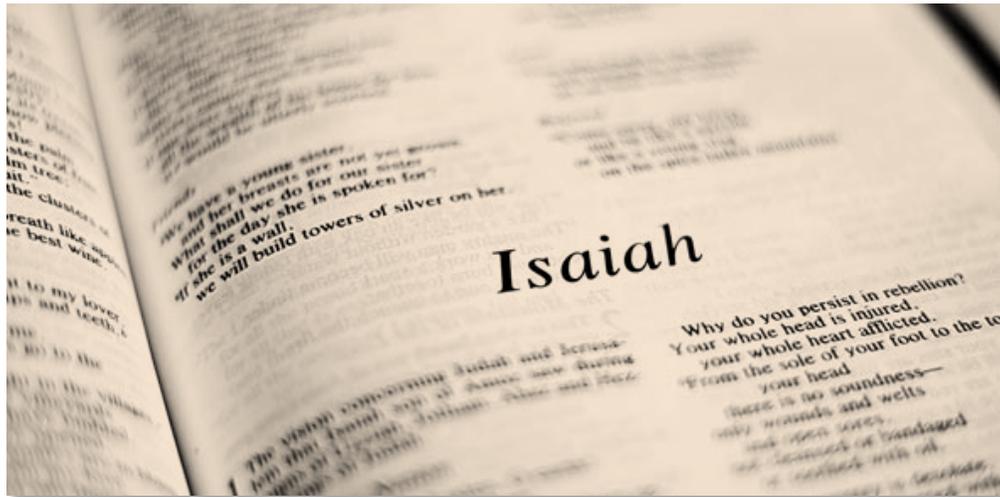


# THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

## MIGHTY TO SAVE: ISAIAH 63, 64



T. M. Moore

*A Scriptorium Study*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

Mighty to Save: Isaiah 63, 64  
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## Introduction to *Isaiah 63, 64*

Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised a coming great salvation. His people were about to go into captivity in Babylon, and it seemed no one could save them from this judgment.

But God is mighty to save. What He promised, He would fulfill, first through His servant Cyrus, then through the coming Servant Whose suffering and blood would bring the new covenant and Spirit of God to revive and renew His people, and to awaken the world to the salvation and glory of God.

In these chapters, Isaiah teaches the people of God in every generation how to seek the Lord for the salvation only He can deliver.

If you find these studies helpful, please drop me a line at [tmmoore@ailb.org](mailto:tmmoore@ailb.org) and let me know. We welcome suggestions and stories about how the Lord is using our resources to help you grow in your walk with and work for the Lord.

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## 1 Garments of Blood

*Pray Psalm 69.16-18.*

Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good;  
Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.  
And do not hide Your face from Your servant,  
For I am in trouble;  
Hear me speedily.  
Draw near to my soul, and redeem it;  
Deliver me because of my enemies.

*Read Isaiah 63.1-6.*

*Reflect.*

1. To what do all these mentions of wine and blood refer?
2. Is the One Who is “mighty to save” exacting judgment or bearing it? Or both?

*Meditate.*

We have previously seen that the coming Servant brings the salvation and new covenant of God with Him. He does this by a terrible suffering (Is. 53), the effect of which is to liberate His people to realize the promises of God’s covenant (Is. 54). The Servant is the LORD Himself (Is. 61, 62). Here He is referred to as the One Who is “mighty to save.” But how He exercises that might is shocking.

Refer back to Genesis 49.8-12. In this passage, Jacob promised a King would descend through Judah, and when He comes, His clothes will be washed in wine and stained with “the blood of grapes.” With the coming of this King, the dynasty that began with David will come to an end, for this is the King for Whom the Kingdom was intended – “Shiloh” (Him Whose It Is) – and to Whom it will be given (Gen. 49.10; cf. Dan. 7.13, 14). The One Who is coming “from Edom” in Isaiah 63.1 certainly appears kingly: “glorious in His apparel” and coming “in the greatness of His strength” and speaking “in righteousness.” As He comes, He looks for all the world like just the kind of deliverer the people of Judah and Jerusalem would love to see.

