

Two Responses to God

Text: Isaiah 63:10-19

Date: 6-18-23 10:30 AM

I. The unfaithful nation's response to Jehovah's gracious work: The response of Rebellion (Isa. 63:10-14).

Emphatically Isaiah highlighted the people's response to God's work: They rebelled.

Instead of gratefulness and a desire to be more faithful, the people chose their own self-prescribed path of idolatry and betrayal.

The consequence of their disobedience was that God turned against them, became their enemy, and fought against them.

The nation forfeited God's protection and instead faced His wrath.

Isaiah now asks a series of five questions regarding the nation's history.

These questions recall how God had worked in their storied past to save them but now in Isaiah's day He seemed distant and unable to deliver them from their enemies.

Question 1: "Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?"

Question 2: "Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit?"

The people are looking for God to help them even though they are choosing to rebel against Him.

Question 3: "Who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses?"

Question 4: "Who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name?"

Question 5: "Who led them through the depths?" Read [Ps. 106:9-10](#).

God had led His people to a place of rest at the end of the journey into Canaan. God had led them through the difficult desert, provided for their needs, and made His name glorious. Read [Josh. 4:24](#).

Isaiah's descriptions in these verses show the nation looking back and believing God through His infinite power had delivered them from their past enemies and now they are wondering why He wasn't delivering them in their current situation. God had sent the prophets to tell them but the nation continued to ignore Him.

II. The remnant's fervent appeal to God for mercy and help and confession of sin (Isa. 63:15-19): The need for Repentance

The people plead for Jehovah to look down from His high and lofty position, His place of holy dwelling and glory and see their plight just as He had in their former years. They longed for God to fervently defeat their enemies and to again demonstrate His strength like old.

Yet, Isaiah realized that God had restrained His bowels and mercies toward the nation.

God always has a purpose for His discipline. He longs that His people come back to Him in humility and repentance. His great desire is that they trust in Him alone and not go looking after other gods.

Only Jehovah, their Father, could redeem the people. He has always been the Redeemer in their past and He is the true spiritual Father and Redeemer. The people must call to Him for He alone can act if they are willing to come to Him on His terms.

Even though the people were God's from the beginning, they were acting as if they were like any other nation. And even though God ruled over them and called them by name, the implication is now they are not that anymore. They are no different than other nations which God does not call His own and is not their Father. It is as if Jehovah had never been their God and King. What a sad admittance to the state of the nation.