CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 57 — Peace for the Humble, No Rest for the Wicked

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 57 presents one of the sharpest contrasts in Isaiah:

Peace for the righteous.

Restlessness for the wicked.

The chapter begins unexpectedly with:

Death.

> **“The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart.”**

From a merely human perspective, the death of a righteous person can appear:

Tragic.

Premature.

Unfair.

But Isaiah reveals that God may sometimes remove a righteous person before:

Greater evil arrives.

Verse 2 says:

> **“Those who walk uprightly enter into peace.”**

For the righteous, death is not portrayed as:

Chaos.

Abandonment.

Defeat.

It is:

Peace.

Rest.

Then the chapter turns sharply.

The righteous have entered:

Peace.

But the rebellious are confronted for:

Idolatry.

Spiritual adultery.

Sorcery.

Child sacrifice.

False worship.

Political dependence.

Self-reliance.

Israel has abandoned:

The Lord.

They have sought satisfaction under:

Every green tree.

On:

High hills.

Among:

False gods.

Through:

Foreign alliances.

Yet their pursuit has brought:

Weariness.

Verse 10 says:

> **“You grew weary from your many journeys.”**

That is one of idolatry’s great ironies.

False gods promise:

Strength.

Pleasure.

Control.

Security.

But produce:

Weariness.

Then God asks:

> **“Whom have you so dreaded and feared that you have lied, and not remembered Me?”**

Fear of others had displaced:

Fear of God.

God’s patience had been misinterpreted as:

Indifference.

Because He had been silent, they concluded:

He did not see.

He would not act.

They no longer feared:

Him.

Then God says something devastating:

> **“I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you.”**

Their religion could not:

Save.

Their works could not:

Justify.

Their idols could not:

Deliver.

A breath would carry them:

Away.

But then comes another great contrast:

> **“Whoever puts their trust in Me will inherit the land and possess My holy mountain.”**

The chapter moves from:

False security.

To:

True refuge.

Then God reveals Himself as:

High.

Exalted.

Eternal.

Holy.

Yet this infinitely exalted God says:

> **“I dwell in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit.”**

What a statement.

God is not made smaller by drawing near to:

The humble.

The One who inhabits:

Eternity.

Also dwells with:

The contrite.

Why?

> **“To revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”**

God does not draw near to crush:

The repentant.

He draws near to:

Revive.

Then comes surprising grace.

God says:

> **“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them.”**

He sees:

Everything.

Their stubbornness.

Their greed.

Their wandering.

Yet healing is still:

Offered.

God promises:

Guidance.

Comfort.

Praise.

Peace.

Healing.

And that peace is announced to:

Those far.

Those near.

The New Testament later echoes this language in:

Ephesians 2:17.

But the chapter ends with:

A warning.

The wicked are compared to:

A restless sea.

Always moving.

Always churning.

Casting up:

Mud.

Mire.

Dirt.

Then God says:

> **“There is no peace… for the wicked.”**

This is the second time Isaiah has used nearly the same declaration, following Isaiah 48:22.

The issue is clear.

Peace cannot be separated from:

God.

The wicked can pursue:

Pleasure.

Idols.

Power.

Alliances.

Money.

Human wisdom.

But they cannot manufacture:

Shalom.

The central truth of Isaiah 57 is:

The Lord exposes the emptiness of idolatry, self-righteousness, human fear, and false security, yet promises healing, revival, comfort, and peace to those who trust Him with humble and contrite hearts; the righteous ultimately enter peace, while the wicked remain restless like a storm-tossed sea because lasting peace cannot exist apart from God.

I. THE RIGHTEOUS PERISH AND FEW UNDERSTAND

Isaiah 57:1 — Sometimes God Removes the Righteous Before Evil Comes

> **“The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; merciful people are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from the evil to come.”**

Isaiah addresses something difficult:

The death of righteous people.

The community sees:

Loss.

God may see:

Merciful removal.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 7:15

The writer observes that in this fallen world righteous people may die despite their righteousness, while wicked people may sometimes live long despite evil.

Revelation 14:13

Those who die in the Lord are called blessed because they rest from their labor and their faithful works follow them.

Micah 7:2

Micah describes a society in which godly and faithful people seem to disappear from the land.

Spiritual Principle

A death that appears:

Premature.

To us.

May still occur within:

God’s providence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We see the life that ended.

God also sees the evil from which that life may have been spared.

II. “NO ONE TAKES IT TO HEART”

A spiritually insensitive generation fails to ask:

What does this mean?

Spiritual Principle

A society can become so morally numb that even the loss of good people creates no:

Reflection.

III. MERCIFUL PEOPLE ARE TAKEN AWAY

The righteous are described as:

Merciful.

Godly.

Faithful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes the removal of godly people is itself a warning to a culture that no longer values godliness.

IV. THE RIGHTEOUS ENTER PEACE

Isaiah 57:2 — Rest Beyond Death

> **“Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.”**

Death is described for the righteous as:

Peace.

Rest.

Cross References

Revelation 14:13

Those who die in the Lord are blessed and rest from their labors.

Job 3:17

Job speaks of the grave as a place where earthly turmoil ceases and the weary find rest.

Psalm 116:15

The death of God’s faithful people is precious in His sight and never insignificant to Him.

Spiritual Principle

For the righteous, death is not:

God losing control.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The grave is not peaceful because death is good; it is peaceful because the righteous belong to the God who receives them.

V. PEACE AT DEATH VERSUS RESTLESSNESS IN WICKEDNESS

Verse 2:

The righteous rest.

Verse 20:

The wicked cannot rest.

Key Truth

Isaiah 57 begins and ends with the same question: where can true rest be found?

VI. GOD SUMMONS THE REBELLIOUS

Isaiah 57:3 — Children of Spiritual Adultery

> **“But you—come here, you children of the sorceress, offspring of the adulterer and the prostitute!”**

The language is severe.

Why?

Because idolatry is not:

Harmless religious experimentation.

It is:

Covenant betrayal.

