

## To Err From Thy Ways

Isaiah Chapter Sixty-Three

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~ Atheists scoff at the True and Living God of the Old Testament for one reason: because He punishes the sins of evildoers. Their main objection to all things Scriptural, as far as I can tell, after witnessing to tens of thousands of them, is that they do not like the fact that God will judge sin. They can dismiss all other areas of conversation, but not the subject of their sin being judged. That strikes too close to home for them. Even many self-professing believers only want a God who holds us to no accountability for our willful disobedience and conscious rebellion. Most believers, when dealing with unbelievers, seem to allude to a personal, erroneous, preconceived notion that God has somehow changed in the New Testament. The modern misconception of prophecy is that, when Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, He's going to pass out cookies, and pat everyone on the back, while telling everyone else what wonderful little Sunday school angels we are, and how He is so blessed that we decided to worship Him. Well, friends, nothing could possibly be further from the Biblical reality of truth. Our Spiritual Safari through Isaiah has previously brought us some excoriating Scriptural tenets of truth; the likes of which I am confident many of you have never heard before. To say we have had some harsh and ugly lessons from Isaiah is a gross understatement; but, in this report, I can promise you that Isaiah is going to literally horrify you in his vivid teaching of God's judgment.

The number one problem in the modern church today is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. Unfortunately, the average so-called Christian doesn't seem disturbed by their personal untaught, untrained, Bible illiteracy. In fact, most people don't even recognize the problem. Most think they are so smart, while they are, frankly, stupid. Other people say things like, "... Andrew, no one can know everything about the Bible." Well, I may agree with that - but - they say it with a note of bragging about their benighted condition; and it's only an excuse not to study the Bible in a proper, correct and complete manner. I'm not sure who they think they are kidding.

When someone is not interested in a sincere, educated, systematic, daily, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led study of Scripture, then I know immediately that they do not love the Lord Jesus Christ or the Word of God – because that would simply be impossible. See, we don't have to know it all — but, if we do not sincerely desire to know as much as we can about the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit has little to work with in our lives. If you have ever prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment in Holy Writ before – this is certainly the place you will want to do it again before continuing....

***1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.***

***2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?***

***3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.***

***4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.***

***5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.***

***6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.***

~ I find no delight teaching this section of Isaiah – at least not the first six verses of it. The wrath of the winepress reveals what happens when Christ returns to the earth to establish His earthly Kingdom. Even with the burdens and criticism we have already seen in Isaiah, this section of six little verses seems almost out of keeping with the overall content and tenor of

this prophecy. Well, the divine order has always been that judgment precedes the coming of the Kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ is now treading the winepress of the wrath of God.

The method and mechanics used in these first six verses is in the form of an antiphony. Isaiah is, obviously, overwhelmed by God's majesty and beauty. So, we can know very definitely that we are talking about Christ's second advent because, at His first advent, Isaiah told us there was "... *no beauty that we should desire Him.*" That little baby born into abject poverty in Bethlehem had no majesty. Here we see Christ come from Edom and Bozrah, which need to be accounted for as geographical places; however, this does not completely exhaust the mind of the Spirit of God. Edom speaks of the fallen Adamic human race of mankind. This is judgment upon them.

In ancient Israel, men would stand in the winepress bare-footed, and tread out the grapes. As they stepped on the ripe grapes, the juices would spurt out every which way and literally cover them from head to toe. Well, Jesus is treading this winepress out *ALONE* and *NONE* are with Him; and He is furiously angry. Notice that it is *THEIR* blood now – not His. The early church fathers associated these first six verses with Christ's first coming; and they mistook the winepress as speaking of the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. However, I think any reasonable, thinking and discerning person would hold that position untenable; because the blood in this passage is that of *others*. This can only speak of vengeance – not a love for the world so deep that He would die for them. Remember, Isaiah has already said, in our last report, that this is proclaiming the day of vengeance of our God.

Most Bible teachers seem to make a detour in this section of Scripture that has resulted in profound confusion. Jesus shed His Blood at His first coming – and He was certainly trodden down – but here He is doing the treading. I cannot stress the importance of that enough. When Jesus says "*vengeance is in Mine Heart*" – that either scares the living daylights out of us, or the Word of God means nothing to us. It is critical to comprehend that Jesus working out our salvation on the cross, all alone, and the judgment He metes out — all alone — which ushers in the Millennial Kingdom by

vengeance, is going to be a solo work — period. It has nothing to do with Israel *OR* the church building a kingdom.

So, verse six brings the end of man's little day here upon the earth. Most people stick their head in the sand like a proverbial ostrich at this point, because they don't like the frightful and terrifying picture Isaiah is painting with his words. This is where the insincere will turn over and read John chapter fourteen; or some other comfortable passage that doesn't offend their erroneously preconceived misconceptions of Scriptural reality. When people grab verses from Isaiah, they *O-N-L-Y* grab those sweet and lovely passages — while wholly ignoring the theme and the overall subject matter of everything surrounding them. Well, if you are actually reading these reports — it's time to consider this correctly and face the music. Christ will return in fierce judgment.

Can you think of any way God could return and establish His Kingdom other than in judgment? Suppose Jesus returned as He did the first time, as the Man of Galilee, a carpenter in Nazareth — preaching repentance by announcing He is back to take control; what do you think the response would be? Suppose Jesus jumped the fence at the White House, and declared He was going to take command. Do you think the president would welcome Him and relinquish the nuclear codes? Or do you think they would lock Him in Leavenworth before the sun came up the next day? No, friends, no nation on the face of the globe is prepared to turn power over to God today — and neither is any church, by the way. If you believe they *are* prepared to do that, then why don't they?

