CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 64 — A Plea for God’s Presence and Mercy

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 64 continues the prayer that began near the end of:

Isaiah 63.

Isaiah 63 ended with God's people looking at:

Their suffering.

Their rebellion.

Their ruined sanctuary.

Their spiritual condition.

And crying:

“You are our Father.”

Now Isaiah 64 intensifies that prayer.

The chapter opens with one of the most passionate cries in Scripture:

“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down.”

This is not merely a prayer for:

Better circumstances.

Political change.

Economic improvement.

Military victory.

The deepest request is:

God Himself.

Come down.

Reveal Your presence.

Display Your power.

Make Your name known.

Cause the nations to tremble.

The people remember that there were times in the past when God acted in ways that were:

Awesome.

Unexpected.

Overwhelming.

They remember:

Sinai.

Fire.

Earthquakes.

Mountains trembling.

Divine intervention.

The prayer is essentially:

“Lord, do again what only You can do.”

But the chapter quickly moves from:

Longing for God's presence.

To:

Confession of sin.

The people acknowledge:

“We sinned.”

They admit:

“We need to be saved.”

They confess:

“We have all become like something unclean.”

Even their righteous acts cannot provide:

A sufficient covering.

Their sins are pictured as:

A wind.

And they themselves as:

Withering leaves.

Then comes an even darker confession:

“No one calls on Your name.”

Spiritual apathy has become so serious that people are not even stirring themselves to:

Take hold of God.

Yet the prayer does not end in:

Despair.

Verse 8 introduces one of Scripture's great pictures of surrender:

“You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter.”

The people confess:

God made us.

God formed us.

God has authority over us.

We are the work of:

His hand.

Therefore they plead:

Do not remain angry forever.

Do not remember our sins forever.

Look at us.

We are:

Your people.

Then the prayer looks at:

Zion.

Jerusalem.

The temple.

Everything appears:

Ruined.

Burned.

Desolate.

The place where generations once praised God is:

Destroyed.

The final question is painful:

“After all this, Lord, will You hold Yourself back?”

Will You:

Remain silent?

Will judgment be:

The final word?

Isaiah 64 therefore moves through four major spiritual movements:

Presence.

Confession.

Surrender.

Mercy.

The chapter moves from:

“Come down.”

To:

“We sinned.”

From:

“No eye has seen.”

To:

“Our righteousness is insufficient.”

From:

“We are unclean.”

To:

“You are our Father.”

From:

“We are clay.”

To:

“You are our Potter.”

From:

Ruined cities.

To:

A plea for restoration.

The central truth of Isaiah 64 is:

God's people desperately need His presence because sin has left them spiritually powerless; their own righteousness cannot save them, but they may still appeal to the Lord as Father and Potter, confessing their sin, surrendering to His sovereign hand, and pleading for His mercy and restoring presence.

I. OH, THAT YOU WOULD TEAR OPEN THE HEAVENS

Isaiah 64:1 — A Cry for God to Come Down

“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at Your presence—”

This is not:

Casual prayer.

It is:

Desperate prayer.

The people do not merely want:

A message from heaven.

They want:

God to come down.

The image is dramatic.

The heavens themselves are pictured as though God would:

Tear them open.

Break through.

Come down.

And reveal:

His presence.

The expected result?

The mountains:

Quake.

Creation itself responds when:

God manifests His power.

Cross References

Psalm 144:5

David asks the Lord to bend the heavens and come down, touching the mountains so that they smoke beneath His mighty presence.

Judges 5:5

When the Lord moved before His people, the mountains trembled and even Sinai shook before the God of Israel.

Mark 1:10

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens are pictured as being torn open and the Spirit descending upon Him.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest need of God's people is not merely:

Changed circumstances.

It is:

God's presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the problem is deeper than human strength can reach, the right prayer is not merely, “Change things,” but, “Lord, come down.”

II. “OH, THAT”

The prayer begins with:

Longing.

Desire.

Spiritual hunger.

This is the language of someone who cannot remain satisfied with:

Distance.

Silence.

Spiritual dryness.

Spiritual Principle

Revival begins when God's people become dissatisfied with:

Life without the manifest presence of God.

III. TEAR OPEN THE HEAVENS

The prayer asks God to:

Break through.

Intervene.

Reveal Himself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There are situations no earthly door can solve because what is needed is for heaven itself to open.

IV. COME DOWN

The request is personal.

Not merely:

Send help.

Send blessing.

Send provision.

But:

Come down.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence is greater than:

God's gifts.

V. THE MOUNTAINS WOULD QUAKE

Mountains picture:

Stability.

Strength.

Permanence.

Yet before God:

They shake.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What looks immovable to us becomes unstable when God reveals His presence.

