

Have you ever wondered, “Where is the Lord?”

I have come to learn that people think of God differently and for different reasons.

I grew up in a church where I learned that God loves me, and I should never be concerned about that.

I did not fear God and hardly ever thought about judgment.

And then I began to read the Bible and within ten years became terrified of coming judgment.

I think I've learned better now about the love and holy righteousness of the Lord.

Some people wonder where God is and wish that he would be nearer.

There are things that we want Him to do, and stuff I'd like to ask Him.

Others think that God is far away and would like Him to stay away and mind His own business.

God is scary and we'd just as well not have to think about Him and Him not think about us.

The answer to all from the Scriptures is this, “The Lord is coming. He is on His way in His own time.”

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming as a mighty warrior.

There are two great questions that the prophet Isaiah has asked and answered in his prophesy.

The first has to do with all the sin, rebellion, and corruption in His people and in the world.

What is God going to do about it? He cannot just ignore it, can He?

No. Over and over we have read that He is coming in judgment.

God is going to deal with his own people, and does so with Assyria and then Babylon.

And, He is going to deal with the entire world in His wrath and judgment.

The second question has to do with his own sinful people. How will God keep His promises to them?

They are in trouble with their God. The covenant convicts them of sin and sentences them to death.

But how will they be rescued? How will they be saved from that which they deserve?

We have read that the Lord is coming Himself. The Messiah, a man who is God Himself, is coming.

He is coming as a great King over all the nations on the earth.

He is coming as a suffering Servant with compassion for his people.

He is coming as a conquering warrior to rescue His people and crush his enemies.

And, so, God's people must look to Him, waiting obediently and praying.

Beginning in Isaiah 63:15 to then end of the book we read prayers and God's answers to those prayers.

This passage is in preparation for the prayers of Isaiah and the people of God...

and the Lord's answers to those prayers, beginning in **Isaiah 63:15-16** and the rest of the book.

I. The Lord is coming in vengeance.

Isaiah 63:1-6

Remember that most prophesy in the OT (certainly Isaiah) is poetic discourse.

Isaiah 63 begins with two questions, each followed by an answer.

The first question takes up most of verse 1, with the answer in the last line.

The second question you can see in verse 2, with the answer being all of verses 3-6.

The first question is a simple one, “Who is this?”

It is as if the watchmen of Israel are standing on the ramparts, watching, waiting for their Messiah.

They see Him coming out of the desert. Strange that He would come from there.

Edom was a red country with a red heritage... the descendants of Esau lived there.

And God's people seem not to recognize Him. He is coming as a warrior to save.

Isaiah 52:7-10 He is coming for comfort. He is coming to redeem. He is coming to save.

Recall when Israel saw their sin and realized they were hopeless and helpless to save themselves?

Isaiah 59:15c-20 Your Messiah has dressed Himself to save.

Who is this? He answers the question at the end of Isaiah 63:1,

“It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” It is a unique way to put it.

Righteousness is His language. Salvation is His mission.

But this brings about the next question.

The next question is about His apparel, “Why are Your garments red, like someone who treads the wine press?”
The answer is gruesome, and difficult to contemplate, “I have trodden the winepress alone...”

What is the Lord saying? Verses 3-6

To understand the imagery, you must understand what a winepress is...

But, in this winepress there are not grapes, but rather, people with whom God is angry.

This is a terrifying picture of the wrath of God, and it is not the only place in the Bible where we see it.

Joel 3:11-13 The Valley of the Verdict of God

The vision of the reaping of the wicked at the end of the age. **Revelation 14:17-20**

Who is it that does the trodding of the wine press?

Revelation 19:11-15 It is Jesus the mighty warrior.

Isaiah 63:3 We see that Jesus, the mighty warrior, is the only one who treads the wine press of the wrath of God.

He is the only one who can save. He is the only one who is worthy to exercise the vengeance of God.

We see this throughout the four verses comprising this display of God’s wrath and salvation.

There is a day coming, a day of terrible wrath and vengeance.

Revelation 6:17 says about that day of wrath, “For who is able to stand?”

Isaiah 7:9 reminds us that “If you will not stand by faith you will not stand at all.”

Romans 14:4 says, “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?”

It is before his own master that he stands or falls.

And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”

Jude 1:24 looks to God in faith, “To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.”

There is no one else with authority to carry out the wrath of God.

There is no one else able to make you stand before the almighty.

For that day is also a day of salvation and rescue for God’s people whom He loves.

II. The Lord is coming to save.

Isaiah 63:7-14

Because that is what He has always done for His people, because of who He is.

Twice in verse 7 we read of the “steadfast love” of the Lord. NAS, KJV, “lovingkindness”

This is the Hebrew word “hesed” meaning God’s special loving covenant faithfulness.

He keeps all His promises to His beloved children. He is faithful. He loves His people.

What follows verse 7 are four steps in the display of God’s steadfast love (hesed) from the history of Israel.

This is a “recounting,” the “making mention” of the “steadfast love of the Lord.”

In each of these steps we will see, each in a different way, the nature of the “steadfast love of the Lord.”

Isaiah is telling of the faithful love of God from the history of Israel.

vs. 8 His intention to save His children.

He picked them out among all the people of the earth to be His children. He chose them to love them.

And he chose them so that He would be their savior.

vs. 9 His suffering with them in their distress.

When they were in Egypt, the Lord was with them, and He hurt for them. **Exodus 3:7**

So He sent Moses to save them. **Exodus 6:6-8**

He led them through the sea, provided food and water for them, defeated their enemies.

And He brought them to Himself. **Exodus 19:4-6**

vs. 10 His grief when they rebelled and rejected Him, and then His opposition.

This is the experience of any parent when their child rejects them, disobeys them, and chases other gods.

But with God it is all the more serious because he is our creator and our only rightful master.

So, the Lord turned against them because they turned against Him.

But the Lord was not content to remain the enemy of His own precious children.
He remembered his steadfast love.

vs. 11-14 His remembering how He cared for them and led them and gave them rest.
And they remembered Him.

Where is He...? We miss Him. Life was good when we walked with the Lord.
So the Lord led His people back to Himself.

This is who God is and what he does and why He does what He does.

He really wants to save His people. He wants to save you.

So many times we think that the Lord is angry and wants to destroy his people.

The Lord is a mighty warrior and really wants to come to your rescue.

But He cannot save you if you are unwilling.

I would like to close the warning and this view of the love of God with a passage from **Hebrews 12:18-25**.

Jesus came and died to save you and rescue you from the wrath to come.

This is who God is and the reason that we pray and ask Him to save us now. He wants to rescue you.

Do not refuse Him.