Cross References

Ezekiel 23:37

God describes idolatrous Israel and Judah as committing spiritual adultery by pursuing false gods.

Hosea 4:12

Israel seeks guidance from idols and practices spiritual prostitution by abandoning the Lord.

Jeremiah 3:9

Idolatry is portrayed as adultery committed with stone and wood.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry is personal:

Betrayal.

VII. SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

God’s covenant is relational.

Therefore idolatry is not merely:

Wrong theology.

It is:

Unfaithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

False worship is never only an intellectual mistake; it is the heart giving to another what belongs to God.

VIII. MOCKING GOD

Isaiah 57:4 — Rebellion and Deceit

> **“Who are you mocking? At whom do you sneer, and stick out your tongue? Are you not children of rebellion, offspring of deceit—”**

They mock:

God.

His prophets.

His truth.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:15

Israel trusted in her own beauty and prostituted the gifts God had given her.

Jeremiah 2:20

God’s people rejected His yoke and pursued spiritual prostitution on the hills and under green trees.

Isaiah 57:20

The same wickedness soon receives the picture of a restless and polluted sea.

Spiritual Principle

Rebellion eventually becomes:

Contempt.

IX. THE TONGUE OF MOCKERY

The tongue reveals:

The heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When rebellion remains long enough, it can stop apologizing and begin mocking what is holy.

X. IDOLATRY UNDER EVERY GREEN TREE

Isaiah 57:5 — Lust and Child Sacrifice

> **“You who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree, who slaughter your children in the valleys, and under the clefts of the rocks?”**

Idolatry had become:

Sensual.

Violent.

Murderous.

Children were:

Sacrificed.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:3

King Ahaz followed detestable pagan practices and even sacrificed his son in fire.

Jeremiah 7:31

The people built high places where sons and daughters were burned in sacrifice, something God strongly condemned.

Leviticus 18:21

Israel was explicitly forbidden from sacrificing children to Molech and profaning God’s name.

Spiritual Principle

False worship eventually damages:

People.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Any god demanding the destruction of children is not worthy of worship.

XI. SIN MOVES FROM PRIVATE DESIRE TO PUBLIC DESTRUCTION

Lust.

Idolatry.

Sacrifice.

Death.

Spiritual Principle

Sin rarely stays:

Small.

XII. STONES BECOME THEIR PORTION

Isaiah 57:6 — Trading the Lord for Lifeless Idols

> **“The smooth stones of the ravines are your portion; they, they are your lot. Yes, to them you have poured out drink offerings and presented grain offerings. Shall I relent because of these things?”**

Israel had exchanged:

God.

For:

Stones.

Cross References

Jeremiah 2:25

God warns His people to stop pursuing foreign gods, yet they stubbornly insist on following them.

Psalm 16:5

David says the Lord Himself is his portion and inheritance.

Deuteronomy 32:37

God mockingly asks where the false gods are when judgment comes and whether they can provide refuge.

Spiritual Principle

Everyone chooses:

A portion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If the Lord is not your portion, eventually you will settle for something you have to carry instead of Someone who can carry you.

XIII. “THEY ARE YOUR LOT”

God exposes:

The exchange.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry gives people:

Less than God.

XIV. HIGH PLACES AND FALSE WORSHIP

Isaiah 57:7 — A Bed on the High Hill

> **“You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill; there you went up to offer your sacrifices.”**

High places were repeatedly associated with:

Idolatrous worship.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:16

Israel used high places for immoral and idolatrous worship.

Jeremiah 3:6

Israel committed spiritual adultery on high hills and beneath spreading trees.

2 Kings 17:10

Idolatrous pillars and sacred objects were established on high hills and under trees.

Spiritual Principle

The places meant to display devotion became:

Places of betrayal.

XV. IDOLATRY BEHIND THE DOOR

Isaiah 57:8 — Secret Symbols and Spiritual Infidelity

> **"Behind your doors and doorposts you have put your pagan symbols. Forsaking Me, you uncovered yourself to another; you climbed into their bed and embraced their covenant. You loved their bed, and gazed upon their nakedness."**

The imagery is deliberately:

Graphic.

Because covenant betrayal is:

Serious.

Cross References

Ezekiel 8:10

Ezekiel sees hidden idolatrous images within Jerusalem, exposing secret corruption.

Deuteronomy 6:9

God's words were meant to be written on doorposts, making Isaiah's reference especially striking when pagan symbols replace covenant truth.

Ezekiel 16:17

Israel took gifts received from God and transformed them into idols used for spiritual prostitution.

Spiritual Principle

What should have displayed:

God's Word.

Displayed:

Idolatry.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When another symbol takes the place where God's Word belonged, the problem is deeper than decoration.

XVI. FORSAKING GOD

The heart of idolatry:

> **“Forsaking Me.”**

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry is always an:

Exchange.

XVII. SEEKING FOREIGN POWER

Isaiah 57:9 — Political and Spiritual Dependence

> **“You went to the king with ointment, increased your perfumes, sent your ambassadors far away, and humbled yourself, even to the grave.”**

Israel sought:

Foreign kings.

Political alliances.

Human protection.

Cross References

Hosea 12:1

Israel pursued alliances with foreign powers rather than trusting the Lord.

Ezekiel 23:16

God’s people became infatuated with powerful foreign nations and pursued political alliances with them.

2 Kings 16:7

Ahaz appealed to the king of Assyria for rescue instead of trusting God.

Spiritual Principle

Political power becomes an idol when it replaces:

Dependence on God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

An alliance can become idolatry when confidence in human power becomes greater than confidence in God.

XVIII. “EVEN TO THE GRAVE”

Their search for security was:

Self-humiliating.

Destructive.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry eventually lowers:

The worshiper.

XIX. WEARY BUT UNWILLING TO STOP

Isaiah 57:10 — Sinful Persistence

> **“You grew weary from your many journeys, but you would not say, ‘It is hopeless.’**
> **You found renewed strength in your own hand; therefore you did not faint.”**

They were:

Exhausted.

