

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #91

Isaiah 63:1-6

When Jesus Christ came to this earth the first time, He came to suffer. When Jesus Christ comes back the second time, the nations will suffer. When Jesus Christ came the first time, He came to offer eternal salvation. When Jesus Christ comes the second time, He will bring eternal destruction.

We may recall that when Jesus came the first time, He went to a synagogue in Nazareth and He opened it to Isaiah 61 and He read verse 1 and part of verse 2 (Luke 4:17-21). He stopped reading just before the clause “and the day of vengeance of our God” (Isaiah 61:2). We may recall from Luke’s account that He closed the book of Isaiah and then said He had fulfilled the things mentioned except “the day of vengeance of our God.”

When we come to **Isaiah 63** and specifically look at **verse 4**, we see that “the day of vengeance” has arrived. Grace was in the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ when He came the first time, but when He comes the second time what He will have in His heart will be vengeance and wrath.

We are nearing the finale of the book of Isaiah, which means we are nearing the finale of the prophetic program of God. In the last three chapters of Isaiah (60, 61, 62), we saw that when Christ returns He will do some amazing things for Israel. Zion and Jerusalem will shine forth the Glory of God and all nations of the world will honor Israel. We would naturally think that this would be a good place to end the book of Isaiah. But Isaiah says, not just yet. There is one other thing that needs to be stressed about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and that is He will pour out the vengeance of God.

One of the key events that will occur in harmony with a plan that will bring God’s blessings to Israel is that Jesus Christ will come to pour out the vengeance and wrath of God. That is exactly what we see in **Isaiah 63**. What Isaiah predicts is this:

JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK AGAIN, AND WHEN HE DOES HE WILL POUR OUT THE VENGEANCE OF GOD AND THE FULL WRATH OF GOD.

When most think of Jesus Christ, they think in terms of a loving person who would never hurt anyone. What most neglect to realize about Jesus Christ is that His eternity means He was behind the destruction of the flood; He was behind the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; He was behind the destruction of Jericho. In fact, that night 185,000 Assyrian soldiers dropped dead; it was Jesus Christ who did it as “the angel of the LORD” (Isaiah 37:36). There have been lots of moments in history when Christ has demonstrated He is a God of wrath, but the ultimate demonstration is yet to come.

When we were on vacation, we walked by a store that was selling bumper stickers. One of the stickers communicated, in some very crude language, this idea: “Jesus loves you but everyone else thinks you are a jerk.” Well there may be some truth to that, but when Jesus Christ comes again, He is not coming to love the world but to pour out God’s wrath on the world.

The first six verses of **Isaiah 63** form its own unit. This unit reveals some amazing data directly from Jesus Christ.

Now we may notice from **verses 1 and 2** that when Jesus Christ returns again, two main questions will be asked about Him: 1) Who is this? (**Isaiah 63:1**); 2) Why are Your garments red? (**Isaiah 63:2**). Of course the answer to the two questions is simple - this is Jesus Christ and you are seeing Him as He has never been seen before and His garments are red because He is pouring out the wrath of God.

We may observe that in these verses the pronoun “I” is again used, which means this is Jesus Christ speaking. The One speaking is the One who will perform the action. **This is direct prophetic revelation from Jesus Christ, Himself.** This is not Isaiah revealing these things; these are direct prophetic revelations coming directly from Jesus Christ.

Now as we carefully look through these verses, there are eleven personal prophetic facts that are revealed:

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #1 – When Jesus Christ returns He will specifically pour out wrath on the Arab world. **63:1a**

Here is one time I disagree with F. C. Jennings who wrote a good commentary on Isaiah back in 1935. He said we don't want to think in terms of mere “geographical localities” when we read this verse (*Studies in Isaiah*, p. 718). However, I think differently and agree with those who see this as referring directly to a specific geography.

During the Tribulation God will pour out His wrath on the entire world. However, when Jesus Christ actually returns, He has a specific agenda of places He will Personally target. We know, for example, that He will fight nations, and we know that at some point He will put His feet on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:3-4). Apparently, He intends to pay a Personal visit to Arab lands.

Notice carefully from **Isaiah 1:1** that two specific locations mentioned as target areas of the wrath of Jesus Christ will be “Edom” and “Bozrah.” Now Edom is modern day Jordan which is land located to the south - east of the Dead Sea, and Bozrah (modern day Buseirah) is a key city of Edom. Dr. John Walvoord said that Edom has been a nation “which often opposed Israel and was located to the southeast of Israel” (*Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 118).

