

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Burst Forth

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
January 31, 2021 - Vision Sunday



Isaiah 64:1-4 (NLT) Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence! ² As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil, your coming would make the nations tremble. Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame! ³ When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked. ⁴ For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!

Do you resonate with this prayer? Do you long for God to show up in greater ways?

- **We want God to “burst forth” and bring renewal and restoration.**

“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down...” (NIV)
“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down...” (NASB)
“Oh that you would rip open the heavens and descend.” (MSG)

- **Renewal and restoration begins with repentance.**

Joel 2:12-13 (NIV) “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

- **Repentance is a rending of our heart over sin as we return to Christ.**

Isaiah 64:5-8 You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways. But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? ⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. ⁷ Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy. Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins. ⁸ And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

- **God needs to burst into our hearts before we can expect Him to burst into our city.**

Big Idea: Repent and return to Jesus Christ to see renewal.

Prayerfully reflect on this message, these Scriptures & these questions:

- **What sin is tearing me up inside?**
- **What is keeping me from experiencing the fullness of God's love & power?**
- **What sin in me is tearing God's heart today?**
- **Repent and return to Jesus Christ to see renewal.**

“For God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.”
Joel 2:13

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.”



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Burst Forth
#3 of 3 - January 31, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) Read Isaiah 64:1-4. What image comes to mind as you read this? How do you resonate with this desperate prayer from Isaiah?
- 3) Where do you want to see God “burst forth” and bring renewal and restoration?
- 4) Why is it significant that this word “burst” is mostly translated “tear” or “rip”. How does this relate to Joel 2:12-13? What does it mean to you to “tear your heart” and how is this connected to repentance?
- 5) How does Joel describe God in this passage? Why does this make repentance easier for us?
- 6) Read Isaiah 64:5-8. What does this passage tell us about our heart condition? Read Romans 3:10-18. What else do we learn about our condition from this passage?
- 7) Read Romans 3:21-28. What is the solution to our sin problem? How does this passage encourage you today?
- 8) Prayerfully consider these challenging questions:
 - What sin is tearing me up inside?
 - What is keeping me from experiencing the fullness of God's love & power?
 - What sin in me is tearing God's heart today?
- 9) Read 1 John 1:5-10. What does this passage promise? Take time to repent and return to Christ knowing that “God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” Joel 2:13



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