

## We All Do Fade as a Leaf

Isaiah 64:1 – 65:2

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~ After a severely disturbing and distressing lesson from Isaiah in chapter sixty-three of his prophecy, this leg of our Spiritual Safari brings us the resulting prayer of the remnant of the nation Israel; and it is, appropriately, a pleading prayer they offer up to the Lord. Our previous report probably reduced my reader base to only a remnant, too – but I can't worry about that. In the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, we began to see an afflicted nation Israel crying out for God to look down upon them from Heaven and behold them from His habitation of holiness and glory. Simply put, they were calling on God to move; to act in mercy on their behalf. In this chapter, we have a continuation of that prayer as God's total and complete control of the universe is finally recognized — as is man's utterly lost condition — and these lessons should facilitate confession to God in prayer.

This is another profoundly neglected section of Scripture. I am sure almost none of you have ever heard a proper, correct and complete teaching of, or a sermon from, these last several chapters; so I have attempted to emphasize them as strongly as I know how to. It is important because it reveals why I hold the pre-millennial prophetic viewpoint, why I believe Christ is coming to gather His church unto Himself before the Great Tribulation period begins, and why I believe Christ will return *AFTER THAT* to establish His earthly Millennial Kingdom. This is not an unsustainable prophetic theory that some unsaved, half-baked theologian concocted a few years ago, as the amillennialist would have you believe; no, friends, this is something that Isaiah says – and, if you take the entirety of Scripture, this is the only viewpoint that fits the program. That, my friends, is precisely why we teach the *WHOLE* Bible on this safari.

Most contemporary Bible teaching is conducted by individuals with a personal agenda of building a following, selling books, and receiving donations. They are people who know absolutely nothing about the Bible; so, they simple-mindedly string together one or two verses, and form a

personal philosophy of religion that is well-pleasing to the natural and worldly man. Unfortunately, they are only making merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth is not in them. The world *ALWAYS* loves and supports that type of heresy and blaspheme, too, by the way; so, they usually do quite well financially. Well, I have painstakingly combed this book of the Bible, verse by verse, so there is literally *NO WAY* anyone can accuse me of that tactic; nor can they challenge my teachings on any level. The Word of God, when rightly divided, doesn't allow us to grab a fractured passage here, and a disconnected verse there, to prove some particular personal propagandized theory of interpretation. No, whatever doctrinal position you hold must be fitted down in *ANY* part of the Bible – or it's no good to anyone for anything.

If your prophetic theory doesn't fit, then you need to grow into another shoe size. Most people treat the Bible the same way a lady once went to buy shoes. The salesman asked her, *"what size shoe do you wear?"* She replied, *"I can get into a size four; but – because a size five feels so much better I always buy a six – and sometimes a seven."* Friends, that's exactly the way most people's prophetic theories unfold when we get right down to that place where the Word of God wants to speak to our hearts – nothing really ever quite fits – so they just begin to make it all up as they go along. Then, their spiritual walk becomes uncomfortable. Well, that's just not going to work for me; and it won't be satisfactory for you, either, if you truly love the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God....

## **LXIV**

***1 Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence,***

***2 As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence!***

***3 When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.***

***4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.***

***5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.***

***6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.***

***7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.***

***8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.***

***9 Be not wroth very sore, O LORD, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.***

***10 Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.***

***11 Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste.***

***12 Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O LORD? wilt thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore?***

~ Isaiah is a representative of the remnant of the nation Israel in that future day that we are talking about. Isaiah is using what is known as the “*prophetic tense*” here; which looks back from the other side of an event as if it had already happened. During the Great Tribulation period, the remnant of Israel is going to plead with God exactly as it is written here. See, all Scripture is written *FOR* us but not all Scripture is written *TO* us!