But there’s a problem here. The people seem confused (v. 2). The King’s garments are stained with wine, with the blood of grapes and peoples (vv. 3, 6). He has come from Edom – which means *red* – and Bozrah, a city in Edom (v. 1). He looks more like a servant who has tread out the wine than a King and Savior.

And, indeed, He is both. He tramples the wine, treads it down in His fury, tramples the peoples until His garments are covered with their blood; and He is at the same time both grapes and peoples, bearing His own wrath, enduring His own vengeance, so that the year of His redeemed might finally come (vv. 3, 4). He is both Trampler and Trampled, “mighty to save.”

He is both Judge and Judged, for there was “no one” to do the work of salvation but Him (v. 5). That work involves redeeming the people of God from their captivity and sin, and paying the debt of their sin, so that they might stand before Him in righteousness. The blood of the peoples on His glorious garments is His own blood, shed for the salvation of the world. He breaks the strength of sin (v. 6) by becoming sin for His people, though He Himself is righteous and “mighty to save.”

The text focuses on the judgment of God coming upon His Servant, so that His people might be redeemed. But it also points forward to a Day when judgment will come upon the nations, and they, having rejected the

work of their Redeemer, will bear their own guilt forever.

*Reflect.*

1. Why did the Servant have to endure vengeance and wrath from the Lord? What does that mean for us?
2. How does this passage connect with Genesis 49:8-12? What can we learn from these two passages together?
3. Why is the Servant alone qualified to bring in the year of His redeemed?

*The prophetic Spirit contemplates the Lord as if he were already on his way to his passion, clad in his fleshly nature; and as he was to suffer therein, he represents the bleeding condition of his flesh under the metaphor of garments dyed in red, as if reddened in the treading and crushing process of the winepress, from which the laborers descend reddened with the wine juice, like men stained in blood. Tertullian (155-250 AD), *Against Marcion* 4.40*

*Thank You, Lord Jesus, for bearing God's wrath against my sin, so that I...*

*Pray Psalm 69.*

Read this psalm slowly, meditating on the suffering of Christ, and giving thanks for His bearing the wrath of God on your behalf.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 69 (Selected)** (*Greensleeves: What Child Is This?*)

“Save Me, O God, deep waters rise and threaten to undo Me!  
No foothold in the mire I find; the floods must soon subdue Me.  
Hear, Lord, My weary cry; My throat is parched, unclear My eye.  
Foes long for Me to die and others' debts are upon Me.”

O God, our folly all You know, our wrongs from You are not hidden;  
Let those who in Your mercy go not by our shame be smitten.  
“Let none dishonored be because, O Lord, because of Me!  
You make Me dishonor see; on Me reproach is written.”

O Lord, we make our prayer to You; receive our words, O Savior!  
Let lovingkindness see us through, and answer us with favor!  
Lord, lift us above the mire; deliv'rance is our one desire!  
Let not the floods conspire to swallow us forever!

Let heav'n and earth now praise You, Lord, the seas and all their creatures,  
For You will save us by Your Word and build Your City's features.  
There we will with Jesus dwell and know His blessings full and well.  
His glorious Name we'll tell to every man and creature!

## 2 The Lovingkindness of the Lord

*Pray Psalm 103.1-5.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from destruction,  
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,  
Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*,  
*So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*Read Isaiah 63.7-9.*

*Reflect.*

1. Which aspects of God's lovingkindness does Isaiah recall here?
2. Why did he think it was important to remind the people of Judah and Jerusalem of God's lovingkindness?

*Meditate.*

Isaiah has just spoken of the lovingkindness God intends to show His people through the work of the Servant. But that's in the future. They're facing some hard times ahead, and they might struggle to hold on to the vision of coming salvation.

But God had shown Himself to be loving and kind toward His people in the past, and Isaiah did not want them to lose sight of this (v. 7). With that in mind, perhaps, he reminded the people of his day of the lovingkindness God had shown them in the past, when He brought them out of Egypt, sustained them through the wilderness, and led them into the land of promise (v. 9).