VI. FIRE KINDLES THE BRUSHWOOD

Isaiah 64:2 — Make Your Name Known

“As when fire kindles brushwood or fire makes water boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, so that nations might tremble before You!”

The imagery is:

Fire.

Heat.

Boiling water.

Rapid transformation.

Fire changes whatever it touches.

Dry brushwood quickly:

Ignites.

Water under heat begins:

Boiling.

Isaiah's prayer is that God's presence would become so evident that:

His adversaries notice.

His name becomes known.

The nations tremble.

Cross References

Psalm 97:5

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, showing that all creation is powerless before the sovereign God of the whole earth.

Micah 1:4

When God comes forth in judgment, the mountains melt beneath Him and valleys split apart like wax before fire.

Habakkuk 3:6

God stands in power, shakes the earth, startles the nations, and causes ancient mountains to tremble before Him.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence exposes the weakness of:

Everything opposed to Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What human power cannot move, God's presence can melt like wax before fire.

VII. FIRE

Fire in Scripture often represents:

Purification.

Holiness.

Judgment.

Divine presence.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence is never:

Trivial.

VIII. MAKE YOUR NAME KNOWN

The prayer is concerned with:

God's reputation.

God's glory.

God's name.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True revival does not make people famous; it makes God's name known.

IX. YOUR ADVERSARIES

God has:

Opposition.

Yet adversaries are not:

His equals.

Spiritual Principle

Opposition to God never places God in:

Danger.

X. NATIONS TREMBLE

The prayer reaches beyond:

Israel.

The desired revelation is:

International.

Public.

Unmistakable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God truly reveals Himself, the effect cannot always be confined to one room, one church, or one people.

XI. WHEN YOU DID AWESOME THINGS

Isaiah 64:3 — Remembered Intervention

“When You did awesome things we did not expect, You came down, and the mountains shook at Your presence.”

The prayer looks backward.

God had acted before.

His works were:

Awesome.

Unexpected.

Overwhelming.

The people remember:

God came down.

The mountains shook.

Cross References

Psalm 65:5

God answers His people with awesome deeds of righteousness and remains the hope of people throughout the earth.

Psalm 68:8

The earth shook and the heavens poured down rain before God when He moved before His people.

Exodus 19:18

Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire, and the entire mountain shook violently.

Spiritual Principle

Past divine intervention gives God's people reason to:

Pray again.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who surprised His people with mighty works before has not exhausted His ability to act again.

XII. AWESOME THINGS

God's works can exceed:

Human expectation.

Spiritual Principle

Faith must leave room for:

God to act beyond our predictions.

XIII. THINGS WE DID NOT EXPECT

Israel could not:

Script God's intervention.

Predict every detail.

Control the outcome.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not limited to the answer you imagined when you prayed.

XIV. YOU CAME DOWN

Again the emphasis is:

God Himself.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest event is not merely:

Something happening.

But:

God acting.

XV. MOUNTAINS SHOOK

Creation responds to:

The Creator.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mountains that intimidate people tremble before God.

XVI. NO EYE HAS SEEN

Isaiah 64:4 — God Acts for Those Who Wait

“From ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.”

Isaiah emphasizes:

God's uniqueness.

There is:

No rival.

No equivalent.

No comparison.

Other gods cannot do what:

The Lord does.

He acts:

For those who wait for Him.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 2:9

Paul draws upon Isaiah's language to describe what human eyes, ears, and minds could never discover on their own concerning what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:10

What human ability could not discover, God reveals through His Spirit, because the Spirit searches even the deep things of God.

Psalm 31:19

God's goodness is abundant toward those who fear Him and take refuge in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting upon God is not:

Doing nothing.

It is:

Trusting the One who acts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting on God is not wasted time when the One you are waiting for is the only One who can do what needs to be done.

XVII. NO ONE HAS HEARD

Human history has not produced:

Another God like Him.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord is:

Unique.

XVIII. NO EAR HAS PERCEIVED

God's greatness cannot be discovered merely through:

Human reasoning.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not one religious option among many; Isaiah presents Him as incomparable.

XIX. NO EYE HAS SEEN

Human sight is:

Limited.

God's ability is:

Not.

Spiritual Principle

Faith trusts beyond:

What the eye presently sees.

XX. ANY GOD BESIDES YOU

This is a declaration of:

Exclusive loyalty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who alone can save deserves worship that belongs to Him alone.

XXI. WHO ACTS FOR THOSE WHO WAIT

God is not:

Passive.

He acts.

But His people sometimes must:

Wait.

Spiritual Principle

Delay does not mean:

God is inactive.

XXII. WAITING

Biblical waiting includes:

Trust.

Hope.

Prayer.

Patience.

Obedience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting on God means refusing to replace Him simply because His timetable is slower than ours.