Even so, I think we can identify with these people at this time — because we are told that our prayer today should be, “...*even so, come, Lord Jesus.*” It would be wonderful if Christ would come for His church before I even finish this paragraph. The spirit of the bride now saith, “*come, Thou.*” However, let’s be careful not to horn in where we aren’t welcome by trying to apply this only to the church – because that is a *HUGE* mistake. An invitation for the world to come to Him is given here; but it is first and foremost an invitation for Jehovah to come to the remnant of the nation Israel *IN THAT DAY*. When we consider this, in the fulness of the last several chapters, it is clear that Isaiah concludes accordingly.

Modern theology has developed endless gimmicks and schemes that are wholly unbiblical. The proliferation is so great that I suppose it shouldn’t surprise me how many people are deceived with prophecy. Of course, if one approaches the Bible in a sensational and emotional manner, it will likely be very profitable. If you teach the Bible properly, correctly and completely, as we do in this expedition through the entire Word of God, you’ll quickly discover the donations are exactly enough to continue you in perpetual poverty. Just as fire makes water boil, the presence of God - presented in a genuine and authoritative way - makes the nations tremble; and the nations don’t enjoy trembling.

This world is simply not conscious of the existence of God today. Most people wonder how the United States could sit down and negotiate with a nation like Russia, China or Iran; well, I’ll tell you how: because we are just as godless and debased as they are. There is no prayer or turning to the Lord Jesus Christ today; and there is no recognition of the Word of God as the authority. *IN THAT DAY*, as the world reaches the end of the age, that is going to change. At the time of the birth of Jesus, there was an expectation because of their awareness of the totally depraved condition of mankind. Even several Roman historians have documented and called attention to that fact. When the world least expects it, the mountains will melt. That’s when the world will cry out for God to help them; but the mountains will fall on them, and their crying won’t be heard.

**1 Corinthians 2:** *9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him ~*

Paul quotes verse four of Isaiah chapter sixty-four differently in his epistle to the Corinthians. Paul goes on to say that these things have been revealed unto us by the Holy Spirit today. *IN THAT DAY* the nation Israel is going to have to wait for revelation until Christ returns and establishes His earthly Kingdom. Even so, for us today, it is said that we “... *see through a glass darkly, but then, face to Face.*” That’s the proper procedure for the church to identify with these truths – because we also have a hope in the rapture. It is an altogether different hope; because we are looking for Christ to remove His church from the world. But the nation Israel *IN THAT DAY* will be looking for the Millennial Kingdom to be established by their Messiah. I cannot stress the importance of understanding that difference enough. If you do not receive that one truth, you will probably miss *ALL* Scriptural truth.

To be honest – because I always am honest with you dear readers – the only people who seem to miss this and deny it are theologians. I’m not sure why they don’t know up from down, and down from up; but the church is going *UP* to Heaven before Christ comes *DOWN* in judgment. In this life, if we don’t know the fundamentally basic difference between up and down, then it is simply impossible to form correct thinking patterns and, therefore, impossible to be of any help to other people in any situation. Most theology is utterly inverted. Naturally, this all begins with an acknowledgement of *S-I-N-S*, my beloved – and that’s exactly what the pseudo-theologian neglects to do – every single time – and they refuse to confess their sins for one reason and one reason only: because they have no assurance in the redemption of our Savior!

Verse six is likely used as much as any other to reveal the sin of mankind. I use it all the time, because it establishes the fact that man has no righteousness, in and of himself. It is true of the entire human family, and it is true of the nation Israel. *ALL* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. *ALL* of us are an unclean thing. *NONE* are righteous; no, not one. Now, make sure you read this *VERY* carefully, friends: I don’t care what you call

“good works” – anything this flesh produces is feces to God – I don’t care how good it looks or sounds. You might be capable of giving enough money to house every homeless person, feed every orphan, and comfort every widow on the topside of this earth – but it means absolutely nothing to God. I know that’s difficult to accept; but it is *IMPOSSIBLE* to bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. There’s no sense trying to straighten me out on this because if you think I am wrong, then it just so happens to be *Y-O-U* who is wrong. The lost sinner can do *NOTHING* acceptable to God except to accept Him as their Savior. In order to accept Christ and come to God, you will *HAVE* to do it God’s way – or you just won’t come to Him. Period. full stop.