Why is God so kind to His people? Because they are His people, His children (v. 8). He has chosen them and redeemed them, and He will not let them go. He may have to discipline them for a season, but only to renew their trust in Him and their hope in His promises.

Given what God has done for His people in the past, and what He promises to do in the days to come, the only proper response is not to despair, not to get angry, and not to feel abandoned by God, but to praise Him, and in praising Him, to be renewed in His mercies and steadfast love (v. 7).

This is good advice for God's people in every age. Never lose sight of all the good things God has done for us in the past, and is doing for us in the present. And though the times may be challenging and fraught with trials, praise God for His lovingkindness, and look ahead to the greater lovingkindness of God yet to come, when Shiloh, the Servant of the Lord, brings the Kingdom of God to fullness, and all creation to the goodness of the Lord.

*Prepare.*

1. Suggest some ways you might be more diligent and consistent in recounting the blessings of the Lord each day.
2. How can thinking about the goodness and lovingkindness of the Lord, and all His great and precious

promises, help us through times of trial and difficulty?

3. Isaiah encouraged the people of his day with these words. Whom can you encourage today by reminding them of the lovingkindness of the Lord?

*Now he will save them himself, finding nothing worthwhile in them, but only because he loved them and cared for them. This is a strong visible sign of his unequalled philanthropy and the calmness of divinity. For he saved them from the house of slavery, carried them and raised them up.* Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah 5.5.63.7-10*

*Lord, I want to count Your many blessings today, because...*

*Pray Psalm 103.*

Let this psalm lead you to praise God for all the many ways His lovingkindness reaches you each day.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 103** (*Old 100<sup>th</sup>: All Creatures That On Earth Do Dwell*)

O my soul, bless the Lord's great Name! His many benefits proclaim:  
He pardons sins and heals disease, and from the pit grants us release.

With mercy rich and steadfast love He satisfies us from above,  
Revives our youth, works righteousness, and justice serves for the oppressed.

His ways to Moses He made known; to Israel His great works were shown.  
The Lord is full of mercy sweet, and with His favor does us meet.

To anger He but slowly goes; abounding love to us He shows.  
He will not always scold nor chide; His anger will not e'er abide.

Our sins He casts from us away; He shows compassion every day.  
He knows our frame, that we are dust, so on His goodness let us trust.

Now as for us like grass we fail, though for a time our flesh prevail.  
God's Spirit blows across our face and withers sinners in their place.

But evermore to those who fear the Lord brings loving kindness near;  
His righteousness to them extends and to their children without end.

He rules upon His throne in heav'n; His sovereign rule o'er all is giv'n.  
You angels, bless the Lord, rejoice, who live in strength to heed His voice.

All you who serve Him, bless the Lord, all you who heed His righteous Word!  
Let all throughout the cosmos whole unite to praise Him, with my soul!

### 3 Remember the Lord

*Pray Psalm 66.1-4.*

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!  
Sing out the honor of His name;  
Make His praise glorious.  
Say to God,  
“How awesome are Your works!  
Through the greatness of Your power  
Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.  
All the earth shall worship You  
And sing praises to You;  
They shall sing praises *to* Your name.”

*Read Isaiah 63.10-14.*

*Reflect.*

1. The “he” in verse 11 refers to Israel. What are the people remembering? To what end?
2. What ultimately is Isaiah seeking?

*Meditate.*

As was so often the case throughout the Old Testament, God’s people had a hard time keeping their end of His covenant. And when they strayed, as they were doing again in Isaiah’s day, they “grieved” the Holy Spirit of God, and caused the Lord to turn against them. And in Isaiah’s day, that turning against them took the most drastic form yet: the destruction of their city and temple, deportation to Babylon, and the end of the Davidic monarchy.

Isaiah has the people of God speaking as one in verse 11: “Then he remembered the days of old...” Here is a solid argument for remembering God’s work in the past. The people remembered that God had delivered His people from captivity by the hand of Moses. He had sent His Spirit to be with them in the wilderness. He had delivered them through the sea in an unprecedented manner, by a miracle of saving grace. Perhaps He will do this again?

