

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 138--Isaiah 63:1-65:16

Introduction: Chapter 63 of Isaiah begins with a picture of God's judgment upon Edom for their sins. What would keep God from rendering a similar judgment against His own sinful people? Isaiah answers this question, by reviewing God's gracious provision and protection of Israel in the past, praying that God might again show mercy to them (63:7-64:12). In chapter 65 God answers that prayer by distinguishing between the faithful and the unfaithful, indicating His righteous judgment of the wicked but His preservation and blessing of a faithful remnant.

Lesson aim: To show God's mercy toward those who repent and His righteous judgment against those who continue in sin.

God's vengeance upon Edom--Isaiah 63:1-6

1. Who is the one who comes from Edom? (v. 1) How is He described?
2. Why was the garments of this one red? (v. 2-5)

The prophet reviews Israel's history--Isaiah 63:7-14

1. Of what two features of God does Isaiah make mention? (v. 7)
2. What hopes had God expressed for Israel? (v. 8)
3. To what event(s) does Isaiah refer in v. 9?
4. How had Israel responded to God's wonderful works among them? (v. 10) What did this cause God to do?
5. What questions does the prophet raise in v. 11-14? What might their purpose be?

A plea for God's mercy--Isaiah 63:15-64:12

1. Upon what basis does Isaiah hope the nation might receive God's mercy? (v. 16) The nation has become like what? (v. 19)
2. What are those who pray this prayer wanting God to do? (64:1-3)
3. What use of the words of Isaiah 64:4 does Paul make in 1 Cor. 2:9?
4. Who is God said to meet? (v. 5) Could Israel expect to be saved in their sins? (v. 5) How does Isaiah characterize the people? (v. 6-7)
5. What then does Isaiah call upon God to do? (v. 9-12) On what basis does he ask Him to do this? (v. 8)

God's answer to the prayer of Isaiah in behalf of the people--Isaiah 65:1-25

1. What is God's answer to the plea to save the nation of Israel? (v. 1) Who are these people? (See Rom. 10:20)
2. Who are the people of v. 2? (See Rom. 10:21) What had their attitude been? (v. 2) Enumerate some of the things they had done. (v. 3-5)
3. What does God promise He will do to those who had sinned against him? (v. 6-7)
4. Did God's purpose to destroy include the whole nation? (v. 8-10) What about those who bowed down to "Fortune" and "Destiny"? (v. 11-12, NASV)
5. Contrast the destiny of the righteous with the wicked (v. 13-16)