

Isaiah OT651-Essay
Professor Russel Mack
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The idea that I was exposed to is the idiocy of trying to hide from God. Oswalt points out that the counselors “have made their plans secretly, without consulting the Lord’s prophets, foolishly hoping he will not find out.”¹ He asks the questions; “who sees us? Who will know? Can the thing God create say he did not make us? Does he know nothing? God stands outside of creation therefore we can never know him unless he reveals himself to us. Nehemiah 9:6 says, “Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.” He is the creator of all things and Isaiah calls him the “Holy One of Israel.” Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the Garden by covering themselves with fig leaves but God knew what they had done (Gen. 3:9-13). The prophet Jonah tried to run away and hide from God because he knew God was merciful and that his wrath would be turned away from his enemies the Ninevites. God knew Jonah was on the boat going in the opposite direction, so he sent a great wind and prepared a great fish (Jon. 1:1-17). The apostle Peter also tried to hide from God after he denied the Lord three times. Yet Jesus found Peter was back at his old job fishing and wanted to know if that was more important than following him. Why did the Judeans as well as ourselves hide from God when he is the ‘Holy One’? Like Adam and Eve we have sinned and now we know better than God. Sin has separated us from his presence, so we have

¹ John N. Oswalt, “The NIV Application Commentary: Isaiah, Grand Rapids, MI 2003 pg. 335

to figure out life on our own. But at the heart of the issue is trust. Do we trust God when the enemy is greater in number and better equipped? That's what the Judeans faced. What they didn't understand and what we don't understand is that God is greater than the enemy. That means we must trust him even if we can't see it or understand it. Faith in God is where the rubber meets the road. I, we must be willing to give everything to the Savior even if that means we fail or perish. We live in a society that thrives on winning and surviving. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul says his strength comes through his weakness. That's a paradoxical statement. How can I be strong and weak at the same time? What the apostle Paul is saying is that his dependency or weakness draws him closer to the God that can answer his prayers. One of the great truths of the Bible is that God is always drawing humanity with his love while we are always turning or hiding from God. Isaiah 66:2 says, "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word." Jesus says, "he will leave the ninety-nine to look for the one who has wandered off' (Lk. 15:4). Ultimately sin and rebellion will cause us to hide from God but that is not the end of the story. I like what Oswalt says, "Self-revelation is not merely to impart true information, because the imparting of information is only the thinnest edge of communication. Real communication involves the sharing of personality."²

² John N. Oswalt, "The NIV Application Commentary: Isaiah, Grand Rapids, MI 2003 pg. 395