Of course, Isaiah has been saying all along, “Yes, yes, He will! He is! So as you look back, look up to God, look ahead to His promises, and cry out for Him to lead You and to glorify Himself through your deliverance again” (v. 14).

We, too, should look back to the times God has delivered and revived His people – many times, not only in Scripture, but throughout the history of the Christian movement. And we should look up to Him, taking no rest and giving Him no rest until He revives and renews His City once again (Is. 62.6, 7). Believers who will not pray for revival in this day of rising secularism are not following the counsel of the prophet or the example of our forebears in the faith. We cannot expect God to revive His Church if we will not seek Him earnestly for it (2 Chron. 7.14).

The Lord remembers His covenant. We need to remember that, and to seek Him diligently.

*Prepare.*

1. How do God’s people rebel against Him and grieve His Spirit today? When we do, what should we expect (Heb. 12.3-11)?

2. How much do you know about great revivals of Christian faith in the past? What could you do to learn more about these? Why is it a good idea to know and remember the mighty works of revival God has accomplished in the past?

3. God always leads His people to make for Himself “a glorious Name.” How is He leading you today?

*The question turns on this point: "God exercised his kindness towards our fathers for a long time; why do not we experience the same kindness? Is he unlike himself?" By no means; but we ourselves, by our rebellion, refuse and even drive away his goodness. John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 63.10*

*Lead me to glorify Your Name today, O Lord, as I...*

*Pray Psalm 66.*

As you pray this psalm, think of your own deliverance, how God brought His salvation to you, and give Him thanks and praise. Whom can you tell about this today?

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 66** (*Regent Square: Angels from the Realms of Glory*)

Shout for joy to God, all people, sing the glory of His Name!

Give Him glorious praise and say, “How great Your pow’r and great Your fame!

All the earth shall worship gladly as they praise Your glorious Name!”

Great and awesome is our Savior in the works which He has done.

He the sea and river dried to let His people cross as one.

Then our joy was great to worship Him our mighty, sovereign One.

He the nations watches ever – all you rebels, humbled be;

bless our God, all men and nations, praise His Name eternally!

He preserves our souls, and He will keep His paths beneath our feet.

You have tried us, Lord, as silver, and have brought us into nets,

made us carry heavy burdens, let men trample o’er our heads.

But through all Your grace sustained us and has brought us through to rest.

To Your house we come with offerings, what we vowed, Lord, help us do.

O, receive our praise and homage as we give ourselves to You.

Come and listen, all who fear Him: hear what this great God can do!

When we cried to You, You answered, filled our mouths with highest praise.

Let not sin abide within us, lest we languish all our days.

Bless the Lord, Who hears our pleadings and preserves His love always.

## 4 Cry for Mercy

*Pray Psalm 51.1-3.*

Have mercy upon me, O God,  
According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,  
Blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.  
For I acknowledge my transgressions,  
And my sin is always before me.

*Read Isaiah 63.15-19.*

*Reflect.*

1. What does Isaiah want the Lord to do for His people?
2. How does Isaiah express the desolation of the people of God?

*Meditate.*

Isaiah prayed for the people of Judah and Jerusalem, and he recorded his prayer in writing so that they could have it to use during their time of captivity. He called upon the Lord to see the desolation of His people. They were cut off from their forebears (v. 16) and had lost their identity as the people of God. They had strayed from God's ways, and their hearts had become hardened toward Him (v. 17). The precious gift of God's Presence with them had been withdrawn (v. 18), and they had become like all the pagan peoples of old (v. 19).

Isaiah understood that God is sovereign even in this situation, and that for some reason, He has brought Israel to this distress (v. 17). He called upon God as Father and Redeemer, and as the God of His covenant, to come to the rescue of His people.

Paul says we do not know how to pray as we ought (Rom. 8.26). It pleases God to help us in this weakness both by the intercessory work of His Spirit, and by giving us prayers to use and prayers to emulate, to help us connect with Him in our times of need. Isaiah undoubtedly hoped this prayer – which continues in chapter 64 – would be a help to the people of God, as they looked to Him and waited on Him to send His servants – Cyrus first, then the great Servant Who brings salvation to the world – and restore them to their City.