XXIII. CONFESSION OF SIN

Isaiah 64:5 — We Need to Be Saved

“You meet with the one who joyfully does righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways. But You were angry, for we sinned; in these ways we have continued, and we need to be saved.”

The prayer now changes direction.

The people no longer speak only about:

God's power.

They speak about:

Their sin.

God delights in those who:

Practice righteousness.

Remember Him.

Walk in His ways.

But Israel confesses:

“We sinned.”

And:

“We continued.”

This was not merely:

One failure.

It became:

A pattern.

Therefore:

“We need to be saved.”

Cross References

Acts 10:35

Peter explains that God shows no favoritism but receives those from every nation who fear Him and practice what is right.

Psalm 106:3

Those who practice justice and consistently do what is right are described as blessed.

James 1:25

The person who continues in God's truth and actually practices it rather than merely hearing it will be blessed in what he does.

Spiritual Principle

True confession does not merely say:

Something went wrong.

It says:

We sinned.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Revival becomes possible when excuses stop and confession begins.

XXIV. GOD MEETS THE ONE WHO DOES RIGHTEOUSNESS

The verse reveals:

God values obedience.

Spiritual Principle

God's grace never makes righteousness:

Unimportant.

XXV. JOYFULLY DOES RIGHTEOUSNESS

Obedience is not meant to be:

Reluctant only.

There can be:

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not merely looking for outward compliance but hearts that delight in walking His ways.

XXVI. REMEMBER YOU IN YOUR WAYS

Remembering God affects:

Conduct.

Spiritual Principle

True remembrance produces:

Obedience.

XXVII. YOU WERE ANGRY

God's anger is connected to:

Sin.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We cannot pray seriously for revival while treating lightly what grieves the God whose presence we seek.

XXVIII. WE SINNED

No:

Excuse.

Blame shifting.

Self-defense.

Just:

Confession.

Spiritual Principle

Confession agrees with:

God's verdict.

XXIX. WE CONTINUED

Sin had become:

Habitual.

Persistent.

Entrenched.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A repeated sin eventually becomes a road, and the longer we travel it, the harder turning around may feel.

XXX. WE NEED TO BE SAVED

This is the correct conclusion.

Not:

We need better public relations.

We need better circumstances.

We need more resources.

But:

We need salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Sin's deepest problem requires:

Divine rescue.

XXXI. LIKE SOMETHING UNCLEAN

Isaiah 64:6 — Our Righteousness Cannot Save

“We have all become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. We all wither like a leaf, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”

The confession becomes:

Universal.

“We have all.”

No one can stand before God's holiness and claim:

Self-made righteousness.

Even righteous acts, when treated as a basis for earning acceptance before God, cannot:

Save.

Human righteousness cannot erase:

Sin.

The people are compared to:

Leaves.

Withering.

Drying.

Blown away by:

Wind.

Cross References

Romans 3:10

Scripture declares that no person possesses righteousness sufficient to stand before God on his own merit.

Titus 3:5

God saves not because of righteous deeds we have accomplished but according to His mercy through spiritual cleansing and renewal.

Philippians 3:9

Paul rejects dependence upon his own righteousness and desires instead the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ.

Spiritual Principle

Human goodness cannot substitute for:

Divine righteousness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel begins where self-righteousness ends.

XXXII. WE HAVE ALL BECOME UNCLEAN

The confession is:

Corporate.

Universal.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is not merely:

Someone else's problem.

XXXIII. OUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS

The verse does not say merely:

Our worst deeds.

It says:

Our righteousness.

Compared with God's holiness, human merit cannot:

Save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If even our best efforts cannot make us righteous before a holy God, salvation must come by grace.

XXXIV. FILTHY RAGS

The image destroys:

Spiritual pride.

Human righteousness cannot provide:

A clean covering.

Spiritual Principle

We need righteousness that comes from:

Outside ourselves.

XXXV. WE WITHER LIKE A LEAF

A leaf separated from its source becomes:

Dry.

Weak.

Fragile.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Life detached from God eventually loses spiritual strength the way a leaf loses life after separation from the tree.

XXXVI. OUR SINS SWEEP US AWAY

Sin is pictured as:

Wind.

Powerful enough to carry people away.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is not merely something we:

Do.

Left unchecked, it can begin to:

Control direction.

XXXVII. LIKE THE WIND

The wind carries the dry leaf wherever:

It blows.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When sin becomes the wind and we become the leaf, we lose control of the direction.

XXXVIII. NO ONE CALLS ON YOUR NAME

Isaiah 64:7 — Spiritual Apathy

“No one calls on Your name, or stirs himself up to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face from us and made us waste away because of our iniquities.”

The problem grows deeper.

There is:

Sin.

But also:

Prayerlessness.

No one calls.

No one stirs himself.

No one reaches.