Verse eight brings up another subject that is tragically misunderstood, misused, confused, and abused today. God is our Father by creation in His image; but man lost that image in chapter three of Genesis, when Adam fell to sin. The New Testament “*sons of God*” has nothing to do with creation. It’s on an altogether different basis. Today, we can become ‘sons of God’ one way and one way only: in Christ Jesus! John said, “*....as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God....*” Isaiah is recognizing God as our Creator as a Potter Who creates vessels to be utilized.

Collectively, the nation Israel recognized God as the Father of the nation; but Old Testament Scriptures show no trace of a personal sonship. Moses is called a servant. Joshua – servant. Samuel – servant. Ezra – servant. Nehemiah – servant. David – servant. All the way down the line – servants. We desperately need to realize this important distinction between Israel and the church, and dispose of the irreverent, distasteful “*King Daddy*” talk when speaking of God, friends; because it only reveals that you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ – and that He does not know *YOU*.

Verse ten and eleven was not true when Isaiah wrote his prophecy – but it came to pass very shortly afterward. When Babylon took Judah into captivity, we’re told that Nebuchadnezzar “*.... burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. And all the army of the Chaldees,*

*that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about....”* This prophecy was all literally fulfilled in Isaiah’s day.

Today, the temple is still destroyed, and the Mosque of Omar stands on the Temple Mount — on the threshing floor of Araunah that David purchased to build it on. The Palestinian currently considers Jerusalem *THEIR* capital – *NOT* the capital of Israel. Well, that all leads Isaiah to close this chapter with a question in verse twelve. God answers that question in the remainder of this prophecy. God rejected Israel *after* Israel rejected Him. However, that still did not thwart God’s plan and purpose for Israel or for the earth. God carried it all out exactly as He said He would – but His program is still not yet finalized....

## LXV

***1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends another uncomfortable leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with an answer to the question the remnant asked in verse twelve of the previous chapter. It came in the form of a fervent prayer from Isaiah and his kinsmen; pleading with the King to break through the barriers of heaven and return to earth. This chapter constitutes God’s answer, which continues through the remainder of Isaiah.

Their sins have neither changed nor altered God’s plan and purpose for them as a nation in the coming *future* Millennial Kingdom; but their unfaithfulness *IS* responsible for God’s immediate and present judgment upon them. Nonetheless, the Lord has preserved the remnant; through which He will fulfill His promises, and complete the remainder of unfulfilled prophecy in the Bible. This chapter and the next are another vision of the Millennial Kingdom, and a prospectus of the eternal position of Israel in the new Heaven and the new earth. We can say Isaiah’s prophecy concludes in a blaze of glory.

Interestingly, verse one is written to Gentiles; to whom the Gospel has reached as I type this report. Paul quotes this in Philippi as he had the vision of the Man of Macedonia – but Paul discovered there wasn't any man looking for him. None of them wanted to hear the Gospel. In fact, they just wanted Paul to leave. Lydia was holding a prayer meeting down by the river, but she had no idea what she was praying for. That's when Paul brought them the Gospel and said, *"... Isaiah is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me...."* That's Romans chapter ten verse twenty, by the way. The barbarian wasn't standing on the shore by Lydia with their hands in the air, hoping God would send them missionaries. In fact, they killed many of them when they did arrive.

Today, the heathen aren't begging for the Gospel, either. I get tired when I hear the impression given as the church says *"... oh, let's just send the Gospel to them because the world is just begging for it."* No, they're not – not even close. **NOBODY** is begging for the Gospel today. God has initiated a response to people that never would have called upon Him in a billion years — me and you. Personally, I never asked God to save me – and neither did you. He just did it...

***2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts ~***

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