

What Sort of Ending Is This? A Tension Filled Finale
The Tension of the Contrite Heart
Isaiah 64

- I. Longing For God To Do The Unexpected (1-4)
 - A. Rend the heavens and come down
 - 1. An incredible request
 - 2. One that would be fulfilled...and rejected
(in Jesus)
 - B. Magnify your name through great power both
among us and the whole earth
 - C. We learn from what follows that they wanted these
mighty acts to be acts of mercy
- II. How Are Things, Really? (5-7)
 - A. God meets with those who rejoice in righteousness
and remember His ways
 - B. But...the problem of personal sin
 - 1. You were angry at our sin
 - 2. We continued in our sin for a long time
 - 3. The natural question: And shall we be
saved?
 - C. Why the concern?
 - 1. Unclean/filthy garment
 - 2. Withering leaf/wind drives away
 - 3. Silent inaction in worship and prayer
 - D. God's twofold response
 - 1. Hidden His face
 - 2. Give them over to the power of their
iniquities (cf. Romans 1:18-32)
- III. Hear The Pain of Their Prayer (8-12)
 - A. A recognition of divine Fatherhood and Creation (8)
 - B. A request for divine mercy (9)
 - C. A reminder of the covenant (10-11)
 - D. A fear that God will not speak again a word of
mercy to them (12)