Perhaps it could be a help to you today?

*Prepare.*

1. Do you ever experience the kind of separation from the Lord Isaiah describes here? Explain.
2. How could you use this prayer to seek revival for yourself and your church? How would you rewrite this prayer for that purpose?
3. How is it evident that God rules in your life (v. 19)?

*Here onwards the prophet prays for every nation, and in the person of the Israelites he presents his supplication. He prays that God will withhold his wrath from them and cease rebuking them and in a forgiving manner subdue Israel's desertion; for there*

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*was no one on earth for them other than the true God, one having a glorious home in heaven, their father.* Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 Ad), *Commentary on Isaiah 5.5.63.15-17*

*Lord, help me to pray; guide my prayers today so that I...*

*Pray Psalm 51.1-13*

As you pray, listen for the Spirit to convict you of any sins. Seek the filling of the Spirit, and commit to walking in Him throughout the day ahead.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 51.1-13** (*Passion Chorale: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*)

Be gracious to me, Savior, according to Your love!  
According to Your mercy, my sins, my sins remove!  
O wash me, precious Savior, and cleanse me from all sin;  
look on me with Your favor, and cause my grief to end.

Against You only, Savior, have I become unclean;  
thus just the condemnation which You pronounce on me.  
Lord, I was born to sinning, while You seek truth within;  
To wisdom my heart winning, release me from my sin!

In Jesus' blood and mercy, Lord, cleanse my evil heart!  
Let me washed, cleansed, renewed be and pure in whole and part.  
Bring joy again and gladness; look not upon my sin.  
Deliver me from sadness; renew me yet again!

Create in me a clean heart, renew me from within!  
Take not Your Spirit from me because of all my sin.  
Salvation's joy restore, Lord, and keep me in Your hand;  
thus shall I tell Your strong Word to sinners in the land.

## 5 Rend the Heavens and Come Down!

*Pray Psalm 98.1, 2.*

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
For He has done marvelous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.  
The LORD has made known His salvation;  
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

*Read Isaiah 64.1-5.*

*Reflect.*

1. Why does Isaiah pray that God would come down?
2. How does Isaiah describe those for whom God acts?

*Meditate.*

Isaiah continues his prayer on behalf of the people of God. He calls on God to come down, and he is probably recalling how God came down on Mt. Sinai, shook the mountain, showed His people His glory, and gave them His Law (v. 1; cf. Ex. 20-24). Isaiah wants God to reveal Himself to His adversaries (v. 2), so that the nations would tremble before Him. God's greatest adversary at the time was Babylon, which was preparing to destroy Jerusalem and the temple, and carry the people away into captivity.

But God would have His day with Babylon, as we read in the book of Daniel (Dan. 5). God will have His way with all the nations in a Day not long hence.

Isaiah notes in his prayer the people for whom God acts in deliverance: people who wait for Him, who rejoice in Him and live in righteousness, and who remember all His ways (vv. 4, 5). This is the message he has been preaching to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, to show them how they must comport themselves in their time of captivity. He prayed they would be such a people once again.

For now, the people have sinned and are coming under God's just judgment. Isaiah understands that they "need to be saved" (v. 5), and he is determined to intercede for them.

Just so, we should pray for the Church today, which has become captive to many of the ways of the unbelieving world, and is in need of revival and renewal. If we will pray, God will hear and answer and show us great things and mysteries we have not seen before (Jer. 33.3). Isaiah believed this. Do we?

*Reflect.*

1. Do you agree that churches today need revival? What can we learn from Isaiah's prayer about how to pray for our churches?
2. If God were to "rend the heavens" and "come down" today, how would we know it? What would that look like?
3. How can you become more the kind of person for whom God acts and grants more of His salvation?

*Because we sinned, you are angry with us, O Lord, for we strayed and abandoned the right path, or, according to the Hebrew text, we, who always lived in sin and are unclean in ourselves, will be saved only by your mercy.* Jerome (347-420 AD),

*Commentary on Isaiah 17.35*

*I want to know more of Your salvation, Lord, so today I...*

*Pray Psalm 98.*

Let this psalm lead you in praise and renewal in the great salvation our Lord has provided.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 98** (*Duke Street: Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord new songs of praise with one accord!