But kept going.

Why?

Self-reliance.

Cross References

Jeremiah 2:25

Israel refuses to stop chasing foreign gods despite the weariness and humiliation involved.

Jeremiah 44:17

The rebellious insist on continuing their chosen practices despite prophetic warning.

Jeremiah 18:12

The people declare that warning is useless because they intend to continue following their stubborn hearts.

Spiritual Principle

Sin can exhaust a person without persuading them to:

Repent.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One of sin’s strangest powers is that people can become exhausted by it and still defend it.

XX. “YOU FOUND STRENGTH IN YOUR OWN HAND”

Self-reliance keeps rebellion:

Alive.

Spiritual Principle

Human strength can prolong:

Wrong choices.

XXI. WHOM HAVE YOU FEARED?

Isaiah 57:11 — Fear of Man Replaces Fear of God

> **“Whom have you so dreaded and feared that you have lied, and not remembered Me, nor taken it to heart? Is it not because I have long kept silent, that you no longer fear Me?”**

Fear caused:

Lying.

Forgetfulness.

Compromise.

Cross References

Jeremiah 2:32

God asks whether a bride can forget her ornaments, yet His people have forgotten Him for countless days.

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man becomes a snare, but trust in the Lord brings security.

Jeremiah 3:21

Israel’s spiritual wandering is connected with forgetting the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Fear reveals:

What dominates the heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whenever fear of people becomes stronger than fear of God, compromise is already close.

XXII. “YOU HAVE NOT REMEMBERED ME”

Forgetfulness leads to:

Unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Remembering God is:

Moral protection.

XXIII. GOD’S SILENCE MISUNDERSTOOD

God had:

Waited.

They concluded:

He did not care.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never mistake God’s patience for God’s approval.

XXIV. SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS EXPOSED

Isaiah 57:12 — Works That Cannot Save

> **“I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you.”**

Their claimed righteousness was:

False.

Their works were:

Useless as a defense.

Cross References

Ezekiel 33:13

Past claims of righteousness cannot protect someone who turns deliberately into sin.

Isaiah 64:6

Human righteousness contaminated by sin cannot establish a person as righteous before the holy God.

Romans 3:20

No one is justified before God through works of law; the law exposes sin.

Spiritual Principle

Religious works cannot hide:

Rebellion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Works used to cover sin eventually become evidence when God exposes the heart behind them.

XXV. IDOLS CANNOT SAVE

Isaiah 57:13 — Trust Determines Refuge

> **“When you cry out for help, let your collection of idols save you! The wind will carry them all off, a mere breath will blow them away. But whoever puts their trust in Me will inherit the land and possess My holy mountain.”**

The contrast:

Idols blown away.

Trusting people established.

Cross References

Jeremiah 2:28

God tells Judah to call upon the many gods they created and see whether any can save them in trouble.

Psalm 37:9

Those who hope in the Lord inherit the land, while evildoers are cut off.

Matthew 5:5

Jesus says the meek are blessed because they will inherit the earth.

Spiritual Principle

What cannot survive:

The wind.

Cannot be trusted with:

Your soul.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A god one breath can remove cannot be your refuge when eternity comes.

XXVI. “YOUR COLLECTION OF IDOLS”

Quantity does not create:

Power.

Spiritual Principle

Many false saviors do not equal:

One true Savior.

XXVII. TRUST IN GOD

The alternative to idolatry is:

Trust.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The heart will always seek refuge somewhere; wisdom chooses the refuge that cannot be blown away.

XXVIII. PREPARE THE WAY

Isaiah 57:14 — Remove the Obstacles

> **“And it will be said: ‘Build up, build up, prepare the way! Remove the obstacles out of the way of My people.’”**

The imagery recalls:

Isaiah 40.

A highway prepared.

Obstacles removed.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:3

A voice calls for preparing the Lord's way and making a straight highway in the wilderness.

Malachi 3:1

God promises a messenger who prepares the way before the Lord's coming.

Isaiah 62:10

God commands His people to prepare the road, build the highway, and remove stones for those returning.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration creates:

A road home.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not only call people home; He removes obstacles from the road of restoration.

XXIX. REMOVE THE STUMBLING BLOCK

Restoration involves dealing with:

Obstacles.

Spiritual Principle

Some things must be:

Removed.

Before progress can:

Continue.

XXX. THE HIGH AND EXALTED ONE

Isaiah 57:15 — God Dwells with the Contrite

> **"For this is what the high and exalted One says—He who lives forever, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell 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.'"**

This is one of Isaiah’s greatest descriptions of:

God.

High.

Exalted.

Eternal.

Holy.

Yet also:

Near.

To:

The humble.

Cross References

Isaiah 66:2

God looks with favor upon the humble, contrite person who trembles at His Word.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those crushed in spirit.

Psalm 51:17

God does not despise a broken and contrite heart.

Spiritual Principle

God’s transcendence does not cancel:

His nearness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who inhabits eternity also makes room for Himself in the broken heart.

XXXI. “HIGH AND HOLY PLACE”

God is:

Above.

Distinct.

Majestic.

Spiritual Principle

God is not:

Common.

XXXII. “WITH THE CONTRITE”

The high God dwells:

Low.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Humility does not bring God down to our level; it brings us into the place where He promises to meet us.

XXXIII. CONTRITION

Contrition is not:

Self-hatred.

It is:

Brokenness over sin.

Humility.

Repentance.

Spiritual Principle

God revives:

Those who stop defending themselves before Him.

XXXIV. GOD REVIVES THE LOWLY

Why does He dwell with them?

To:

Revive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not move near the contrite heart to finish crushing it.

He moves near to revive it.

XXXV. GOD WILL NOT ACCUSE FOREVER

Isaiah 57:16 — Divine Anger Has a Limit

> **“I will not accuse forever, nor will I always be angry, for then the spirit of man would grow faint before Me—the breath of life that I made.”**

God knows:

Human frailty.

