

Sunday, July 12, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

88. Rend the Heavens – Isaiah 63:15-64:12

The one and only God, who is unique in holiness, holds fellowship with those who walk in His ways, and dispenses wrath on the wicked. How can we know this and go on sinning? How can such be saved?

- I. Look Down From Heaven – 63:15-16
 - A. A Plea for Divine Attention
 - 1. Look from Your glorious and holy habitation – Psa. 113:5-6
 - 2. Where is Your zeal? – passionate commitment whereby God keeps His promises
 - 3. Your might – heroic ability to overcome an enemy
 - 4. Tenderness and mercy – overflowing gentleness and love
 - 5. Where are these qualities? Are they being withheld?
 - B. Needed: Next-of-Kin
 - 1. Abraham and Israel – dead and gone, useless to us
 - 2. “You, O Lord, are our Father”
 - 3. Our Redeemer from Everlasting – redeemer kinsman
- II. A Plea for an Erring People – 63:17-19
 - A. Why Did You Let Us Do This?
 - 1. You could have restrained us
 - 2. “The heart set on disobedience hardens progressively against the way and will of God, until the moment, known only to the Lord, arrives when the sentence of hardening must be passed.” – Motyer
 - 3. We cannot return to you – You return to us!
 - B. It’s As If
 - 1. You never ruled over us
 - 2. You never called us by Your name
 - 3. We were never Yours
- III. Come Down to Us! – 64:1-3
 - A. Rend the Heavens
 - 1. When You come down, destruction ensues – Psa. 46
 - 2. When You come down, Your name is known
 - 3. When You come down, expectations are always exceeded
 - B. Do Something
 - 1. To check evil
 - 2. To change circumstances and rescue Your people
- IV. Should God Intervene for People Like Us? – 64:4-5
 - A. No Other God – Deut. 4:35, 39; Isa. 44:6; 45:5-6 – neither history, nor revelation, nor perception has brought to light any other God
 - B. He Acts

1. On behalf of those who wait on Him – Psa. 27:14 – patient, confident, expectant faith
2. To help those who gladly do right, rejoicing in a constant state of righteousness
3. To help those who remember You in Your ways – devoted to You, longing to be conformed to Your likeness

C. You Were Enraged because We Sinned

1. We've continued sinning a long time
2. Can such deliberate, persistent offensiveness meet with salvation? – Isa. 59:1
3. Shall we be saved?
4. We need to be saved!
5. Is it impossible to be saved? – Matt. 19:24-26

V. We Confess – 64:6-7

A. Show Your Face – and our enemies would shrink back and tremble

B. But You Don't Show Your Face – so we shrink back and tremble

C. So We Confess:

1. We are unclean – the leper's cry – Lev. 13:45 – personal unfitness for fellowship with men or God
2. All our righteousnesses are like filthy rags
 - a. Stained red with sin
 - b. Flowing from our fallenness
3. We fade – we are dying, sin brings death
4. Our iniquities (self-will) like the winds of judgment, sweep us away
5. No one calls on Your name – disinterest, ignoring God (repressing)
6. No one comes to You for strength (self-reliance)
7. We are alienated from God – we melt in His hands – Heb. 10:31

VI. We Confessed, Now We Plead – 64:8-9

A. But Now

B. You Are Our Father

1. We are the clay, You are the Potter
2. We are the work of Your hands
3. Do not be angry
4. Do not mark our iniquity – Psa. 130:3
5. Look! Please! We are Your people!

VII. Will You Hold Yourself Back? – 64:10-12

A. The Promised Land is a Wasteland - possession

B. The Temple a Burned Ruin – presence

C. Will You Hold Yourself Back Now?

1. Will You hold Your peace and turn us over to affliction?
2. We are Your people – we need to be saved! – Psa. 6:4

Cross References:

Psalm 113:5-6

Who is like the Lord our God, Who dwells on high, 6 Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. 6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has made desolations in the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. 10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Deut. 4:35, 39

35 To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.

39 Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Isaiah 44:6

“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5-6

I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other;

Psalm 27:14

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

Matthew 19:24-26

24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Lev. 13:45

"Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'

Hebrews 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Psalm 130:3

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

Psalm 6:4

Return, O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!