What Jesus Christ reveals here is that He will specifically, physically go to this Arab area that has opposed God and Israel and will slaughter all the enemies of God.

I want to set a literal stage for all of this. The Antichrist has been butchering Jews and using Arabs to help him. One day Jews in the Palestine area will look to the southeast and see One literally coming, heading toward Jerusalem. This One will be none other than Jesus Christ and He is literally and physically coming to take charge of the world.

If we chronologically compare this with other prophetic Scriptures, He will eventually come to the Mount of Olives and stand and pour out His final wrath in the valley of Megiddo (Joel 3:12; Zechariah 14). Prior to this finale, He will pay a visit to Jordon to specifically pour out the wrath of God.

A nation or a person may seem to get away with mocking God and His Word and His people for quite a while. But what all those of false religion and false belief need to realize is there will come a day when they will be the target of the vengeance of God.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #2 – When Jesus Christ returns He will wear red wrath garments. **63:1b-2**

The description we have here of Jesus Christ coming wearing wrath garments perfectly coincides with the description John gives us in the book of Revelation (Rev. 19:13). The color of His garment will be a “crimson red,” which indicates that He is coming to pour out God’s wrath and shed much blood.

The Hebrew word translated “glowing colors” (**verse 1**) is one that literally refers to a “bright red” (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 288). The word “red” (**verse 2**) is a different word but it also refers to the red color (*Ibid.*, p. 13).

What Jesus is revealing here is that when I come, I will be wearing red clothing which indicates My purpose. I am coming to pour out God’s wrath. Christ is saying I am coming to shed blood.

Every Easter season many churches read a liturgy that includes this passage of Isaiah 63. They read it at a shallow level and say that the red clothing refers to His own blood stains from the shedding of His own blood. That is absolutely false. The blood that Jesus is having splattered is blood of Israel’s oppressors. He is pouring out God’s wrath.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #3 – When Jesus Christ returns He will be majestic . **63:1c**

Jesus Christ will be seen in all of His Divine majesty. That word “majestic” is one that means when people see Him He will be adorned as a High decorated ornament (*Ibid.*, p. 217). He will be seen as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #4 – When Jesus Christ returns He will come displaying His great strength . **63:1d**

We know from Revelation that when He comes His armies are coming with Him (Rev. 19:14). Any who see Him will recognize His greatness and His strength and power.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #5 – When Jesus Christ returns He will speak in righteousness . **63:1e**

That word “righteousness” means every judgment He pronounces and everything He does completely squares with the Word of God and it completely reveals the righteousness of God. Do not for one moment miss this point. When God pours out His destructive wrath and kills people, it is part of His righteousness, which is the righteousness of God.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #6 – When Jesus Christ returns He will mightily save . **63:1f**

Jesus Christ specifically says here that He is “mighty to save.” Of course, this specifically has reference to Israel (63:7-9). When Jesus Christ returns, the Antichrist will have used his satanic power to try to destroy Israel. Apparently, he will have used much of the Arab/Islamic world to try to accomplish this. Jesus Christ will come and pour out His wrath on that world and will save Israel. Keep in mind that this is Jesus Christ informing us of what He will do.

But I want us to consider for a moment the fact that Jesus Christ is “mighty to save.” The might and the power to save an individual or a nation is not found in the nation or the individual; it is found in Jesus Christ. No individual can save Himself and no nation can save itself. No one is saved by our might or power; any who are saved are saved by Jesus Christ the One “mighty to save.”

Many of us have seen this truth time and time again. I was reminded recently of a man who ran two houses of prostitution in a major city and Jesus Christ saved him, and he is still living his life for the glory of God. I have seen Jesus Christ come into the life of a drunkard and I have seen that life transformed. I have known of immoral women who aborted babies and Jesus Christ saved them, and they are faithful women of God who have been “mightily saved.” But of all the things I have seen, I agree with Mr. Spurgeon who said the best proof you have that Jesus Christ is mighty to save is that he saved you (*Spurgeon’s Sermons*, Vol. 3, p. 412). There is only One who can save you, who is mighty enough, and that is Jesus Christ. If someone tries to convince you that you can save yourself or the church can save you or your works can save you, it would be better for them that a millstone were hung around their neck and they be cast into the sea. There is only One mighty enough to save you and that is Jesus Christ