Spiritual apathy has settled over:

The people.

Cross References

Romans 3:11

Paul declares that humanity in its sinful condition does not naturally understand or seek God.

Psalm 14:3

Humanity has turned aside, become corrupt, and no one naturally produces the righteousness God requires.

Zephaniah 1:6

God judges those who turn away from following Him and those who refuse to seek or inquire of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

One of the worst signs of spiritual decline is when people stop:

Seeking God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The most dangerous condition is not merely having a problem but losing the desire to seek the One who can solve it.

XXXIX. NO ONE CALLS

Prayerlessness reveals:

Distance.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual health produces:

Prayer.

XL. STIRS HIMSELF UP

Seeking God sometimes requires:

Intentional effort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual hunger must sometimes refuse to wait for feelings and deliberately stir itself toward God.

XLI. TAKE HOLD OF YOU

The picture is:

Earnest.

Desperate.

Determined.

Spiritual Principle

God should be sought with:

Seriousness.

XLII. YOU HAVE HIDDEN YOUR FACE

Sin affects:

Fellowship.

The people experience:

Divine distance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

We should never pray for God's face while knowingly clinging to what caused us to turn from Him.

XLIII. BECAUSE OF OUR INIQUITIES

Again:

No excuses.

They recognize:

Cause.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance connects consequences with:

Sin honestly.

XLIV. APPEAL TO THE FATHER AND POTTER

Isaiah 64:8 — We Are the Clay

“Yet now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.”

Two great images appear together:

Father.

Potter.

God is:

Personal.

And:

Sovereign.

As Father:

He loves.

As Potter:

He forms.

We are:

His children.

And:

His workmanship.

Cross References

Romans 9:21

Paul reminds us that a potter possesses authority over the clay and may shape it according to his purpose.

Jeremiah 18:6

God tells Israel that just as clay is in the potter's hand, so His people are in His hand.

Job 10:9

Job remembers that God formed him from clay and recognizes his complete dependence upon his Maker.

Spiritual Principle

Surrender begins when we remember:

Who is Potter.

And:

Who is clay.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Clay finds its purpose not by resisting the Potter but by yielding to His hands.

XLV. YET NOW

Despite everything:

Sin.

Judgment.

Desolation.

There remains:

A basis for appeal.

Spiritual Principle

Confession does not have to end in:

Hopelessness.

XLVI. YOU ARE OUR FATHER

This continues the confession from:

Isaiah 63:16.

The people still appeal to:

Relationship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Even after confession exposes how far we have wandered, grace teaches us where to turn: back to the Father.

XLVII. WE ARE THE CLAY

Clay is:

Dependent.

Malleable.

Formable.

Spiritual Principle

Human beings are:

Created.

Not self-created.

XLVIII. YOU ARE OUR POTTER

God has:

Authority.

Wisdom.

Purpose.

Skill.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Potter understands what the clay cannot yet see about the vessel He is forming.

XLIX. THE WORK OF YOUR HAND

Our existence points toward:

The Creator.

Spiritual Principle

What God creates belongs under:

His authority.

L. DO NOT BE EXCEEDINGLY ANGRY

Isaiah 64:9 — Remember Mercy

“Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, nor remember iniquity forever. Look and see—we are all Your people.”

The people do not deny:

Their sin.

They appeal to:

Mercy.

They ask God:

Do not remain angry forever.

Do not remember our iniquity forever.

Look.

See.

We are:

Your people.

Cross References

Psalm 79:8

God's people ask Him not to hold former sins against them but to meet them quickly with compassion because they have been brought very low.

Psalm 103:9

The Lord does not continually accuse or remain angry forever.

Micah 7:18

God is praised as the One who forgives sin, passes over transgression, and delights in showing steadfast mercy.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance does not demand:

Mercy.

It appeals to:

Mercy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The repentant heart does not tell God it deserves another chance; it asks the merciful God to give one.

LI. DO NOT REMEMBER INIQUITY FOREVER

The prayer longs for:

Forgiveness.

Restoration.

Spiritual Principle

God's mercy provides hope beyond:

Failure.

LII. LOOK AND SEE

Again:

A desperate appeal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith sometimes has no sophisticated argument left except: “Lord, look at us and have mercy.”

LIII. WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE

The appeal returns to:

Covenant identity.

Spiritual Principle

Belonging to God should produce:

Dependence upon God.

LIV. MOURNING OVER DESOLATION

Isaiah 64:10 — Zion Has Become a Desert

“Your holy cities have become a wilderness; Zion has become a desert, Jerusalem a desolation.”

The consequences of rebellion are:

Visible.

Cities once filled with:

Life.

Worship.

History.

Identity.

Now resemble:

Wilderness.

Desert.

Desolation.