Wonderful things our God has done: Jesus has our salvation won!

Now is God's saving mercy known; His glory to the world is shown.

Faithful and kind is God our Lord; earth has the Name of Jesus heard.

Raise to the Lord your loudest voice! Break forth and sing! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Praise, praise to You our God and King, with all our hearts and strength we bring!

Now let the whole creation 'round burst into song with joyous sound!

Jesus will come to judge the earth; let all proclaim His matchless worth!

## 6 Filthy

*Pray Psalm 102.1, 2.*

Hear my prayer, O LORD,  
And let my cry come to You.  
Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble;  
Incline Your ear to me;  
In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

*Read Isaiah 64.6-12*

*Reflect.*

1. How does Isaiah describe himself and the people of Judah and Jerusalem? Do you feel comfortable describing yourself that way?
2. What does Isaiah want God to do?

*Meditate.*

Isaiah says he and his people are unclean, like a filthy rag; they are a dead and withered leaf, full of iniquities and blown about by the wind. No one is seeking the Lord; no one stretches out his hand to lay hold on Him (vv. 6, 7). Because of this, God has hidden His face from the people, and allowed them to be consumed by their sins (v. 7).

It is important to note that Isaiah includes himself in this mess. One of the problems growing in today's churches is that we don't think of ourselves like this. We say, "God knows me, and He loves me as I am." We think God doesn't make a big deal out of sin, so neither do we.

But we are wrong if we think this way.

God's hiding His face from His people means several things. His Spirit is no longer strong among them (Ezek. 39.29). His Word is no longer powerful among them (Ps. 119.135). The strength of the Lord is gone from among them (Ps. 105.4), and they are ensnared by trouble on every hand (Ps. 104.29, 30). The grace of the Lord has abandoned them to the consequences of their sin (Num. 6.22-27), and they are about to be devoured by their enemies (Deut. 31.17, 18).

But Isaiah does not give up on God. He calls on God, Who created His people (v. 8), to turn away His fury, look upon Israel's desolation, remove their afflictions, and return them to His peace (vv. 9-12). He is praying, that is, for God to *revive* His people, to *renew* His covenant and their prowess, so that the nations may be *awakened* to the great salvation of the Lord.

As we shall see, the Lord responds to such prayer, eagerly, graciously, gloriously, and far beyond our expectations.

*Prepare.*

1. What conditions in the Church today suggest that, like Isaiah, we should be seeking the Lord for revival?
2. From what we see in Isaiah's prayer, what would be the key elements to include when praying for revival?
3. When we pray for revival, what are we seeking? That is, what do we want God to do? What will tell us that He has begun to answer our prayers?

*The Lord will therefore restrain his chastisements; for his glory, which he cannot disregard, is deeply involved in our deliverance from death. To this prayer, therefore, let us betake ourselves whenever we are attacked by our enemies; not in the manner of hypocrites, (who haughtily boast of the glory of God, of which they have no experience whatever,) but with repentance and faith, that we may actually obtain the fruit of that glory.* John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on Isaiah 64.12*

*Revive me today, O Lord, so that I...*

*Pray Psalm 102.*

The psalmist recognizes how frail and far from God he is. Let this psalm lead you to repentance and in seeking the Lord for revival and renewal.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 102** (*Leominster: Not What My Hands Have Done*)

Lord, hear my prayer and cry; hide not Your face from me!  
In my distress and tears I sigh – Lord, hear my earnest plea!  
My days like smoke blow past; my bones are scorched with sin.  
My heart, like wilted, withered grass bends low to earth again.

With loudest groans and cries, and leanness in my soul,  
no shel’ring place arrests my eyes, no rest to make me whole.  
My enemies grow strong; I weep with bitter tears;  
my days are like a shadow, long; God’s face is no more near.

But You, O Lord, abide forever in Your place.  
Arise and stand on Zion’s side and lavish us with grace!  
Revive Your Church, O Lord! Let all her dust and stones  
be strengthened by Your mighty Word, and compact be as one.