He made:

Human breath.

Cross References

Psalm 103:9

God does not continually accuse or remain angry forever.

Micah 7:18

God delights in mercy and does not hold onto anger forever.

Lamentations 3:33

God does not willingly afflict or grieve people from His heart as though suffering itself were His delight.

Spiritual Principle

God’s discipline is:

Measured.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who corrects you also knows exactly how fragile the life He created can be.

XXXVI. THE CREATOR KNOWS HUMAN LIMITS

He knows:

How much.

How long.

Spiritual Principle

Divine discipline is never:

Careless.

XXXVII. GREED BROUGHT JUDGMENT

Isaiah 57:17 — Stubbornness Continued

> **“Because of their sinful greed I was angry, I struck them and hid My face in wrath, yet they kept on in their stubborn ways.”**

The specific sin highlighted:

Greed.

God:

Struck.

Hid His face.

Yet the people:

Continued.

Cross References

Jeremiah 6:13

From least to greatest, many were consumed with greed and dishonest gain.

Ephesians 5:5

Greed is identified as a form of idolatry incompatible with life in God’s kingdom.

Jeremiah 8:5

The people persistently hold onto deceit and refuse to return.

Spiritual Principle

Discipline does not automatically create:

Repentance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pain may stop behavior temporarily, but only repentance changes direction.

XXXVIII. GREED AS IDOLATRY

Greed says:

More will save me.

Spiritual Principle

Greed gives possessions the role belonging to:

God.

XXXIX. STUBBORN WAYS

Even after:

Correction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A hard heart can turn discipline into another excuse instead of a doorway to repentance.

XL. “I HAVE SEEN THEIR WAYS”

Isaiah 57:18 — God Heals What He Fully Sees

> **“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s mourners,”**

What astonishing grace.

God sees:

Their ways.

Not partial.

Not edited.

Not cleaned up.

Yet:

> **“I will heal.”**

Cross References

Hosea 14:4

God promises to heal His people’s backsliding and love them freely.

Jeremiah 30:17

God promises to restore health and heal the wounds of His afflicted people.

Jeremiah 3:22

God calls His faithless people to return and promises healing for their unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

God's mercy is not based on:

Ignorance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not heal you because He missed what you did.

He heals while knowing exactly what He saw.

XLI. "I WILL HEAL THEM"

The answer to:

Spiritual disease.

Is:

Divine healing.

Spiritual Principle

Grace restores:

What sin damaged.

XLII. "I WILL GUIDE THEM"

Healing followed by:

Guidance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not only heal the wounds of wandering; He teaches the wanderer where to walk next.

XLIII. COMFORT FOR MOURNERS

Those grieving:

Sin.

Loss.

Judgment.

Receive:

Comfort.

Spiritual Principle

God’s restoration reaches:

The heart.

XLIV. PRAISE CREATED ON THEIR LIPS

Isaiah 57:19 — Peace to the Far and Near

> **“Creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will heal them.’”**

God creates:

Praise.

Peace.

Healing.

Cross References

Ephesians 2:17

Paul says Christ came proclaiming peace to those who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Hebrews 13:15

Believers offer to God a continual sacrifice of praise from lips that confess His name.

Colossians 1:20

Peace and reconciliation are connected with Christ’s work through the blood of His cross.

Spiritual Principle

God’s healing produces:

Praise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The lips once shaped by mourning can become lips shaped by praise.

XLV. “PEACE, PEACE”

The repetition emphasizes:

Fullness.

Certainty.

Spiritual Principle

God gives:

True shalom.

XLVI. FAR AND NEAR

This reaches beyond:

Geography.

It suggests the widening reach of:

God’s peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No one is too far for the God who announces peace to both far and near.

XLVII. EPHESIANS 2 AND ISAIAH 57

Paul echoes:

> **“Peace… to those far and near.”**

In Christ, those far away are:

Brought near.

Key Truth

Isaiah’s promise of peace receives a powerful New Testament fulfillment in Christ’s reconciling work.

XLVIII. THE WICKED ARE LIKE A TOSSING SEA

Isaiah 57:20 — Restless and Polluted

> **“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.”**

The sea:

Moves.

Churns.

Tosses.

Never settles.

And continually produces:

Filth.

Cross References

Jude 1:13

False and wicked people are compared to wild waves of the sea foaming up their shame.

James 1:6

A doubting person is compared to a wave driven and tossed by the wind.

Isaiah 48:22

Isaiah has already declared that there is no peace for the wicked.

Spiritual Principle

Sin produces:

Restlessness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The wicked heart may look calm for a moment, but without God its inner sea never learns how to be still.

XLIX. “CANNOT REST”

The issue is not:

Lack of opportunities.

It is:

Lack of reconciliation with God.

Spiritual Principle

External comfort cannot create:

Internal peace.

L. MIRE AND MUD

What is inside eventually:

Surfaces.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A restless heart eventually throws its hidden mud onto the shore.

LI. NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED

Isaiah 57:21 — The Final Verdict

> **“‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”**

Short.

Direct.

Final.

Cross References

Isaiah 48:22

The same warning appeared earlier: wickedness and true peace cannot coexist.

Romans 3:17

Sinful humanity is described as not knowing the way of peace.

Job 15:20

The wicked person experiences continual inward trouble and unrest.

Spiritual Principle

Peace cannot be:

Separated from righteousness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot reject the Prince of Peace and still possess the peace only He can give.

LII. PEACE IS NOT MERELY A FEELING

Biblical peace is:

Reconciliation.

Wholeness.

Right relationship.

Spiritual Principle

Temporary calm is not the same as:

Shalom.

LIII. THE CHAPTER BEGINS AND ENDS WITH PEACE

Verse 2:

Righteous enter:

Peace.

Verse 19:

God announces:

Peace.

Verse 21:

Wicked receive:

No peace.

Key Truth

Peace is the great dividing line of Isaiah 57.

LIV. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT DEATH

The righteous may:

Die.

Yet enter:

Peace.

