

Isaiah 57 — Holy God, Healing God

When the Righteous Die (Isaiah 57:1–2)

*“The righteous perishes,
And no man takes it to heart;
Merciful men are taken away,
While no one considers
That the righteous is taken away from evil.
He shall enter into peace;
They shall rest in their beds,
Each one walking in his uprightness.”* (Isaiah 57:1–2, NKJV)

God’s sovereign side: Sometimes He spares His people from coming evil by taking them to Himself.

Our responsive side: “Take it to heart.” See with faith, not cynicism; trust God’s wisdom when we do not understand.

Personal application: When a godly person dies, grieve honestly, but also anchor your heart in God’s promise: they have *“entered into peace.”* Ask the Lord to help you live so that, whenever He calls you home, you too will be *“found walking in... uprightness.”*

Idolatry Exposed (Isaiah 57:3–13a)

*“But come here,
You sons of the sorceress,
You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot.
Whom do you ridicule?
Against whom do you make a wide mouth,
And stick out the tongue?
Are you not children of transgression,
Offspring of falsehood,
Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree,
Slaying the children in the valleys,
Under the clefts of the rocks?”* (Isaiah 57:3–5, NKJV)

*“Among the smooth stones of the stream is your portion;
They, they, are your lot;
Even to them you have poured a drink offering,
You have offered a grain offering.
Should I receive comfort in these?
On a lofty and high mountain
You have set your bed;
Even there you went up
To offer sacrifice.”* (Isaiah 57:6–7, NKJV)

*“Also behind the doors and their posts
You have set up your remembrance;
For you have uncovered yourself to those other than Me,
And have gone up to them;
You have enlarged your bed
And made a covenant with them;
You have loved their bed,
Where you saw their nudity.” (Isaiah 57:8, NKJV)*

Idolatry is spiritual adultery—giving to substitutes what belongs to God alone. It wears many faces today: approval, power, pleasure, money, self-rule.

Personal application: Ask, *What am I trusting to give me identity, safety, or joy besides the Lord?* Tear down those “high places” by confessing them and returning to God with an undivided heart.

*“You are wearied in the length of your way;
Yet you did not say, ‘There is no hope.’
You have found the life of your hand;
Therefore you were not grieved.” (Isaiah 57:10, NKJV)*

We can be exhausted by sin yet still refuse to repent because we “find life” in our own control. That is a dead-end road.

*“When you cry out,
Let your collection of idols deliver you.
But the wind will carry them all away,
A breath will take them.” (Isaiah 57:13a, NKJV)*

Personal application: Whatever you worship will either save you or fail you. Only the Lord can carry you when the wind rises.

A Promise to Those Who Trust (Isaiah 57:13b–15)

*“But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land,
And shall inherit My holy mountain.” (Isaiah 57:13b, NKJV)*

*“And one shall say,
‘Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way,
Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people.’” (Isaiah 57:14, NKJV)*

*“For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
‘I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’” (Isaiah 57:15, NKJV)*

God's sovereign side: The Holy One who “inhabits eternity” stoops to dwell with the humble and contrite, reviving their hearts.

Our responsive side: Trust Him. Remove stumbling blocks. Come low in humility and honest repentance.

Personal application: God is high and near. If your heart is broken over sin and bowed before Him, He promises to **revive** you.

Discipline, Then Healing (Isaiah 57:16–19)

*“For I will not contend forever,
Nor will I always be angry;
For the spirit would fail before Me,
And the souls which I have made.”* (Isaiah 57:16, NKJV)

*“For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him;
I hid and was angry,
And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.
I have seen his ways, and will heal him;
I will also lead him,
And restore comforts to him
And to his mourners.
‘I create the fruit of the lips:
Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,’
Says the LORD,
‘And I will heal him.’”* (Isaiah 57:17–19, NKJV)

God's sovereign side: He disciplines covetous hearts, yet His purpose is restoration: *“I have seen his ways, and will heal him.”*

Our responsive side: Receive His correction and return to Him; let Him lead you into real peace.

Personal application: Do not mistake God's discipline for desertion. Run toward His healing—He is already moving toward you.

No Peace for the Wicked (Isaiah 57:20–21)

*“But the wicked are like the troubled sea,
When it cannot rest,
Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.
‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”* (Isaiah 57:20–21, NKJV)

Life apart from God is restless, murky, and churned by guilt and fear. God desires to replace that turmoil with His peace—but we must turn to Him.

Personal application: If your inner world mirrors a stormy sea, do not medicate the waves—meet the Maker. Return to the Lord.

Salvation Invitation

The High and Lofty One has come near in Jesus Christ. By His death and resurrection, He makes a way for contrite sinners to be forgiven, revived, and brought into peace.

If you are ready to respond, call on Him now:

“Lord Jesus, I come with a humble and contrite heart. I turn from my idols and my sin. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. Please forgive me, heal me, and make me Yours. I trust You as my Savior and Lord. Amen.”

“Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13, NKJV)

Challenge for Believers

1. Take it to heart (Isaiah 57:1–2): View life and death through God’s promises; live ready.
2. Tear down idols (Isaiah 57:3–8): Identify and renounce whatever competes with God in your affections.
3. Remove stumbling blocks (Isaiah 57:14): Make it easier—not harder—for others to seek the Lord.
4. Walk low to live high (Isaiah 57:15): Practice humility and quick repentance; expect revival.
5. Receive His healing (Isaiah 57:16–19): Let God’s correction lead you to deeper comfort and real peace.
6. Guard your peace (Isaiah 57:20–21): Stay close to Christ; refuse the currents that churn the soul.