

The Passionate Prayer of the Prophet

Text: Isaiah 64

Date: 6-25-23 10:30 AM

I. The prayer to God to make Himself known again to His people and their enemies (Isa. 64:1-5)

The remnant begs God to “rend the heavens and come down.” The word *rend* means *to tear, rip, separate abruptly or violently*. The picture is of God tearing open the heavens as if it were a cloth so that He would come down to join His people on earth.

This is such a desperate situation that in their hopeless state they plead for God’s intervention and recognize this is only thing that can save them. With great passion, they plead for God to come down to them, to do whatever it takes to save them from their enemies.

The idolatrous nations that refused to know Him, those who hate Him, all the human governments who have opposed Him, will disintegrate at His appearance.

The inference is that the remnant who is asking God to come down from Heaven believes that God is real and powerful and they want to see Him act in their lives now.

Those then who wait patiently, expectantly, and with confident hope will find that God will perform for them acts and wonders that cannot be compared to any god.

God supports and helps those who rejoice in His work and those who promote His righteousness. God will favor and give help to the one who chooses to righteously follow Jehovah and do right.

II. The grave condition of the people (Isa. 64:6-7)

Isaiah, on behalf of the people, now asks that, if the nation is violating God’s laws continually, is there any hope that the nation can be spared from more ruin and destruction?

v. 6: Continuing the theme of “can the people be saved?”, Isaiah speaks on behalf of the nation as a whole stating that all of the nation is unclean.

This then is the true nature of the nation and if the nation continues on this path God will not deliver it.

Any righteous attempts put forth by the people, apart from God, were viewed as unclean and disgusting and filthy in God’s eyes.

The result of the unrighteousness and wickedness was stark for in this unholy living, the people’s strength would *fade as a leaf* and their iniquities would like the *wind take them away* from the Lord.

Through the wall of separation of their own uncleanness and sin the people failed to call out to God. They may have lost hope in hearing Him answer or they felt unfit to come before a holy God, but no matter what prayer to Jehovah had ceased.

The people had lost trust in God but not because God had failed them. They had failed Him and now the nation was in desperate times.

III. The nation’s plea for God’s help and mercy (Isa. 64:8-12)

Whereas no one was seeking God in v. 7, the situation has become so horrible that the prophet casts himself and his people on the mercy of God.

God desired to make them vessels for His honor, holy and set apart for His work. But until the people truly believe Him as Redeemer, trust Him as their Father, and obey His Sovereign plan, the people will be molded as vessels of dishonor that God will be required to judge. When the time comes that the people truly confess in this way, God will sovereignly make them what they should have been in Moses' day. Truly this will only come in the future kingdom for in Isaiah's day and up to this present time the nation has not bowed the knee in this manner.

The people are not praying for deliverance from judgment; rather, they are asking for God to withhold its whole piercing consequences. Jehovah had promised to do this (43:25). See Hab. 3:2.