Cross References

Lamentations 1:4

The roads leading to Zion mourn because no one comes to the appointed feasts, the gates stand deserted, and Jerusalem's joy has disappeared.

Lamentations 5:18

Mount Zion lies deserted and desolate, with wild animals roaming where worship once flourished.

Micah 3:12

Because of persistent sin, Zion and Jerusalem are warned that they may become like plowed ground, ruins, and overgrown heights.

Spiritual Principle

Sin eventually produces:

Desolation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Places rich with spiritual history can become barren when present generations abandon the God who made that history meaningful.

LV. YOUR HOLY CITIES

The cities had been:

Set apart.

Yet sacred association did not make them:

Immune to judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual heritage must be accompanied by:

Present faithfulness.

LVI. ZION A DESERT

What once represented:

Glory.

Worship.

Community.

Now represents:

Emptiness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A glorious past cannot substitute for living faithfulness in the present.

LVII. JERUSALEM A DESOLATION

The city central to:

Worship.

Kingship.

Covenant history.

Was devastated.

Spiritual Principle

No external institution can replace:

Obedience to God.

LVIII. THE TEMPLE BURNED

Isaiah 64:11 — Sacred Things in Ruins

“Our holy and beautiful temple, where our ancestors praised You, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins.”

The tragedy reaches its emotional center.

The temple was:

Holy.

Beautiful.

Treasured.

A place of:

Generational worship.

But now:

Burned.

Ruined.

Destroyed.

Cross References

2 Kings 25:9

The Babylonian forces burned the temple of the Lord, the royal palace, and important buildings throughout Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:19

Jerusalem's enemies burned God's temple, destroyed the city wall, set its palaces on fire, and ruined its precious possessions.

Lamentations 2:7

The Lord permitted the altar and sanctuary to be profaned as enemies entered and brought devastation into the place of worship.

Spiritual Principle

Sacred buildings cannot protect a people who persistently reject:

The God worshiped there.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A beautiful sanctuary is never a substitute for a surrendered people.

LIX. HOLY AND BEAUTIFUL

The temple had:

Splendor.

Significance.

Sacredness.

Spiritual Principle

External beauty is valuable but:

Insufficient.

LX. WHERE OUR ANCESTORS PRAISED YOU

The temple contained:

History.

Memories.

Generations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Yesterday's worship cannot perform today's obedience for us.

LXI. BURNED WITH FIRE

The unimaginable happened.

Spiritual Principle

Consequences can reach places people assumed were:

Untouchable.

LXII. EVERYTHING TREASURED IN RUINS

The loss was:

Emotional.

Spiritual.

National.

Personal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes people discover what they truly valued only when they stand among its ruins.

LXIII. WILL YOU HOLD YOURSELF BACK?

Isaiah 64:12 — The Final Plea

“After all this, Lord, will You hold Yourself back? Will You remain silent and punish us severely?”

The chapter ends with:

Questions.

No easy resolution.

The people look at:

Desolation.

Ruins.

Sin.

Judgment.

And ask:

Lord:

Will You continue to hold back?

Will You remain silent?

Will judgment continue?

It is a plea for:

Mercy.

Intervention.

Presence.

Restoration.

Cross References

Psalm 83:1

The psalmist asks God not to remain silent, quiet, or inactive while enemies oppose His people.

Habakkuk 1:13

Habakkuk wrestles with how the holy God can appear silent while wickedness and injustice continue around him.

Psalm 13:1

David cries out from distress, asking how long the Lord will appear to forget him and hide His face.

Spiritual Principle

Faith can ask difficult questions while still:

Speaking to God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The believer's questions remain acts of faith when they are carried toward God instead of away from Him.

LXIV. AFTER ALL THIS

The prayer looks at:

Everything.

Sin.

Loss.

Ruins.

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God sees:

The whole picture.

LXV. WILL YOU HOLD YOURSELF BACK?

The people desperately want:

Intervention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When human strength has reached the ruins, only divine intervention can rebuild what human rebellion destroyed.

LXVI. WILL YOU REMAIN SILENT?

Silence feels:

Painful.

Yet the very question is addressed:

To God.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer refuses to interpret apparent silence as:

A reason to stop praying.

LXVII. ISAIAH 64 AS A REVIVAL CHAPTER

“Come down.”

“Make Your name known.”

“Wait for Him.”

“We sinned.”

“We need to be saved.”

“You are our Father.”

“You are our Potter.”

“Look and see.”

“Will You remain silent?”

Key Truth

True revival includes:

Longing for God.

Confession of sin.

Recognition of helplessness.

Surrender.

Prayer.

Mercy.

LXVIII. ISAIAH 64 AS A PRAYER CHAPTER

The chapter contains:

Longing.

Memory.

Confession.

Appeal.

Questions.

Surrender.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical prayer is not always:

Polished.