The earth rejected Jesus two thousand years ago, and that rejection and rebellion against Him has continued ever since — and it continues at this very moment. Now, I can already hear the critic say to me, *"... Andrew, this is the God of the Old Testament, and that is a God of wrath; but the gentle Jesus in the New Testament isn't like that because it's all "love, love, love" in the New Testament."* Well, Revelation is in the New Testament; and it contains *TEN TIMES* stronger judgment than that presented here in Isaiah. In fact, the main reason the Book of Revelation is so misunderstood, and so overly-spiritualized — and almost *always* wrongfully interpreted — is because it is perceived and relegated to being of some private

interpretation; and because of its heavy symbolism it is never popular with the liberal – and all because it contains the most overbearing language of judgment in the entire Bible, with the exception of the words of the Lord Jesus speaking about hell.

**Revelation 16: 1** .... and I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2 And the first went, and poured out his bowl upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. 3 And the second angel poured out his bowl upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 4 And the third angel poured out his bowl upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus ~

Now, if you want to incessantly recite that the Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever – great – but – we haven't reached this time in the plan and program of God because "... every living creature in the sea" isn't dead. I am always amused at the sensational, emotional, self-proclaimed pseudo-scholar of prophecy who thinks we are in the Great Tribulation period; because it is literally impossible to sustain that position – but I digress. Of course, the atheist and other critics retort, "... God isn't fair, righteous or just to do this" when they read this passage from Revelation. Unfortunately for you, God is letting you know that He *IS* being righteous and just when He does this – and we sincere we're referencing the New Testament, let's continue reading Revelation:

**Revelation 16: 6** For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments ~

See, friends, God is always right in what He does; and if you think God is wrong for the problems and heartaches in your own life, then, guess what? – *YOU* are wrong! You can write this all down. God doesn't even care if we

think He is wrong. When we place our judgment on God down next to God's judgments of you, you'll quickly realize your conclusions don't amount to much. Only what God says is of any importance; and when God says "*I am righteous*" and you say, "*God is not righteous*" — it only reveals how wrong you really are. Well, we're not through — and it gets worse:

**Revelation 16: 8** *And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory ~*

Any reasonable, thinking, and sincere-minded person would believe this would cause men to turn to God; but it didn't. All it did was bring out what was really in their hearts. That's what happened to Pharaoh, when God sent the plagues of Egypt. See, this is all in the Word of God — and the "*gentle Jesus*" of the sloppy agape peanut theology crowd just doesn't ring true. When we say God is love and we stop there, while only picking out the comfort of saints, we reveal a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God, friends. There just happens to be love in law — but there is law in His love, too. It is the God of love forming these thoughts through statements we learn in Holy Writ. There is no comfort here; and God intended it that way. These are horrible truths to accept; and a frightful mental picture to contemplate; but wait, we're not through yet:

**Revelation 16: 10** *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds ~*

Make no mistake, when the Lord returns, ferocious judgment ensues. That's the way the Word of God teaches it, and that's the way the Holy Spirit is speaking to us right now. God never asked me to tone this down or make it palatable. God never asked me to apologize for what He promises to do in judgment — so, I don't. God takes care of these difficult matters through His Word. I just give out what He has given to me. And I could write more on this subject, but we need to move on. However, we're going to return to these truths in the Bible....

***7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.***

***8 For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour.***

***9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.***

***10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.***

***11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?***

***12 That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?***

***13 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?***

***14 As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.***

***15 Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?***

***16 Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.***

~ Thank God this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ends with our Lord and Savior remembering His lovingkindness towards His own. I can only thank the Lord that we end this report with the entire content and intent of God's message changing completely. We now come out of abject darkness and into His marvelous light. God is glorious in His holiness. Christ is greatly to be feared in our praises, and He performs wonders and miracles that, without the Word of God, we would know nothing about. We should all thank Him that two of His many attributes are that He is good, and exhibits mercy! If these attributes were not revealed to us, we would all be consumed in a moment.

It seems to me that God has given man an *EXTRA* long time to turn to Him. When God says "*My people*" in verse eight, it refers to the nation Israel; and we know that very definitely because the church, *IN THAT DAY*, will have already gone to be with Him, and in His presence forevermore. That's when a great company of Gentile nations will turn to Him. God expects us to walk well-pleasing in the meantime. Let's stop lying to one another. Let's confess our coldness and indifference towards each other, and ask Him to fill our hearts with the warmth of His true love. The angel of the Lord now goes before us on this so-called safari expedition; and, once again, that angel is none other than the preincarnate Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus went through the wilderness with the nation Israel, but He was never afflicted as they were. When the fiery serpents came upon the mixed-multitude, they didn't come upon Him. God has a Father's tender words for us as He waits patiently for us to learn these things. Quite candidly, I think the Holy Spirit is a little tired of most of us. I'm just trying to keep this real. That means He entered into the suffering of His people – for our deliverance – and He only did it because He loves us. That should cause you to surrender completely and yield your life to Christ. Most people are just afraid to do it because they fear His judgment. Well, God isn't trying to frighten us; but if you have read this report, and you aren't compelled to

turn to Christ today, then there is something radically wrong with you; and that something is: you're lost – damnation is your eternity....

***17 O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.***

***18 The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary.***

***19 We are thine: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name ~***

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