Spiritual Principle

Physical death is not the final measure of:

Divine favor.

LV. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT PROVIDENCE

God may spare a righteous person from:

Coming evil.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Not every early departure is evidence that God withheld mercy.

LVI. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

Idolatry produces:

Adultery.

Violence.

Weariness.

Humiliation.

False security.

Spiritual Principle

Idols always take:

More than they give.

LVII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT CHILD SACRIFICE

God condemns:

The destruction of children in false worship.

Spiritual Principle

True worship protects:

Life.

LVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT FALSE SECURITY

Stones.

Kings.

Alliances.

Works.

Idols.

None can:

Save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everything trusted instead of God eventually has to answer one question: can it save when judgment comes?

LIX. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR OF MAN

Fear led to:

Lies.

Forgetfulness.

Compromise.

Spiritual Principle

Fear of man can become:

A spiritual master.

LX. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S SILENCE

Silence does not mean:

Approval.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can be silent and still be watching everything.

LXI. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

God will expose:

Works.

Spiritual Principle

Human righteousness cannot:

Replace grace.

LXII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT TRUST

Trust in God brings:

Inheritance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The idols blow away; the one trusting God remains.

LXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT HUMILITY

God dwells with:

Contrite.

Lowly.

Spiritual Principle

Humility attracts:

Divine nearness.

LXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S HOLINESS

His name is:

Holy.

His dwelling:

High and holy.

Spiritual Principle

God’s nearness never reduces:

His holiness.

LXV. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S COMPASSION

He will not:

Accuse forever.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Holy One knows when correction has reached the point where the human spirit would otherwise faint.

LXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT GREED

Greed provokes:

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Greed is:

Spiritual rebellion.

LXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT HEALING

God sees.

Then:

Heals.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Divine healing begins with truth, not denial.

LXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT GUIDANCE

God heals.

Then:

Guides.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration includes:

Direction.

LXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT PRAISE

God creates:

Praise.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Some songs exist only because God healed the person who sings them.

LXX. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Peace belongs to:

The humbled.

Healed.

Reconciled.

Spiritual Principle

Peace is a gift:

From God.

LXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 57 TEACHES ABOUT WICKEDNESS

Wickedness is:

Restless.

Polluting.

Unstable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin promises freedom but produces a sea that never stops tossing.

LXXII. ISAIAH 56 AND ISAIAH 57

Isaiah 56

Corrupt leaders say:

Tomorrow will be better.

Isaiah 57

The righteous may be removed before:

Coming evil.

Key Truth

Complacent leaders fail to recognize the seriousness of a society moving toward judgment.

LXXIII. ISAIAH 55 AND ISAIAH 57

Isaiah 55

The wicked are invited:

Turn.

And God will:

Pardon.

Isaiah 57

God says:

> **“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah’s message of repentance is not hopeless condemnation; mercy remains open to those who return.

LXXIV. ISAIAH 54 AND ISAIAH 57

Isaiah 54

Covenant of:

Peace.

Isaiah 57

Peace announced:

Far and near.

Spiritual Principle

God’s covenant peace continues expanding.

LXXV. ISAIAH 53 AND ISAIAH 57

Isaiah 53:

The Servant bears the punishment bringing:

Peace.

Isaiah 57:

Peace is offered:

Far and near.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The peace of Isaiah 57 cannot be separated from the Servant who bore the punishment for peace in Isaiah 53.

LXXVI. HIGH AND LOW

God:

High.

Contrite:

Low.

Yet they dwell:

Together.

Key Truth

The distance between God’s exaltation and human humility does not prevent fellowship; pride does.

LXXVII. THE HIGH GOD LOVES THE LOWLY

This reverses:

Human values.

People often seek:

The powerful.

God draws near to:

The contrite.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The doorway into fellowship with the High One is not self-exaltation but humility.

LXXVIII. CONTRITE DOES NOT MEAN WORTHLESS

Humility is not:

Believing you have no value.

It is recognizing:

Truth about yourself before God.

Spiritual Principle

Contrition produces:

Repentance.

Not:

Despair.

LXXIX. GOD REVIVES THE CONTRITE

The result of true humility:

Revival.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Brokenness before God is not the grave of spiritual life; it can become the birthplace of revival.

LXXX. GOD SEES WAYS AND STILL HEALS

Grace after:

Exposure.

Spiritual Principle

Healing begins when:

Hiddenness ends.

LXXXI. HEALING AND PEACE

God says:

> **“I will heal them.”**

Then:

> **“Peace, peace.”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God’s peace is not cosmetic; it grows out of His work of healing.

LXXXII. FAR AND NEAR

No distance:

Too far.

Spiritual Principle

Grace crosses:

Distance.

LXXXIII. THE RESTLESS SEA

Picture of:

Inner disorder.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A life without God may have calm weather outside and still have a storm beneath the surface.

LXXXIV. MUD FROM WAVES

Sin produces:

Residue.

Spiritual Principle

Inner rebellion eventually creates:

Visible consequences.

LXXXV. NO PEACE

Not:

Little peace.

No peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Peace cannot be manufactured where reconciliation with God is refused.

LXXXVI. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 57

1. Righteous Death → Peace

2. Idolatry → Weariness

3. False Gods → Windblown Nothingness

4. Fear of Man → Forgetfulness of God

5. Self-Righteous Works → No Benefit

6. High and Holy God → Dwelling with the Lowly

7. Divine Anger → Healing Mercy

8. Stubborn Wandering → Divine Guidance

9. Mourning → Praise

10. Humble Peace → Wicked Restlessness

Key Truth

Isaiah 57 contrasts everything false—idols, human fear, self-righteousness, greed, stubbornness, and wickedness—with the healing, revival, comfort, and peace available in the holy God.

LXXXVII. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 57

1. The Death of the Righteous Is Not Ultimate Defeat

Principle:

They enter peace and rest under God's care.

2. Idolatry Corrupts

Principle:

False worship damages both the worshiper and others.

