

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes: Isaiah Chapter 62 - 64

6/25/14

Chapter 62 Study Notes

Zion's New Name

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. **2** The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. **3** You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. **4** No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. **5** As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you. **6** I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, **7** and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. **8** The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; **9** but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary." **10** Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. **11** The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.' " **12** They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

62:1-7 Many commentators believe Isaiah is speaking in verse 1. If so, Isaiah's zeal for his people and his desire to see the work of salvation completed caused him to pray without resting, hoping that Israel would be saved. We should have Isaiah's zeal to see God's will done. This is what we mean when we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). It is good to keep praying persistently for others.

62:12 The people of Jerusalem (Zion) will have new names: "the Holy People" and "the Redeemed of the LORD." Believers today also have new names—we are called Christians. In 1 Peter 2:5, we are called "a holy priesthood."

Chapter 63 Study Notes

God's Day of Vengeance and Redemption

1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." **2** Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? **3** "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. **4** For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. **6** I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

63:1-4 Edom was a constant enemy of Israel despite its common ancestry through Isaac (Genesis 25:23). Edom rejoiced at any trouble Israel faced. The imagery in this passage is of a watchman on the wall of Jerusalem, seeing Edom approaching and fearing that the Edomite king in his red garment is leading an attack. But it turns out to be the Lord, in bloodstained clothes, who has trampled and destroyed Edom. Bozrah is a city in Edom. (For other prophecies against Edom, see Amos 1:11-12; Obadiah 1:10-11; Malachi 1:2-4.)

Praise and Prayer

7 I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us-- yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. **8** He said, "Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me"; and so he became their Savior. **9** In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. **10** Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. **11** Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, **12** who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, **13** who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; **14** like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name. **15** Look down from heaven and see from your lofty throne, holy and glorious. Where are your zeal and your might? Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us. **16** But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. **17** Why, O LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance. **18** For a little while your people possessed your holy place, but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary. **19** We are yours from of old; but you have not ruled over them, they have not been called by your name.

63:10 Grieving the Holy Spirit is willfully thwarting his leading by disobedience or rebellion. Isaiah mentions the work of the Holy Spirit more than any other Old Testament writer.

63:15-64:7 On behalf of the faithful remnant, Isaiah asks God for two favors: to show mercy and compassion toward them and to punish their enemies. Before making these requests, Isaiah recited the Lord's past favors, reminding him of his compassion in former days (63:7-14).

Chapter 64 Study Notes

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! **2** As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! **3** For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. **4** Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. **5** You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? **6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. **7** No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. **8** Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. **9** Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people. **10** Your sacred cities have become a desert; even Zion is a desert, Jerusalem a desolation. **11** Our holy and glorious temple, where our fathers praised you, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins. **12** After all this, O LORD, will you hold yourself back? Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

64:1-6 God's appearance is so intense that it is like a consuming fire that burns everything in its path. If we are so impure, how can we be saved? Only by God's mercy. The Israelites had experienced God's presence at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16-19). When God met with Moses, there was a thunderstorm, smoke, and an earthquake. If God were to meet us today, his glory would overwhelm us, especially when we look at our "filthy rags" (64:6).

64:6 Sin makes us unclean so that we cannot approach God (6:5; Romans 3:23) any more than a beggar in filthy rags could dine at a king's table. Our best efforts are still infected with sin. Our only hope, therefore, is faith in Jesus Christ, who can cleanse us and bring us into God's presence (read Romans 3). This passage can easily be misunderstood. It doesn't mean that God will reject us if we come to him in faith, nor that he despises our efforts to please him. It means that if we come to him demanding acceptance on the basis of our "good" conduct, God will point out that our righteousness is but filthy rags compared to his infinite righteousness. This message is primarily for the unrepentant person, not the true follower of God.