Sometimes it is:

Desperate.

LXIX. ISAIAH 64 AS A CONFESSION CHAPTER

“We sinned.”

“We continued.”

“We are unclean.”

“Our righteous acts are insufficient.”

“Our sins sweep us away.”

“No one calls.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before God rebuilds the ruins around us, He often confronts the rebellion within us.

LXX. ISAIAH 64 AS A GRACE CHAPTER

Human righteousness cannot:

Save.

Therefore salvation must depend upon:

God's mercy.

Spiritual Principle

Grace begins where:

Self-sufficiency ends.

LXXI. ISAIAH 64 AS A FATHERHOOD CHAPTER

“You are our Father.”

Relationship survives as:

The basis for prayer.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The confession “We have sinned” is followed by the hope “You are our Father.”

LXXII. ISAIAH 64 AS A POTTER CHAPTER

God shapes.

Clay yields.

The Potter determines:

Purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Surrender places us back into:

The Potter's hands.

LXXIII. ISAIAH 64 AS A WAITING CHAPTER

God acts for:

Those who wait for Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting is faith refusing to manufacture a substitute for God's intervention.

LXXIV. ISAIAH 64 AS A DESOLATION CHAPTER

Wilderness.

Desert.

Desolation.

Burned temple.

Ruins.

Spiritual Principle

Sin destroys:

More than the sinner first imagines.

LXXV. ISAIAH 64 AS A MERCY CHAPTER

Do not remember:

Forever.

Look.

See.

We are:

Your people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The ruins may explain why mercy is desperately needed, but God's character explains why mercy may still be sought.

LXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE

His presence:

Shakes mountains.

Makes nations tremble.

Reveals His name.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence is:

Powerful.

LXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S UNIQUENESS

No ear.

No eye.

No other god.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There is no replacement for God because there is no one comparable to God.

LXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT WAITING

God acts:

For those who wait.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting must be joined with:

Trust.

LXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT SIN

Sin:

Provokes judgment.

Defiles.

Weakens.

Carries away.

Produces distance.

Brings desolation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin always promises freedom while gradually creating bondage, distance, and ruin.

LXXX. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Our righteousness cannot:

Earn salvation.

Spiritual Principle

We need:

God's righteousness.

LXXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT PRAYERLESSNESS

No one calls.

No one stirs.

No one takes hold.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When prayer disappears, spiritual decline has already moved deep into the heart.

LXXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS FATHER

He is:

Our Father.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance returns to:

Relationship.

LXXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS POTTER

He shapes:

Clay.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The clay may not understand the pressure of the Potter's hand, but the Potter understands the purpose of the vessel.

LXXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT MERCY

God does not remain:

Angry forever.

His people may plead:

For compassion.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment does not eliminate:

The possibility of mercy.

LXXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

Ancestors praised God.

But the present generation still had to:

Seek Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A spiritual inheritance can teach you where the well is, but you still have to drink from it yourself.

LXXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 64 TEACHES ABOUT REVIVAL

Revival begins with:

“Come down.”

Continues with:

“We sinned.”

Moves through:

“We are clay.”

And cries:

“Look and see.”

Spiritual Principle

Revival involves both:

Divine visitation.

And:

Human repentance.

LXXXVII. THE OPEN HEAVENS

Divine intervention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A closed human door does not matter when God opens heaven.

LXXXVIII. THE SHAKING MOUNTAINS

Divine power.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing in creation is:

Greater than its Creator.

LXXXIX. THE FIRE

Holy presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God's fire comes, what is dry cannot remain unchanged.

XC. THE TREMBLING NATIONS

Divine authority.

Spiritual Principle

Every nation remains:

Accountable to God.

XCI. THE AWESOME THINGS

Unexpected intervention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's answer may be greater than the boundaries of your request.

XCII. THOSE WHO WAIT

Patient trust.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting demonstrates:

Dependence.

XCIII. “WE SINNED”

Confession.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Two words honestly spoken before God can become the doorway to restoration: “We sinned.”

XCIV. “WE NEED TO BE SAVED”

Helplessness.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation begins with recognizing:

Need.

XCV. THE FILTHY RAGS

Human merit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot sew enough filthy rags together to make a robe of righteousness.

XCVI. THE WITHERED LEAF

Weakness.

Spiritual Principle

Sin drains:

Spiritual vitality.

XCVII. THE WIND

Sin's force.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place is not where the wind is weakest but where we remain rooted in God.

XCVIII. NO ONE CALLS

Prayerlessness.

Spiritual Principle

A silent prayer life is:

Dangerous.

XCIX. STIR YOURSELF

Intentional seeking.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not wait for spiritual desire to arrive before seeking God; sometimes seeking Him is how desire awakens.