I read a story of a godly father who was dying whose sons did not know the Lord. They came to the bedside of their faithful dad and the father said to his sons, “I could die in peace if I knew that you would follow me to heaven; but the most sorrowful thing of all is not that I am dying, but that I am leaving you and I will never see you again.” The boys looked down at their dad and did not repent, nor did they shed a tear. They left their father’s bedside and just before he died he said, “O that I had died a happy death for that would have been a great testimony to my sons.” But he died with a sad, sorrowful heart because his sons did not know the Lord. A couple of days after the funeral, one of the sons said to his brother, “You know our dad loved the Lord and he lived for the Lord. He loved the Scriptures and yet he died so gloomy. If dad died so gloomy and he knew Jesus Christ and lived for Christ, how gloomy will our death be without Christ.” Those boys went to church and they trusted Jesus Christ just after their dad had died. No matter how much of a wretched sinner you have been, Jesus Christ is mighty to save.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #7 – When Jesus Christ returns, He alone will pour out the full brunt of the wrath of God. **63:2-3**

This One who is “mighty to save” also is mighty to destroy. In **verse 2** the question is raised, “Why is Your apparel red? The answer is in **verse 3**; He is coming because of His “anger” and His “wrath.” Jesus Christ is God and He will Personally come back to pour out God’s wrath as God.

The metaphorical picture that He uses to describe it is He compares His wrath to a wine press. A wine press was a shallow pit which featured a hole on the side so the juice could flow out into a container. Individuals would step into the wine press and trample down the grapes and the juice would begin to run out. Naturally, any person in a wine press was bound to get some juice splattered on his clothing. This is the metaphor Christ selects to describe His wrath. He will crush the enemies of God and literally their blood will flow. He will trample them and literally their lifeblood will flow like juice.

He will stamp out His enemies like one would crush grapes in a wine press.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #8 – When Jesus Christ returns, He will have the day of vengeance in His heart. **63:4a**

When Jesus Christ was here the first time and read that text of Isaiah 61 in the synagogue of Nazareth, He stopped just short of reading “the day of vengeance”. We need to realize that His purpose for not reading it was not because He did not have vengeance on His mind or in His heart. The day of vengeance was known by Him and it was in His heart. He just didn’t bring it up because He did not come the first time to pour out God’s wrath, but to offer God’s grace. **The first time He came He had God’s grace and salvation in His heart, but the next time He comes He will have God’s wrath and destruction in His heart.**

Sometimes we sing “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” but do not ever forget “what a judge we have in Jesus.” Deep in the heart of Jesus Christ is a mindset that says there is coming a day when He will pour out God’s wrath.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #9 – When Jesus Christ returns He will have His own year of redemption. **63:4b**

Just as Jesus Christ will pour out the full wrath of God on all His enemies when He returns, so also He will redeem and save His people. This specifically has reference to the nation Israel and also to those Gentile people who helped the Jews during the Tribulation.

Jesus Christ has power to destroy and He has the power to redeem.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #10 – When Jesus Christ came into this world, His own arm brought salvation. **63:5**

Do not miss this point; it is Christ's own arm that brings salvation. No one can help bring about His salvation and no one can help bring about His destruction.

When Christ was on that cross, all of His own disciples fled. No one was there to uphold Him. He had to accomplish everything Himself.

The program of God is all by Him and all about Him.

PERSONAL PROPHETIC FACT #11 – When Jesus Christ returns, His own arm will bring about wrath. **63:6**

Dr. J. Vernon McGee said, this will be “the end of man's little day upon the earth” (*Isaiah*, Vol. 3, p. 340). He will take over this world by “His own arm.” No one will willingly turn this world over to Jesus Christ. He will take it over.

If Jesus Christ came to the United States right now and said, I want you to let Me take charge of the country, I guarantee you this nation would not turn anything over to Him.

Now, as we have already said, the truths here in **Isaiah 63** are repeated again in Revelation 19. Do not ever let any one convince you that the God of wrath in the Old Testament is a God of total love in the New Testament.

It is true that God is a God of love, grace and mercy, but He is also a God of judgment. Are you ready to meet Him?