3. Idols Cannot Save

Principle:

What can be blown away cannot be your refuge.

4. Fear of Man Produces Compromise

Principle:

Remembering God protects the heart from unhealthy fear.

5. God's Silence Does Not Equal Approval

Principle:

Divine patience should lead to repentance, not presumption.

6. Human Works Cannot Save

Principle:

False righteousness will eventually be exposed.

7. God Dwells with the Humble

Principle:

The High and Holy One draws near to contrite hearts.

8. God Revives the Brokenhearted

Principle:

Contrition is not the end; revival is God's purpose.

9. God's Anger Is Not Endless Toward the Repentant

Principle:

He remembers human frailty and delights in mercy.

10. God Sees and Heals

Principle:

His mercy is fully informed mercy.

11. God Gives Peace to the Far and Near

Principle:

His healing grace reaches widely.

12. Wickedness Cannot Produce Peace

Principle:

A restless heart cannot find true shalom apart from God.

LXXXVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happens to some righteous people before coming evil?

They may be taken away and spared from what is coming.

Question 2

What do the upright enter?

Peace and rest.

Question 3

How does God describe Israel’s idolatry?

As spiritual adultery, rebellion, deceit, and false worship.

Question 4

What terrible practice accompanied some of their idolatry?

Child sacrifice.

Question 5

What had they done with stones and idols?

Made them their portion and offered sacrifices to them.

Question 6

Where did they practice idolatry?

On high hills, under trees, in valleys, and even within their homes.

Question 7

What else did they trust besides idols?

Foreign kings, alliances, and human power.

Question 8

What did their many journeys produce?

Weariness.

Question 9

Why did they keep going?

They found confidence in their own strength.

Question 10

What had fear caused them to do?

Lie, forget God, and fail to take Him seriously.

Question 11

How did they misunderstand God’s silence?

They assumed His delay meant they did not need to fear Him.

Question 12

What will God expose?

Their supposed righteousness and works.

Question 13

Can their idols save them?

No.

The wind can carry them away.

Question 14

Who receives inheritance?

Those who trust the Lord.

Question 15

How is God described in verse 15?

High, exalted, eternal, and holy.

Question 16

With whom does this exalted God also dwell?

The contrite and lowly in spirit.

Question 17

Why does He dwell with them?

To revive them.

Question 18

Will God remain angry forever?

No.

Question 19

What specific sin is mentioned in verse 17?

Greed.

Question 20

Did discipline immediately change the people?

No.

They continued stubbornly.

Question 21

What does God say after seeing their ways?

> **“I will heal them.”**

Question 22

What else will He do?

Guide them and restore comfort.

Question 23

What will He create on their lips?

Praise.

Question 24

To whom does He announce peace?

Those far and near.

Question 25

What are the wicked compared to?

A tossing sea.

Question 26

Why is that sea significant?

It cannot rest and continually throws up mire and mud.

Question 27

What final declaration closes the chapter?

> **“There is no peace… for the wicked.”**

LXXXIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 57 asks several searching questions.

Have I Ever Misunderstood the Death of a Righteous Person?

Can I trust that God sees:

What I cannot?

Am I Living in a Way That Leads Toward:

Peace?

Or:

Restlessness?

What Is My Functional Idol?

Money?

Politics?

Approval?

Relationships?

Success?

Pleasure?

Security?

My own strength?

Is Anything Receiving the Trust That Belongs to:

God?

Am I Exhausted from Chasing Something That Cannot:

Save?

Have I Become Weary in sin but still unwilling to say:

“This path is hopeless”?

Whom do I:

Fear?

Has fear of people caused me to:

Compromise?

Lie?

Remain silent?

Disobey?

Have I mistaken God’s patience for:

Approval?

Am I depending upon:

My works?

My reputation?

My morality?

My accomplishments?

Instead of:

God’s grace?

Am I:

Contrite?

Lowly?

Teachable?

Or:

Proud?

Do I believe the High and Holy One wants to:

Revive me?

Is there greed in:

My heart?

Have I continued stubbornly after:

Correction?

Can I believe God when He says:

"I have seen their ways, but I will heal them"?

Do I need:

Healing?

Guidance?

Comfort?

Peace?

Is my inner life like:

A tossing sea?

Am I looking for peace everywhere except:

God?

XC. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

"Never Mistake God's Silence for God's Approval"

Israel said:

God has remained silent.

Therefore:

No fear.

But God was:

Watching.

Principle:

The delay of judgment is mercy giving time for repentance, not permission to continue rebellion.

XCI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Lives Forever Also Lives with the Brokenhearted”

God is:

High.

Holy.

Eternal.

Yet:

Near.

Principle:

No height of divine majesty makes God inaccessible to the humble heart.

XCII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Sees the Whole Road You Walked and Can Still Say, ‘I Will Heal You’”

Verse 18:

> **“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them.”**

Principle:

Grace is not God overlooking the truth; grace is God acting mercifully after fully seeing the truth.

XCIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“A Wind-Blown Idol Cannot Anchor a Storm-Tossed Soul”

Idols:

Blown away.

Wicked heart:

Tossed like sea.

Principle:

Only an unshakable God can give peace to an unstable heart.

XCIV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Contrition Is Not Where God Leaves You Broken; It Is Where He Begins to Revive You”

God dwells with:

The contrite.

Why?

To:

Revive.

Principle:

Biblical brokenness leads toward restoration when it drives the heart into the presence of God.

XCV. THE RIGHTEOUS TAKEN AWAY

Mystery.

Spiritual Principle

Providence sometimes makes sense only from:

God’s side.

XCVI. THE RIGHTEOUS REST

Peace beyond:

The grave.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The world may call it loss while heaven calls it rest.

XCVII. IDOLATRY MOCKS GOD

False worship eventually produces:

Bold rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual compromise rarely remains:

Neutral.

XCVIII. CHILDREN SACRIFICED

The darkest result of:

Idolatry.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whenever religion requires cruelty toward the innocent, it has revealed its false nature.