C. TAKE HOLD OF GOD

Persistence.

Spiritual Principle

Seek God:

Earnestly.

CI. HIDDEN FACE

Broken fellowship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God's face seems hidden, the first question should not always be, “Where did God go?” but sometimes, “Where did we wander?”

CII. THE FATHER

Relationship.

Spiritual Principle

God invites:

Return.

CIII. THE CLAY

Dependence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Clay cannot improve itself by jumping off the wheel.

CIV. THE POTTER

Sovereignty.

Spiritual Principle

God has:

Design.

CV. THE HAND

Formation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What feels like pressure may be the Potter forming something the clay cannot yet recognize.

CVI. DO NOT REMEMBER FOREVER

Mercy.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiveness provides:

Hope.

CVII. YOUR PEOPLE

Identity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest appeal of the repentant is not personal merit but God's covenant mercy.

CVIII. THE WILDERNESS

Desolation.

Spiritual Principle

Sin empties what obedience could have:

Filled.

CIX. THE DESERT

Barrenness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual barrenness is often the visible evidence of deeper spiritual distance.

CX. THE BURNED TEMPLE

Lost glory.

Spiritual Principle

Buildings cannot preserve:

Faithfulness.

CXI. THE RUINS

Consequences.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Ruins preach a sermon about what happens when sacred things are taken for granted.

CXII. THE SILENCE

Waiting for God.

Spiritual Principle

Apparent silence should produce:

Persistent prayer.

CXIII. TWELVE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 64

1. **Closed Heavens → God Coming Down**
2. **Stable Mountains → Mountains Trembling**
3. **Hidden God → Name Made Known**
4. **Human Expectation → Awesome Unexpected Works**
5. **Human Sight → Divine Revelation**
6. **Waiting → God Acting**
7. **Righteous Calling → Human Sin**
8. **Self-Righteousness → Need for Salvation**
9. **Living Strength → Withered Leaves**
10. **Prayerlessness → Taking Hold of God**
11. **Clay → Potter**
12. **Ruins → Plea for Mercy**

Key Truth

Isaiah 64 exposes human helplessness so that the people will stop trusting themselves and seek:

The God who comes down.

The God who saves.

The Father.

The Potter.

The merciful Lord.

CXIV. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 64

1. We Need God's Presence

Principle:

The deepest need is not more activity but:

God Himself.

2. God's Presence Changes Everything

Principle:

Even mountains tremble before Him.

3. Revival Should Glorify God's Name

Principle:

God's intervention should make Him known.

4. God Can Do the Unexpected

Principle:

His power exceeds human expectation.

5. God Acts for Those Who Wait

Principle:

Faith trusts God's timing.

6. Sin Must Be Confessed

Principle:

Restoration begins with honesty.

7. Human Righteousness Cannot Save

Principle:

Salvation must come through God's grace.

8. Prayerlessness Is Dangerous

Principle:

Spiritual apathy reveals spiritual decline.

9. God Is Our Father

Principle:

Repentant people can return to Him.

10. God Is the Potter

Principle:

Our lives belong under His shaping authority.

11. Sin Produces Desolation

Principle:

Rebellion destroys more than we initially expect.

12. Mercy Can Still Be Sought

Principle:

Ruins do not prevent God's people from crying:

“Lord, act again.”

CXV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does Isaiah ask God to tear open?

The heavens.

Question 2

What does Isaiah ask God to do?

Come down.

Question 3

What would happen to the mountains at God's presence?

They would quake.

Question 4

What two images describe the effect of God's presence?

Fire kindling brushwood and fire causing water to boil.

Question 5

Why does Isaiah want God to reveal Himself?

To make His name known to His adversaries and cause the nations to tremble.

Question 6

What had God done in the past?

Awesome things His people did not expect.

Question 7

What happened when God came down?

The mountains shook at His presence.

Question 8

What does verse 4 say no one has seen?

Any God besides the Lord who acts for those who wait for Him.

Question 9

For whom does God act?

Those who wait for Him.

Question 10

Whom does God meet?

Those who joyfully practice righteousness and remember Him in His ways.

Question 11

Why was God angry?

Because His people sinned.

Question 12

How long had they continued in sin?

Their sin had become an ongoing pattern.

Question 13

What did they recognize they needed?

To be saved.

Question 14

What had everyone become like?

Something unclean.

Question 15

What were their righteous acts compared to?

Filthy rags.

Question 16

What were the people compared to?

Withering leaves.

Question 17

What carried them away?

Their sins, like wind carrying dry leaves.

Question 18

What did no one do?

Call upon God's name.

Question 19

What did no one stir himself to do?

Take hold of God.

Question 20

Why had God hidden His face?

Because of their iniquities.

Question 21

What relationship do the people claim with God?

He is their Father.

Question 22

What are the people compared to?

