

Isaiah 64

Jesus

Isaiah 63:15 Look down from heaven, And **see from Your habitation**, holy and glorious. Where are Your zeal and Your strength, The yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me?

- **Near:** Future captivity in Babylon. Lamenting burning of Temple
- **Distant:** Waiting for their Savior end of Trib. Lamenting past rejection of Jesus

Isaiah continues Prayer of Penitence/Confession of Sin
That God would deal with their enemies...

I. Prayer for Help

1 Oh, that You would rend [tear open] the heavens! **That You would come down!** That the mountains might shake at Your presence— 2 As fire burns brushwood As fire causes water to boil— To **make Your name known** to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! 3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, **You came down**, The mountains shook at Your presence. 4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for [loves]Him.

Come down/Hear from Heaven: Deal w/our enemies

- Isaiah reflects on God coming down on Mt. Sinai 800 years earlier/Moses receives Law in Ex 19

Exodus 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were **thunderings and lightnings**, and a **thick cloud** on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was **completely in smoke**, because **the Lord descended upon it in fire**. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

Moses goes up/Comes down w/10 Commandments/Worshipping Golden Calf
"Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!" 3000 killed at Moses command

- **Isaiah's Prayer:** Come down **as You did on Sinai** and destroy our enemies
- **Problem:** God's people had become His enemies/**Not under His protection**

The Angel of the Lord encamps around [protects] those who fear Him
Don't get benefits of God if you're not on His side. Pick a side. Who is on the Lord's side?

- **Isaiah continues...**

5 You **meet him who rejoices** and **does righteousness**, Who **remembers You in Your ways**.

- **God meets with those who...**

1. **Rejoice** in Him
2. **Obey** Him
3. **Acknowledge** Him in all their ways

Isaiah: That ain't us!

Isaiah 57:15 ...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.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, **A broken and a contrite heart—** These, O God, You will not despise.

Newsflash: God is not going to fix the problems of those who hate Him
IOW s: He will not deal w/our enemies when we are **acting like His enemies**

- **Yet:** God stoops/condescends to **rescue those who fear Him**

Psalms 18:6 [David vs Saul] In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies. 12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire...**25** With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 27 For **You will save the humble people,** But will **bring down haughty looks...****35** You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your **gentleness has made me great.**

- **David:** You stoop down to make me great

Come down/Hear from Heaven: Deal w/our enemies

Judah was not in a place for God to answer that prayer

- **If all else fails get real:** Puke it all up on the table...

5b... You are indeed angry, for we have sinned— In these ways **we continue;** And **we need to be saved.** 6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all **our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;** We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have **taken us away.** 7 And there is **no one who calls on Your name,** Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

- Man's righteousness in himself is as filthy as a used menstrual cloth

Romans 3:10 ... **"There is none righteous,** no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

- **Religion/Religious** deeds can never make us righteous. Only self-righteous

- **Now what?** What must I do to be saved?

We need to find other source of righteousness besides our own...

Romans 3:21 [When Jesus came...] the **righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets [Isaiah], 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.**

Philippians 3:9 ... and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness which is from God by faith...**

- **True Repentance:** Acknowledging I sinned against goodness of God
 1. We have sinned
 2. You are angry
 3. We need Salvation
 4. We can't save ourselves
 5. We are entirely responsible for sin/consequences

My misery is my fault. I sinned against Your goodness/grace/kindness
Throw myself on mercy of loving God/Accept the consequences...

8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

- Universal Fatherhood of God is heresy
- God is the universal Creator of all/Not the Father of all men...

John 8:40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. **44 You are of your father the devil,** and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

When will Israel accept God as Father and Jesus as Savior?
After they have been tried by fire in Tribulation

- **Father:** We submit to You as your children ready to obey
- **Potter:** We yield to Your Spirit sculpting us into image of Christ

How beautiful is truthfully laying out our need before God
Trusting wholly in His mercy not our righteousness

9 Do not be furious, O Lord, Nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look—we all are Your people! 10 Your holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, **Jerusalem a desolation.** 11 Our holy and beautiful temple, Where our fathers praised You, Is burned up with fire; And all our pleasant things are laid waste.

The Temple about to be constructed in Israel today will be given up to AC

- **Near:** Neb will burn temple
- **Far:** AC will attack Jerusalem

In both cases God's people Israel will realize they blew it
Our pleasant things are laid to waste...That which we took for granted is no more

12 Will You restrain Yourself because of these things, O Lord? Will You hold Your peace, and afflict us very severely?

- **Isaiah 62:** God promised Israel He would deal with her enemies

Yet God will not deal w/our enemies when we are acting like His enemies

- He would wait at least 2700 years to deal w/their enemies to keep His promise
- Until they **Rejoiced in Him, Obeyed Him, Acknowledged Him in everything**

SUMMARY A Prayer for Help