

Isaiah 63 — “The Lord Mighty to Save”

1. The Warrior Redeemer (Isaiah 63:1–6)

“Who is this who comes from Edom,
With dyed garments from Bozrah,
This One who is glorious in His apparel,
Traveling in the greatness of His strength?
— ‘I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.’”
— *Isaiah 63:1 (NKJV)*

Before the full restoration of Israel and the coming Kingdom, Isaiah sees a terrifying yet majestic vision—the day of the Lord’s vengeance, the time of great tribulation. In prophetic imagery, One approaches from Edom, His garments stained red like one who has tread the winepress. The prophet asks, “*Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads the winepress?*”

The answer is solemn and powerful:

“I have trodden the winepress alone,
And from the peoples no one was with Me.
For I have trodden them in My anger,
And trampled them in My fury;
Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,
And I have stained all My robes.”
— *Isaiah 63:3 (NKJV)*

This is a picture of the righteous judgment of God. The Lord Himself executes justice upon the nations that have rebelled against Him. Revelation 14 and 19 pick up this same imagery, describing Jesus—the One called *Faithful and True*—who rides forth in righteousness to judge and make war, clothed with a robe dipped in blood (Revelation 19:11–15).

This is not the suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 but the returning King, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, coming to avenge the blood of His people and to put an end to all rebellion.

“For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.”
— *Isaiah 63:4 (NKJV)*

Judgment and redemption are two sides of the same coin. The same God who judges sin is the One who redeems the repentant. Those who reject His grace must face His justice, but those who trust in His mercy will share in His salvation.

Practical Application:

God’s patience is not weakness—it is mercy. But His justice will not sleep forever. If you have not yet turned to Christ, now is the time. The same Jesus who came once in humility will come again in power. The robe once stained with His own blood for our salvation will one day be stained with the blood of His enemies in judgment.

2. The Prayer of the Remnant (Isaiah 63:7–19)

After this vision of judgment, Isaiah turns from wrath to worship. He intercedes on behalf of the faithful remnant of Israel and reflects upon God’s mercy through the generations.

“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord
And the praises of the Lord,
According to all that the Lord has bestowed on us,
And the great goodness toward the house of Israel.”
— *Isaiah 63:7 (NKJV)*

Even in the shadow of coming judgment, Isaiah’s heart is drawn to God’s steadfast love. It’s a reminder that even when God must act in justice, He never stops being good. His mercy has always defined His dealings with His people.

a. God’s Identification with His People

“In all their affliction He was afflicted,
And the Angel of His Presence saved them;
In His love and in His pity He redeemed them;
And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.”
— *Isaiah 63:9 (NKJV)*

This is one of the most tender verses in the Old Testament. God does not watch our suffering from a distance—He enters into it. When His people are afflicted, *He is afflicted*.

This verse points us to Christ, who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). When we suffer, He suffers with us. When we are persecuted, He stands beside us. Jesus said to Saul on the Damascus road, “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*” (Acts 9:4). In every wound of the believer, the Savior feels the pain.

b. The Tragedy of Rebellion

“But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;
So He turned Himself against them as an enemy,
And He fought against them.”
— *Isaiah 63:10 (NKJV)*

Despite God’s mercy, Israel rebelled. Their hardness of heart turned divine fellowship into divine opposition. Yet even in judgment, God remembered His covenant. Isaiah recalls the days of Moses—the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and fire, the miracles of deliverance—and he cries out for renewal.

c. The Plea for God’s Mercy

“Look down from heaven,
And see from Your habitation, holy and glorious.
Where are Your zeal and Your strength,

The yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me?
Are they restrained?”
— *Isaiah 63:15 (NKJV)*

Isaiah’s prayer reflects deep longing. He pleads for the Lord to once again display His power and compassion. The prophet doesn’t argue Israel’s worthiness; he appeals to God’s nature—His mercy, His covenant faithfulness, His eternal love.

“You, O Lord, are our Father;
Our Redeemer from everlasting is Your name.”
— *Isaiah 63:16 (NKJV)*

Even when Abraham and Israel—the patriarchs—could not intercede, the people still looked to their true Redeemer. God’s fatherly compassion is not rooted in ethnicity but in relationship.

d. The Cry for Restoration

“O Lord, why have You made us stray from Your ways,
And hardened our heart from Your fear?
Return for Your servants’ sake,
The tribes of Your inheritance.”
— *Isaiah 63:17 (NKJV)*

Isaiah acknowledges that sin hardens the heart and creates distance from God. His prayer is both a confession and a plea: “*Lord, come back to us. We are Yours.*”

He closes with grief that the holy city has been desecrated:

“Your holy people have possessed it but a little while;
Our adversaries have trodden down Your sanctuary.
We have become like those over whom You never ruled,
Those who were never called by Your name.”
— *Isaiah 63:18–19 (NKJV)*

3. Timeless Truths and Application

a. God’s Justice Is Certain

The wrath of God described here is not a relic of the Old Testament—it is part of His unchanging character. He is patient, but He is also holy. The same God who judges the nations will one day hold every person accountable for how they responded to His truth (Romans 2:5–6).

Application: Don’t mistake God’s patience for indifference. His silence is not His approval. The day of vengeance is real, but so is the invitation to mercy.

b. God's Mercy Is Personal

"In all their affliction, He was afflicted." When you suffer, God is not distant. He feels your pain, carries your burdens, and walks with you through the valley. His love does not vanish in your darkest hour—it shines brightest there.

Application: When trials press hard, look to the One who was "mighty to save." Jesus not only bore your sins; He bears your sorrows.

c. God's People Are Called to Pray

Isaiah's response to judgment is not despair but intercession. He prays for renewal, remembering God's past deliverances as fuel for faith.

Application: In times when it feels like culture has turned from God and the church is under pressure, our call is not to retreat—but to pray. Let the prayer of Isaiah be ours: *"Look down from heaven, O Lord, and have mercy."*

4. A Challenge to Believers

Believer, you live between two great realities—the cross and the crown. The same Jesus who shed His blood for you will return to judge the world in righteousness.

So live in holiness, not compromise. Be an intercessor, not an observer. Let your heart echo Isaiah's longing: *"Return, O Lord, for Your servants' sake."*

Be steadfast in prayer, faithful in witness, and full of compassion for those still outside of Christ.

5. An Invitation to the Lost

Isaiah 63 shows both sides of God's heart—wrath against sin and mercy toward sinners. The One who treads the winepress of judgment is the same One who was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5).

Jesus bore the wrath of God on the cross so that you would never have to face it. But if you reject His mercy, you must face His justice alone.

Today, He offers forgiveness, freedom, and eternal life. The same Lord who is *"mighty to save"* still speaks righteousness to all who will listen.

If you are ready to turn from sin and receive His mercy, pray from your heart:

*"Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God.
Thank You for dying for me and rising again.
Forgive my sins and make me new.
I surrender my life to You as my Savior and my Lord.
Help me to follow You and walk in Your ways.
In Your name I pray, Amen."*

When you pray that sincerely, He will save you—not because of your worthiness, but because of His mercy. You will no longer stand among those facing wrath, but among those redeemed by grace.

Conclusion

Isaiah 63 is both a warning and a comfort. It reminds us that God’s justice is certain, His compassion is deep, and His salvation is available.

The Lord is mighty to save, but He is also righteous to judge. Those who reject Him will face His fury; those who trust Him will share in His glory.

Let us live ready—looking for His coming, praying for His mercy, and proclaiming His salvation until the day when the Redeemer returns in power and the world finally sees that He is both the Judge of all the earth and the Savior of all who believe.

“For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.”

— *Isaiah 63:4 (NKJV)*