

I HAVE A GOD WHO CAN

TEXT: Isaiah 59:1-2 Isa 59:1 ¶ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

We often would sing the Song – “He’s Able”
I know My Lord is Able to carry me through

When we say God is Able, we are saying that

He is in a Position to do something

He has the power to do anything

He has a purpose for everything

I doubt that any of you would suggest or say such a thing

However, by the way we act sometimes I would think that you believe that

We doubt when we ought to trust

We worry when we ought to be peaceful

We pray, and don’t expect our prayers to be answered

We act like God can’t do what He has done all along

I want to look at what Isaiah means ...

When he states the Fact - ***“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear”***

Isaiah reminds us that God is just as Able as He has always been

He has not weakened over the centuries of time
He is Able to do in the present everything He has done in the past

Let’s look closer at the words of Isaiah and think on this thought this morning ...

I. “CONSIDER” THE ABILITY OF OUR GOD

The Prophet opens his statement by saying – ***“Behold”***

That is a very Strong word, it’s a word used to get our Attention

It’s a word that Introduces the statement that follows

God is as much God as He has ever been

The Plea is for complete Confidence in God’s Ability

“Behold!” is a call for us to stop and Consider what God can do....

“Behold,” Isaiah says ... God can save ... He can answer prayer

Think about what He can do and Consider that He's Able This Consideration of God's Ability will help us to see ...

A. GOD DESIRES TO 'PROVE' HIS ABILITY

He is Able to answer prayer

In **Ex. 14:13** Moses stood at the edge of the Red Sea He was facing impossible odds, but he said to the people

"... Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever" Moses said God said I will remove that enemy

He believed God was Able!

God wanted to show His people what He could do

He still desires to show His people what He can do He showed the children of Israel his unlimited ability when He parted the Red Sea,

A. GOD DESIRES TO 'PROVE' HIS ABILITY ? HE CAN

B. GOD DESIRES TO 'PERSONALIZE' HIS ABILITY

By Personalizing His Ability ...

I am speaking of how God desires to prove His Ability to each of us on an individual basis

1. IN SALVATION ITS PERSONAL
2. IN SERVICE ITS PERSONAL
3. IN SALVAGING ITS PERSONAL

Do you believe that God was able to make the sun stand still?

Do you believe that God shut the mouths of lions?

I. "CONSIDER" THE ABILITY OF GOD

II. COUNT ON THE ASSISTANCE OF GOD

*"the LORD'S hand is not shortened" and
"neither His ear heavy"*

When the Bible speaks of the Lord's hand, it is speaking of His work

The word *"shortened"* speaks of someone not being able to finish something That somehow, there are somethings God cannot do.

GOD'S HAND IS NOT WILTERED

GOD'S PLAN HAS NOT WAVIERED

GOD'S POSITION HAS NOT WEAKENED

Furthermore, Isaiah says that God's ear is not *"heavy"*

The word *"heavy"* speaks of becoming dull, weighted down, too much to hear.

Isaiah was saying that God was not tired of hearing His hand is still strong and His ear is still open

He wants us to be Absolutely Confident that ...

A. GOD CAN 'HELP' US

Isaiah tells us that ***“the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save”***

We can be certain that God has the Ability to **Save**

The idea behind the word **save** is not about Salvation

The word **“save”** is *to deliver from a narrow or strait place, a place of distress and danger; and to bring us to a place of safety*

A. HE CAN HELP US

B. GOD CAN 'HEAR' US

Isaiah adds that ***“neither is His ear heavy, that it cannot hear”***

We not only can be Confident that He can Help us, But we can also be Confident that He can Hear us

God does not turn a deaf ear to the cries of those who call upon His name. **ROM.8:26**

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The implication of Isaiah's words is that not only can He hear us,

But can answer the prayers that we pray

Ephesians 3:20 - “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ... ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”

If you are a Child of God, then the power of God is present in the person of the Holy Spirit

“to do ... above all that we ask or think...”

James 5:16 b - “... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”

Those who pray regularly, passionately, fervently ...:

I love what R.A. Torrey wrote: “Prayer can do today as much as it ever could. Prayer can do anything God can do, for the arm of God responds to the touch of prayer. All the infinite resources of God are at the LIPS of prayer. Prayer is the key that opens wide the inexhaustible storehouses of divine grace and power. ‘Ask and it shall be given you,’ cries our Heavenly Father, as He swings open the doors of the divine treasure house. There is only one limit to what prayer can do; that is what God can do.”

I. “CONSIDER” THE ABILITY OF GOD

II. COUNT ON THE ASSISTANCE OF GOD

III. CLING TO THE ACCURACY OF GOD

Underlying Isaiah’s words is the thought that God’s ability has not changed; nor will His ability ever change

-- He has always been able to save and hear,

-- He is still able to save and hear, (and)

-- He will always be able to save and hear

He is as much God as He has ever been / He’s Able!

Being unchangeable, we understand that ...

A. GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE IN HIS ‘PERSON’

The Scripture over and over again asserts that God is Immutable, unchanging in Who He is

Malachi 3:6 - “*For I am the LORD, I change not*”

Hebrews 1:12 - “*Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail*”

Hebrews 13:8 – “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*”

James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”

He is just as much God today as He was when He stepped out of eternity and created the heavens and the earth

He will forever be all that He is in Himself

He will never change in His person

A. GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE IN HIS ‘PERSON’

B. GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE IN HIS

‘PROMISE’

He will forever be able to save (Bring us thru)

He will forever be able to Hear

In closing let me draw your attention to Isaiah’s words that conclude what he said about God’s ability

Isaiah 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear”

If God’s ability is Certain and He Desires that we see and experience His ability; and His ability is Unchanging,

Why then do we not see Him **Demonstrating** His ability to us?

Why is it that we do not personally experience His power?

The answer is plainly stated in **v. 2**

It is our sins that keep God from showing us His ability

It is our sin that puts a separation between us and God

It is our sin that keeps God from helping us and hearing us

When we come clean with God then we are in a place where God can show us His ability.

Consider His ability

It is an ability that is certain and continual

He is just as much God as He has ever been

He's Able