XCIX. STONES AS PORTION

A terrible exchange.

Spiritual Principle

What we worship becomes:

Our portion.

C. HIGH HILLS

Public idolatry.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin hidden in the heart eventually builds an altar somewhere.

CI. DOORPOST SYMBOLS

Household corruption.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry moves:

Inside.

CII. ALLIANCES FAR AWAY

Searching everywhere except:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Distance traveled does not improve a false refuge.

CIII. WEARY JOURNEYS

Sin exhausts.

Spiritual Principle

False worship is:

Hard labor.

CIV. OWN HAND

Self-strength.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human strength becomes spiritually dangerous when it keeps us strong enough to continue the wrong direction.

CV. FEAR OF OTHERS

Compromise begins:

Inside.

Spiritual Principle

Wrong fear rearranges:

Loyalties.

CVI. FORGETTING GOD

The deepest tragedy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The heart usually does not forget God accidentally; something else has become more important.

CVII. SILENT GOD

Patience misunderstood.

Spiritual Principle

God’s delay has:

Purpose.

CVIII. FALSE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Exposed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not grade religious appearance while ignoring the heart.

CIX. USELESS WORKS

Cannot:

Benefit.

Spiritual Principle

Self-righteousness has no:

Saving power.

CX. IDOLS IN THE WIND

Weakness exposed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Judgment eventually reveals which refuges were only decorations.

CXI. TRUST IN GOD

Stable refuge.

Spiritual Principle

Trust leads to:

Inheritance.

CXII. BUILD THE ROAD

Restoration needs:

Preparation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God removes obstacles because His purpose is to bring His people home.

CXIII. HIGH AND EXALTED

Majesty.

Spiritual Principle

God is infinitely:

Above us.

CXIV. LIVES FOREVER

Eternal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The One offering peace is not temporary like the idols.

CXV. NAME IS HOLY

Purity.

Spiritual Principle

God’s character is:

Perfect.

CXVI. CONTRITE AND LOWLY

True spiritual posture.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride builds distance; contrition prepares the heart for communion.

CXVII. REVIVE THE LOWLY

Divine purpose.

Spiritual Principle

God breathes life into:

Broken spirits.

CXVIII. NOT ANGRY FOREVER

Mercy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Discipline may be severe without becoming endless rejection.

CXIX. BREATH GOD MADE

Creator remembers:

Creature.

Spiritual Principle

God understands:

Human weakness.

CXX. GREED

Sin of:

Appetite.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Greed is the belief that more of creation can give what only the Creator can provide.

CXXI. GOD HID HIS FACE

Discipline.

Spiritual Principle

Sin damages:

Fellowship.

CXXII. THEY KEPT GOING

Stubbornness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The saddest response to correction is determination to continue.

CXXIII. “I HAVE SEEN”

Nothing hidden.

Spiritual Principle

God’s healing is:

Truthful.

CXXIV. “I WILL HEAL”

Grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God sees the disease more clearly than we do and still speaks the possibility of healing.

CXXV. “I WILL GUIDE”

Direction.

Spiritual Principle

Healing has a:

Path.

CXXVI. “I WILL RESTORE COMFORT”

Tenderness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows the heart needs more than correction; it also needs comfort.

CXXVII. PRAISE ON THE LIPS

Restoration becomes:

Worship.

Spiritual Principle

Healing creates:

Testimony.

CXXVIII. PEACE TO THE FAR

Distance overcome.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There is no distance too great for divine peace to travel.

CXXIX. PEACE TO THE NEAR

Religious proximity also needs:

Grace.

Spiritual Principle

Nearness to holy things does not eliminate the need for:

Reconciliation.

CXXX. RESTLESS WICKEDNESS

Motion without:

Rest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The soul can be busy every day and still never arrive at peace.

CXXXI. MIRE AND MUD

Pollution produced.

Spiritual Principle

Sin does not merely disturb:

The sinner.

It spills outward.

CXXXII. NO PEACE

Final warning.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There is no shortcut around reconciliation with God.

CXXXIII. ISAIAH 57 AS A PEACE CHAPTER

Righteous:

Peace.

Humble:

Peace.

Far and near:

Peace.

Wicked:

No peace.

Key Truth

Isaiah 57 teaches that peace is ultimately relational: it belongs to those reconciled to God, not merely those living in comfortable circumstances.

CXXXIV. ISAIAH 57 AS AN IDOLATRY CHAPTER

Sorcery.

Trees.

Stones.

High places.

Symbols.

Kings.

Alliances.

Spiritual Principle

Anything trusted, loved, feared, or obeyed above God can become:

An idol.

CXXXV. ISAIAH 57 AS A HUMILITY CHAPTER

High God.

Lowly heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest meeting place in the universe is where divine holiness meets human contrition.

CXXXVI. ISAIAH 57 AS A HEALING CHAPTER

God says:

I have seen.

I will heal.

I will guide.

I will comfort.

Spiritual Principle

Grace is:

Restorative.

CXXXVII. ISAIAH 57 AS A WARNING CHAPTER

Idols fail.

Works fail.

Self-strength fails.

Wickedness lacks peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everything outside God eventually reveals its inability to carry the weight of the soul.

CXXXVIII. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 57

1. The Righteous Enter Peace

Their death may spare them from coming evil.

2. Idolatry Is Exposed

False worship has corrupted Israel deeply.

3. False Worship Produces Violence and Shame

Even children are sacrificed.

4. Human Alliances Replace Trust in God

Israel seeks kings and foreign power.

5. Sin Produces Weariness

Yet stubbornness keeps the people going.

6. God Exposes False Righteousness

Works and idols cannot save.

7. The High and Holy God Draws Near to the Humble

He revives contrite hearts.

8. God’s Anger Gives Way to Healing Mercy

He sees the people’s ways and still promises healing.

9. Peace Is Announced to the Far and Near

Healing creates praise and reconciliation.

10. The Wicked Remain Restless

Without God there is no true peace.

