

THE DAY OF GOD'S VENGEANCE  
Isaiah 63, 64

Intro: Two things are to be found in this chapter:

- 1) The revelation of God's judgment on the nations-- with Edom as the prime example (63:1-6). Bozrah was the capital of Edom. Remember that the prophet was speaking prophetically here.
- 2) The prayer following (63:7-64:12).

As is the case when there is real praying, it was the revelation of God which prompted the prayer. Long ago the people of God learned to turn the Word of God into prayer.

I. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON EDOM (Isa. 63:1-6).

As we go through the Word of God we get more and more light upon the last days. Prophetically this seems to fit with what John spoke of in Rev. 16 about the future conflict at Armageddon. There God will deal with the nations for their treatment of His people, Israel, but this will be followed with another uprising and overthrow of the nations after the millennial reign of Christ, as we learn from Rev. 20.

At the last, the people of God will be victorious, and their enemies will be overthrown!

II. ISRAEL'S PENITENTIAL PRAYER (Isa. 63:7-64:12).

Gaebelein: "This is one of the greatest prayers in the Bible" (quoted in Bultema, p. 604).

Robinson: "The prayer is one of the most passionate utterances of its kind in the Old Testament" (p. 155).

That there would be such a future time of judgment upon their enemies was the truth that God used to move His people to turn to Him in prayer.

In addition to what was said above about Rev. 16, cf. Zech. 12:9-13:1.

Probably originally Isaiah prayed this prayer, but Israel will pray it in the days immediately preceding the second advent of Christ.

Note the divisions to the prayer.

A. The remembrance of God's past mercies--always an

encouragement to pray (Isa. 63:7-9).

B. The confession of sin (Isa. 63:10).

Israel's whole history is described in this one verse, and really in one word: "rebelled."

C. A second remembrance of God's mercies--after they had rebelled (Isa. 63:11-14).

The big question that Israel will ask is, "Where is He?"

D. Israel's twofold plea (Isa. 63:15-64:5).

1. "Look down" (Isa. 63:15-19).

2. "Come down" (Isa. 64:1-5).

This second plea is a call for the Messiah to come to the earth--His second coming!

E. Israel's confession (Isa. 64:6-8).

1. Of her sinful nature (Isa. 64:6).

2. Of her prayerlessness (Isa. 64:7).

3. Of her submission to the Lord (Isa. 64:8).

F. The final plea for the restoration of God's presence in the Temple (Isa. 64:9-12).

Concl: What can we learn from this section of Isaiah's prophecy?

- 1) The almighty and victorious power of God before whom the nations of the earth are as nothing.
- 2) God often leads His people through tribulation to teach them to pray.
- 3) The prayers of the Bible are for our learning. This one was certainly divinely inspired.

When the Lord is preparing to bless His people, He teaches them to pray His way!

- 4) The ingredients of real prayer:
  - a) The remembrance of God, and of His goodness and mighty acts (Isa. 63:7-9, 11-14).
  - b) The need to humble ourselves before the Lord (Isa. 63:10; 64:6).
  - c) The need to concern ourselves with the glory of God's Name (Isa. 63:12, 14, 16; 64:2).
  - d) The delight that God has when we recognize that He is our Father (Isa. 63:16; 64:8; cf. Matt. 6:9).
  - e) The joy that the Father has when we want His presence to be restored to us (Isa. 64:9-12).