

# DIVINE AMNESTY

By Dr. David Minor

*"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."*

Isaiah 55:7

Amnesty comes from the Greek word "amnesia" which means "to forget." God says to the unrighteous and the wicked, "You may return to my grace and to my presence and to my kingdom, for I will grant you mercy and I will give you an abundant pardon!"

In Isaiah 43:25 God promises, *"I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."* Let's take the meanings of the words sin, iniquity, and transgression in the Hebrew language as found in Isaiah.

**SIN** The Hebrew word "chata" means to sin or to miss the mark. *"All have sinned and come short."* It means to stumble; to fall; to have a wrong act, word, deed, or thought. All of us, the Bible says, have sinned.

**INIQUITY** The Hebrew word "avon" means perverseness, something that is bent or crooked or has been rung out of course. Iniquity means there is a bend in you, and try as you will, strive as you must, that bend is toward iniquity and to do wrong. We all have that.

**TRANSGRESSIONS** The Hebrew word "pasha" means revolt or rebellion against lawful authority. The Bible says, "Thou shalt not," but you say, "I will!" - willfully transgressing God-given laws.

God remembers our infirmities which man forgets. But man remembers our sins which God

forgets. God forgets what man remembers. God remembers what man forgets. God remembers our frame and our infirmities. He forgives and forgets our sin. Man remembers our sin, but he forgets our infirmities.

## THE MERCY OF THE LORD

Psalms 103:8 tells us, *"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy."* GOD REMEMBERS OUR INFIRMITIES WHICH MAN FORGETS, BUT MAN REMEMBERS OUR SINS WHICH GOD FORGETS.

How many have heard of people that had an argument and they didn't speak for 20 years? They kept that anger forever. Even if God gets mad, He gets over it. He doesn't stay angry long. *"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy towards them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust."* (Ps. 103:10-14)

He didn't make you out of much, did He? A little handful of dust. He remembers that He only made us out of dust. He remembers our frame and He delights in mercy. *"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him."* (Ps. 103:17) He wants to give you Divine Amnesty, or Divine Pardon! He wants to forget your sins and remember them no more!

Isaiah declares unto the Lord, *"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness; but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back."* (Isaiah 38:17)

Sin that is forgiven is behind His back, but sin that is unforgiven is said to be before His face.

*"For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."* (Jer. 16:17) God is saying, "I see your sin. I know your thought. I know where you are and what you are doing. My eyes see you. I know your name. You thought it was in secret, but I know all about you. You are not getting away with anything."

*"And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face."* (Hosea 7:2) When you are doing wrong, whether the Supreme Court says it is right or not, if God's Word says it is wrong, it is wrong.

## GOD DOES NOT DELIGHT IN PUNISHMENT

God does not delight in judgment. He does not delight in punishment. He will have compassion on us and He will subdue our iniquities. He is going to bring us into line. He is going to get that rebellious teenager and that person who is going to do their own thing, put a bit in their mouth, sit astride on them and name them "Righteousness!"

The Bible tells us that He has cast our sins into the depths of the sea, not out on the shore where it can wash up again. I heard the story of a preacher who had a little lady in his congregation who would shout, "Amen, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!" She just bubbled with enthusiasm. The preacher didn't like this feedback while he preached because it broke his concentration.

Finally he went to her and said, "Granny, please don't holler out like that, it distracts me."

She answered, "But when you preach about the blood and the Passover Lamb, I get so excited. I know Jesus as my Savior! And when you preach

about Daniel in the lions' den and all those other thrilling scriptures, I can't help myself."

"But Granny," he replied. "You're throwing me off. You're ruining my sermon."

"I'll try to hold it," she promised.

But the next Sunday when he got on some good point, Granny couldn't hold it. She screamed out "Amen." Finally the preacher decided to give her a geography book to read while he was preaching.

This time there were no interruptions until he came right up to the climax of his sermon, then Granny yelled out - "Amen," and it threw him off. After the service he said to her, "Granny, would you please tell me why you screamed just then?"

She said, "I was reading about the oceans and the seas and how deep they were. One place was so deep that they don't know where the bottom is. I figured that is where God put my sins and I just had to shout AMEN!"

### COME NOW AND REASON WITH THE LORD

In Isaiah 1:18 the Lord is speaking, *"Come now and let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* In the Hebrew the word "reason" means, "let us put the matter right, or settle the matter." Let us deal with it eternally. Let's talk about your sin, your iniquities, your transgression. Let's talk about the fact that you can't walk straight. You are bent. You are crooked. You are rebellious. Let's get down to business and deal with it once and for all. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they are going to be as wool." I have a process that can reach down to the depths of your nature and

your crookedness, the perverseness, the rebellion, the backsliding, the weakness, the going astray. I have a remedy.

Though your iniquities go back to Adam, though it is genetic and you can't change it, let's put an end to it today. I'll cast them behind my back. I'll remove them as far as the east is from the west. I'll never remember them again. God wants to deal with sin. God wants to pardon iniquity. There isn't any reason why anyone should go to hell. It is not prepared for man, but for the devil and his angels. He is not willing that any should be lost. God laid a barricade across the road to hell and it was the cross of Jesus Christ, His Son. The only way a man can get to hell is to step over the pleading of the Holy Spirit. He has to step over the gospel. He has to step over his mother's prayers and he has to step over the bleeding, broken body of Jesus Christ.

I John 1:9 tells us, *"If we confess our sins, (God, I'm, a sinner, I can't help myself.) He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

God has made it easy! Let's deal with it. Money can't buy it. Your righteousness can't purchase it, because you don't have any. Isaiah said, *"Our righteousness is as filthy rags."* Confess your sins! Call them by name! You will be clothed in Jesus' righteousness and receive **DIVINE AMNESTY!**

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