Key Truth

Isaiah 57 moves from the quiet peace of the righteous through the exhausting restlessness of idolatry and finally to God’s gracious promise that humble sinners can be healed, revived, guided, comforted, and given peace.

CXXXIX. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 57 begins with:

Death.

The righteous person is:

Gone.

People look around and say:

Why?

Isaiah reminds us:

We do not see everything.

Sometimes God sees:

Coming evil.

And the righteous enter:

Peace.

Then the chapter turns toward people who are:

Alive.

But spiritually:

Dead.

They have:

Idols.

High places.

Foreign alliances.

Religious ceremonies.

Pleasure.

Human strength.

Yet no:

Peace.

They travel:

Far.

They work:

Hard.

They become:

Weary.

But they refuse to say:

This road is hopeless.

That is one of the great tragedies of sin.

People can become exhausted by:

The very thing destroying them.

And still say:

I will keep going.

Maybe that describes someone today.

Tired of:

The addiction.

The bitterness.

The money chase.

The approval chase.

The relationship.

The compromise.

The secret sin.

The false security.

Yet unwilling to say:

Enough.

Isaiah says:

The idols will eventually:

Blow away.

Then God asks:

“Whom have you feared?”

That question matters.

Whose opinion controls:

You?

Whose rejection frightens:

You?

Whose approval do you need so badly that you would:

Compromise?

Lie?

Forget God?

Then God says:

I have been silent.

And you stopped fearing:

Me.

Never mistake God's patience for:

Permission.

Then He exposes:

Self-righteousness.

Your works cannot:

Save.

Your idols cannot:

Save.

Your alliances cannot:

Save.

But:

"Whoever puts their trust in Me…"

There is still:

Refuge.

Then comes one of the greatest verses in Isaiah.

The God who is:

High.

Exalted.

Eternal.

Holy.

Says:

I also dwell with:

The contrite.

Think about that.

God inhabits:

Eternity.

And:

The broken heart.

God dwells:

Above creation.

And:

With the humble.

Why?

To:

Revive.

Not to:

Destroy.

If your heart is:

Broken.

Repentant.

Contrite.

Humble.

God is not saying:

Stay broken forever.

He says:

I will revive.

Then He says:

“I have seen their ways.”

Maybe that frightens you.

God has seen:

Everything.

The thought.

The action.

The compromise.

The stubbornness.

The wandering.

But the sentence does not end:

“I have seen their ways, therefore there is no hope.”

It says:

“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them.”

What grace.

He sees.

He heals.

He guides.

He comforts.

He creates praise.

He says:

“Peace, peace, to those far and near.”

But then the chapter ends with:

The sea.

Restless.

Tossing.

Mud.

Mire.

No rest.

That is wickedness.

It never produces:

Peace.

So Isaiah 57 leaves every reader with:

A choice.

The high and holy God who revives:

The humble.

Or:

The restless sea of self-directed wickedness.

One path leads to:

Peace.

The other:

No peace.

If you are:

Proud—

Humble yourself.

If you are:

Contrite—

Come near.

If you are:

Wounded—

Let God heal.

If you are:

Wandering—

Let God guide.

If you are:

Mourning—

Let God comfort.

If you are:

Far—

Hear:

Peace.

If you are:

Restless—

Stop asking idols to give you what only God possesses.

Because:

The wicked cannot manufacture peace.

But the Holy One can:

Create it.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are:

High.

Exalted.

Eternal.

Holy.

Yet You draw near to:

The humble.

The brokenhearted.

The contrite.

Thank You that Your greatness does not make You:

Distant.

Thank You that You dwell with the lowly to:

Revive.

Father, help us understand:

Life.

Death.

Providence.

When righteous people are taken away and we do not understand:

Give us faith.

Remind us that those who walk uprightly enter:

Peace.

Father, expose every:

Idol.

False refuge.

False security.

False righteousness.

Help us not trust:

Money.

Power.

Politics.

People.

Pleasure.

Our own strength.

Our own works.

Above:

You.

Forgive us for fearing:

People.

More than:

You.

Forgive us for mistaking Your patience for:

Approval.

Forgive us for continuing on roads that have already made us:

Weary.

Father, give us hearts that say:

Enough.

Turn us back to:

You.

Make us:

Contrite.

Lowly.

Teachable.

Repentant.

Father, thank You for saying:

“I have seen their ways, but I will heal them.”

You have seen:

Everything.

And still You call us toward:

Healing.

Guide us.

Restore us.

Comfort us.

Create praise on:

Our lips.

Give peace to:

Those far away.

Those near.

Those restless.

Those wounded.

Those grieving.

Father, calm the:

Tossing sea.

Remove the:

Mire.

Purify our:

Hearts.

Do not let us seek peace:

Apart from You.

Thank You for Jesus Christ,

the One through whom peace is proclaimed to:

Far.

Near.

Thank You for the Servant who bore the punishment that brings:

Peace.

Teach us to rest in:

Him.

Revive the lowly.

Heal the broken.

Guide the wandering.

Comfort the mourning.

And let our lives declare:

There is peace in the Lord.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

> **"For this is what the high and exalted One says—He who lives forever, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell 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.'" — Isaiah 57:15**

Central Truth

The high, holy, and eternal God exposes the emptiness of idolatry, human alliances, self-righteousness, greed, and fear-driven rebellion, yet graciously dwells with the humble and contrite to revive them, sees the full truth about His wandering people and still offers healing, guidance, comfort, praise, and peace; the righteous ultimately enter rest, while the wicked remain restless because lasting peace cannot exist apart from the Lord.

Isaiah 57 in One Sentence

Isaiah declares that the righteous may be taken from coming evil and enter peace, exposes Israel's exhausting idolatry, spiritual adultery, false alliances, fear, greed, and useless self-righteousness, reveals the high and holy God dwelling with contrite and humble hearts to revive

them, promises healing, guidance, comfort, praise, and peace to those far and near, and concludes that the wicked remain like a restless, polluted sea because there is no true peace apart from God.