

A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

The Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 63:7—65:16


Verse to Remember

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.
Isaiah 63:9

Day 1 — Read Isaiah 63:7–14. Remembrance of the Angel of His Presence

The Intercessory Prayer of the Remnant

In Isaiah 62:6–7 we were introduced to the “watchmen” of Israel who “will never be silent day or night.” These watchmen will continually call upon the LORD. They will give themselves and the LORD no rest until they see Jerusalem established as “the praise of the earth.” The role of the prophet was to be such a watchman, and so in Isaiah 63:7–64:12 we see Isaiah “the prophet, as the representative of his people, pray[ing] to God, expressing thanksgiving and confession as well as beseeching God to be merciful to His people.”¹ Then in chapters 65 and 66 we will see how the Sovereign LORD will respond to Isaiah’s pleas.

1. How does Isaiah begin his intercessory prayer? (Is. 63:7)
2. What is Isaiah recalling about God? (Is. 63:8–9; * Exod. 6:7; Exod. 33:12–17)

How did “the angel of his presence” save Israel in the “days of old” (Is. 63:9)? (Exod. 14:19–20; Exod. 23:20–23)

The Angel of His Presence (Is. 63:9)

The angel of the Lord was a physical manifestation of God’s presence with his people. The fact that he was with them in their distress, being distressed himself, is a demonstration of his love, mercy, and redemption, a foreshadowing of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

3. In spite of a long history of God’s caring for them, what did the people do that caused him to become their enemy? (Is. 63:10; Ps. 78:11–22)
4. Why do you think God’s people remember the days of Moses in Isaiah 63:11–14?

Day 2 — Read Isaiah 63:15—64:7.
Intercession to the Father and Redeemer

1. Isaiah has recounted the “kindnesses” (Is. 63:7a) of God toward his people.
 - a. What hard questions does he now pose?
Is. 63:15b

Is. 63:17a


Is. 64:5c
 - b. What appeals does Isaiah make to God?
Is. 63:15


Is. 63:16, 19a

Is. 63:17b

Is. 64:1-2
 - c. What hope does Isaiah cling to? (Is. 64:4–5a)
2. What is the plight of Israel (and all mankind) without God’s intervention? (Is. 64:5b–7)

Day 3 — Read Isaiah 64:8–12.
Appeal to the Potter

1. What does Isaiah appeal to, in light of his people’s unwillingness to call on God’s name? (Is. 64:8)
2. What does the relationship between the clay and potter convey? (Is. 64:8; Jer. 18:1–6;  Rom. 9:20–21)

Day 3 continues on page 3 

3. What is Isaiah longing for God to see when he cries out in 64:9, “Oh, look upon us, we pray”? (Is. 64:9–11)

Now look at 64:12. How do you think Isaiah wants God to respond to what he has seen?

Days 4 and 5 — Read Isaiah 65:1–16.
The Response of the Sovereign LORD

1. How does the Most High God begin his response to Isaiah’s prayer? (Is. 65:1–3)
2. What does God hold against his people? (Is. 65:2–5, 7b, 11–12)

**Isaiah 65:10–11:
Sharon, Achor, Fortune,
and Destiny**

“Sharon” was rich pasture land in the days of King David but had dried up by the time of Isaiah (Is. 33:9). “Achor” was a valley that represented trouble for Israel (Josh. 7:24–26). The restoration of both places symbolizes great blessing for the whole land.² “Fortune” and “Destiny” are the names of foreign gods, idols who were being worshipped instead of the LORD, “... gods that need to be winned and dined and are yet thought to be the controllers of destiny.”³

Days 4 and 5 continue on page 4 ➡

3. Isaiah 63:1–6 gave us a picture of God’s wrath on the final day of vengeance, when he will trample all the grapes (sinful nations) in the winepress. Now in response to Isaiah’s prayer, God returns to the image of grapes to represent the nation of Israel (📖 Is. 5:1–7). How does the New Testament help us understand what God is saying in 65:8? (Rom. 9:27–29; Rom. 11:1–6)

4. Once God has established that he will preserve a remnant, he goes on to describe what life will be like for this remnant, his chosen servants, and what awaits those who forsake him. Fill in the chart below to contrast the fates of these two groups.

	The remnant, God’s servants		Those who forsake the LORD
Is. 65:8		Is. 65:6–7	
Is. 65:9–10		Is. 65:11–12	
Is. 65:13		Is. 65:13	
Is. 65:14		Is. 65:14	
Is. 65:15		Is. 65:15	
Is. 65:16		Is. 65:15b	

5. Review this week’s passage. Isaiah was in the midst of very difficult times, as we are today. How can Isaiah’s prayer and God’s response help us to quiet our hearts?

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ Edward J. Young, *The Book of Isaiah*, Volume 3 Chapters 40-66 (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2001), 480.

² J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1993), 527.

³ Motyer 527.