
Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
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Jehovah is
always righteous.

Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?

Genesis 18:25

- Jehovah has warned Abraham of what is about to happen in Sodom.
 - But Lot lives there ... and he's righteous (2 Peter 2:7)
 - So Abraham struggles with God's actions and asks about what is happening.
 - He appeals to Jehovah's consistency: "Shall not the judge of all the earth do what is just?"
 - Eventually, Lot and his family are delivered from the judgment against Sodom.

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
Psalms 11:7



- Why did Jehovah do what was right for Israel?
 - Especially when Israel was often wayward and rebellious and sinful to him?
 - They were unfaithful again and again.
- Was it the covenant he had made with them at Sinai and again in Israel?
 - Certainly
 - But to think that that's the only reason is to miss the point.
 - The covenant is not just a contract that requires us to honor it.

For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.
Psalms 11:7



Jehovah is
always righteous.

if we are faithless,
he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.
2 Timothy 2:13

- He is faithful to Israel, because he is faithful to himself.
 - 2 Timothy 2:13:
 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

For I am not ashamed of
the gospel, for it is the
power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes

Romans 1:16



- Romans 1:16-17 — For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

For I am not ashamed of
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Romans 1:16



- Paul is not ashamed of the gospel — the good news
 - Power of God for salvation (mighty to save!)
 - Sin is a tragic and great problem.
 - It has affect the whole world — we see it around us
 - It leads each of us to death
 - Need: a great salvation

For I am not ashamed of
the gospel, for it is the
power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes

Romans 1:16



- EVERYONE
 - not playing favorites between Jew and Gentile.
 - Genesis 12:3 — and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- believes
 - knowing who Jesus is
 - trusting that he is faithful to save us
 - Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

For in it the righteousness of
God is revealed from faith for
faith, as it is written, “The
righteous shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:17



- Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- The gospel reveals the righteousness of God.
- Romans 1:18 - 3:20
 - This is a summary of mankind’s sinfulness.

For the wrath of God is revealed
from heaven against all
ungodliness and unrighteousness
of men, who by their
unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:18



- God's wrath revealed
 - Remember, this is a part of the revealing of God's righteousness
 - God's wrath is the mighty warrior
 - going to battle to defeat sin and redeem man
 - His wrath is not just wild and uncontrolled, it's not capricious
 - His wrath is against ungodliness and unrighteousness and suppression of the truth
 - It is focused and purposeful
 - He is coming as our Redeemer.

For the wrath of God is revealed
from heaven against all
ungodliness and unrighteousness
of men, who by their
unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:18



- Paul demonstrates in these verses that all of us are guilty of unrighteousness
 - And that we have no excuse: whether Jews or Gentiles (nations)
- And reaches the climax in 3:21-22

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Romans 3:21-22



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Romans 3:21-22



- 23: all have sinned
- 24: all justified by grace
 - Redemption in Christ Jesus
- 25: put forward as propitiation by blood
 - received by faith
 - **SHOW GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
- God's greatest weapons against sin?
 - Not in his wrath striking us all dead
 - Rather Love and Grace to redeem.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Romans 3:21-22



- 26: He might be just
 - And the justifier
 - Faith in Jesus
- Not only is he doing right
 - He's making us right
- This is a great salvation!



- When you think of righteousness, what will you think of now?
- Maybe a mighty warrior, covered in blood, going out to destroy sin?



- Maybe think of Jesus Christ
 - bloody
 - on the cross
 - a sin offering
 - propitiation
 - A mighty warrior defeating sin
 - and faithfulness.
 - A redeemer.
- He did this so that you can be saved.
 - Believe.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Mighty to Save

Isaiah 63:1

Synopsis: God's righteousness is illustrated by his mighty warrior salvation, fighting against sin. His full righteousness is seen in Jesus as our Redeemer defeating sin on the cross.

Based on thoughts from Jim McGuiggan's book **The Dragon Slayer**, Chapter 8: The Blood-Stained Marcher from Edom, p. 251-265, Nook Edition)

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”