Then let the nations fear the glory of the Lord!  
For He shall in His Church appear to heed our sighing words.  
Then let our children learn to praise the Lord above.  
He hears their groans and knows they yearn to dwell within His love.

Yet let us tell God’s Name and praise His glorious grace;  
let all as one His love proclaim together in this place.  
Though now our strength is low; though shortened grow our days,  
our God will not forsake us so, but keep us in His ways!

Of old You made the earth and heavens by Your hand.  
Though they shall perish You endure; forever shall You stand.  
They change, yet You remain the same, without an end.  
Our children shall Your favor gain, and theirs shall be Your friend.

## 7 For His Glory

*Pray Psalm 98.1.*

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
For He has done marvelous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

*Review Isaiah chapters 63, 64.*

*Reflect.*

1. Judgment and salvation go together, as we see in these chapters. Why? How can you see that salvation is all of grace?
2. When we pray like Isaiah, for the reviving of God's people, what are we seeking? What do we expect God to do?

*Meditate.*

The great salvation of the Lord comes with wrath. The judgment of God for our sins falls on the Servant, Who comes to suffer on our behalf, so that He might deliver us from our afflictions into the grace and promises of God.

Isaiah understood and believed this, and it led him to pray, seeking the mercy and Presence of the Lord for the salvation of His people. Above all, he sought the glory of God in the sight of the nations of the world. When we seek more of God's great salvation, and when we pray for revival, we must be sure that what we ultimately seek is the glory of Him Who saves. He took our sins upon Himself, and grants us forgiveness and life by grace alone. As we increase in the salvation of the Lord, we will glorify Him in even the most everyday aspects of our lives.

Great is the salvation Isaiah foresaw, and which we have begun to know through Jesus Christ! But there is always more of Jesus, more of God's salvation, more of His glory to be realized. Let us seek Him earnestly and often, that He might rend the heavens and come down into our midst, reviving and renewing us, and sending us to the world with the message of His salvation and glory.

*Prepare.*

1. What does it mean to increase in the salvation of the Lord? How does increasing in our great salvation bring God glory?
2. What do we learn from Isaiah's prayer about dealing with the sins that continue to show up in our lives?
3. What's your primary takeaway from Isaiah 63 and 64?

*For since they are unable to mollify the one who could save them with their own works and blameless lives, they now take another route. They ask him as the creator of his own work to be reasonable and sparing with those who were brought into being and life by him.... "We are not unaware that we have offended you; we confess that we showed ourselves to deserve judgment and acted savagely towards the Son." Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 5.6.64.8-9*

*Lord, cleanse me of all unrighteousness, and show me more of Your great salvation, so that I can...*

*Mighty to Save: Isaiah 63, 64*

*Pray Psalm 98.*

As you pray, meditate on all the ways God has made His great salvation known to you. Rejoice in Him, glorify Him, and pray for a greater realization of His grace for the day ahead.

*Sing to the Lord.*

**Psalm 98** (*Duke Street: Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord new songs of praise with one accord!  
Wonderful things our God has done: Jesus has our salvation won!

Now is God's saving mercy known; His glory to the world is shown.  
Faithful and kind is God our Lord; earth has the Name of Jesus heard.

Raise to the Lord your loudest voice! Break forth and sing! Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Praise, praise to You our God and King, with all our hearts and strength we bring!

Now let the whole creation 'round burst into song with joyous sound!  
Jesus will come to judge the earth; let all proclaim His matchless worth!

*Mighty to Save: Isaiah 63, 64*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. Chapter 63 taps into Genesis 49:8-12. In what ways? What should we learn by putting both of these passages together?
2. Why was it necessary for the great salvation of God to come with judgment?
3. In effect, Isaiah scripted a prayer for God's people to use in preparing for His coming salvation. Why did he do that? Do we know how to pray as we should? Has the Lord scripted any other prayers for us?
4. Why is it important to seek the Lord for repentance, revival, and renewal? Can we realize any of these apart from prayer? Explain.
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from Isaiah 63 and 64? How are you putting that lesson to work in your life?

*For prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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Thank you.