

Taking Hold of God

A study of Isaiah's prayer for revival in Israel

Isaiah 63:7 – 64:12

The prayer of Isaiah recorded in these two chapters was a prayer for revival in Israel. According to Romans 15:4, why were these things recorded for us in this church age?

And what was the purpose for Paul's invocation (appeal for God's assistance and blessing) in Romans 15:5-6?

What similarity do you see between Romans 15:6 and the last half of Isaiah 63:14?

Both Isaiah and the Apostle Paul were leading God's people to truly glorify God. However, Isaiah describes the spiritual condition of the people of his day in Isaiah 64:7. Write out that verse below and write a comment or two about their condition:

This prayer provides a model for us to teach us to pray. We can use the acrostic “P.R.A.Y.” (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield) to outline this prayer and to use the same approach to the Lord that Isaiah used. We are studying this prayer to learn how to “stir ourselves up” in order to take hold of God and ask for revival in our own day.

When things were as bad as that, you might expect Isaiah to begin his prayer with their needs. But he did not. How did Isaiah begin his prayer, one chapter earlier, in Isaiah 63:7?

PRAISE

How did Isaiah begin to praise the Lord in Isaiah 63:7? (Note the interesting use of plurals here – indicating “more times that he could count”) What did Isaiah remember?

How can you praise the Lord in a similar way for His work in our congregation?

What did Isaiah remember about the Lord’s intention to transform Israel (63:8-9) and what the Lord had done throughout Israel’s history?

This passage sounds like Romans 8:28-36 where God’s purpose and comfort to us are described. Take a few minutes to praise the Lord and thank Him for His many mercies.

REPENT

When you praise the Lord in this way, it will bring something to mind. What did the people do in return for all God's good kindness, according to Isaiah 63:10a? How is that still going on today?

And how did the Lord respond to their rebellion, according to the last phrase in Isaiah 63:10?

ASK

Even in the midst of our rebellion, verses 11-14 remind us to remember the Lord and His remarkable works of deliverance. The two questions in Isaiah 63:11 begin with the same three words. What are those three words?

How does this sound similar to the question asked in 2 Kings 2:14?

What events were brought to mind, according to Isaiah 63:11-14?

One of the most important things to remember is to remember that God's people remembered!

According to the last phrases in Isaiah 63:12 and 14, what was the Lord's purpose in delivering and leading His people?

How did Isaiah use this in his prayerful appeal for the glorious name of God, according to Isaiah 63:16 and 64:2?

In the New Testament, how is the greatness of God's name reflected in Paul's commission in Romans 1:5?

What appeals did Isaiah make in his prayer in Isaiah 63:15 and 64:1?

He was appealing to the Lord for an amazing work that would demonstrate God's magnificent glory in this world.

Isaiah 63:17 may sound as if Isaiah is blaming God, but he was not. He was remembering the consequence of the people's rebellion (see Isaiah 63:10), but he longed for his people to return to the fear of God. In fact, what was the earnest desire expressed in Isaiah's words in Isaiah 64:2?

How does Isaiah 64:4 – 5a help you to continue waiting on the lord and remember His ways?

Yet what had the people been doing for a long time, according to Isaiah 64:5b?

At the end of verse 5, Isaiah asked in amazement, “and we shall be saved?” In our day, what should we expect to happen if our society continually gives itself over to sin and rebellion?

What were the consequences of the sin of the people, according to verse 6?

Yet, what was not happening, according to verse 7?

How can you make sure that this happens in our day?

When we have praised the Lord, repented of sin, and asked the Lord for His blessing, what should we do next?

YIELD

How does Isaiah 64:8-9 indicate that Isaiah was leading his people to yield to the Lord?

In what ways should you submit yourself as clay to the hand of the Lord, the Master Potter, today?

Isaiah 64:10-11 reveals a prophecy that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Yet even with this prophecy, Isaiah made an appeal to the Lord. How did he ask the Lord not to forsake His people (verse 12)?

Take time to read this prayer of Isaiah again and again. Learn how to P.R.A.Y. to ask the Lord for revival in our day.