Clay.

Question 23

What is God compared to?

A Potter.

Question 24

Whose workmanship are the people?

The work of God's hand.

Question 25

What do they ask God not to remember forever?

Their iniquity.

Question 26

What do they ask God to recognize?

That they are all His people.

Question 27

What had happened to the holy cities?

They had become a wilderness.

Question 28

What had Zion become?

A desert.

Question 29

What had Jerusalem become?

A desolation.

Question 30

What happened to the holy and beautiful temple?

It was burned with fire.

Question 31

What happened to what the people treasured?

It lay in ruins.

Question 32

What final questions are asked of God?

Whether He will continue to hold Himself back, remain silent, and punish them severely.

Question 33

What is the main message of Isaiah 64?

God's people desperately need His presence and mercy because their sin has left them unable to save themselves; therefore they confess their sin, acknowledge God as Father and Potter, and plead for Him to come down, forgive, restore, and act again.

CXVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 64 asks several searching questions.

Do I truly hunger for:

God's presence?

Or am I satisfied with:

Religious activity?

Could I sincerely pray:

“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down”?

Do I want:

God?

Or only:

Something from God?

Do I believe God's presence can shake:

The mountains in front of me?

What appears:

Immovable?

Permanent?

Impossible?

Do I remember that mountains:

Tremble before Him?

Is my greatest concern:

My reputation?

My comfort?

My success?

Or:

God's name being made known?

Do I still believe God can do:

Awesome things?

Unexpected things?

Things beyond:

My plans?

Have I limited God to:

What I expect?

Am I willing to:

Wait for Him?

Or do I quickly manufacture:

My own solution?

Do I trust God's:

Timing?

When God confronts sin, do I say:

“They sinned”?

Or:

“We sinned”?

Have I stopped:

Making excuses?

Am I continuing in something God has already identified as:

Wrong?

Do I understand that I:

Need to be saved?

Am I depending upon:

My own goodness?

My religious works?

My Bible knowledge?

My ministry?

My church attendance?

My reputation?

My accomplishments?

Or am I trusting:

God's grace?

Do I realize that human righteousness cannot:

Save me?

Have I become like:

A withered leaf?

Spiritually:

Dry?

Weak?

Brittle?

Easily moved?

What wind has been:

Carrying me?

Culture?

Fear?

Temptation?

Bitterness?

Pride?

Disappointment?

Sin?

Am I rooted in:

God?

Do I call upon:

His name?

Is my prayer life:

Alive?

Or:

Silent?

Have I stopped stirring myself to:

Seek Him?

Do I need to:

Take hold of God again?

Can I say:

“You are our Father”?

Do I trust the Father's:

Heart?

Can I say:

“We are the clay”?

Or am I fighting:

The Potter?

Have I demanded:

My own shape?

My own purpose?

My own timing?

My own design?

Am I willing to remain:

In His hands?

Do I believe the Potter knows:

What He is making?

Are there ruins in my life?

Ruined:

Relationships?

Dreams?

Opportunities?

Spiritual disciplines?

Family situations?

Ministry situations?

Is there somewhere that once seemed:

Beautiful.

But now seems:

Desolate?

Have I assumed:

Ruins mean God can never restore?

Can I still pray:

Look.

See.

Have mercy.

Do not remain silent.

Lord:

Come down.

Am I asking God merely to rebuild:

The ruins?

Or first to rebuild:

My heart?

Do I want revival enough to:

Confess?

Repent?

Surrender?

Wait?

Pray?

Obey?

Can I honestly say:

“You are the Potter.”

And:

“I am the clay.”

CXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Revival Begins When God's Presence Becomes More Important Than Our Comfort”

The prayer does not begin:

Lord, make life easier.

It begins:

“Come down.”

Principle:

The heart of revival is not merely improved circumstances but renewed awareness and experience of God's holy presence.

CXVIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Mountains Tremble When God Comes Down”

The mountain looks:

Massive.

Permanent.

Immovable.

But before:

God—

It shakes.

Principle:

Never measure God's ability by the size of the obstacle standing in front of you.

CXIX. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Can Do What You Did Not Expect”

Isaiah remembers:

Awesome things.

Things:

Unexpected.

Principle:

Leave room in your prayers for God to answer in ways larger than your imagination.

CXX. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Waiting Is Not Wasting When You Are Waiting for God”

God acts:

For those who wait.

Principle:

The delay of God is not the absence of God, and faithful waiting is never wasted when trust remains fixed upon Him.

CXXI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Revival Cannot Be Built on Excuses”

They said:

“We sinned.”

They did not say:

Our environment caused it.

Our enemies caused it.

Our circumstances caused it.

Principle:

Restoration moves forward when confession stops looking for someone else to blame.

CXXII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Our Best Cannot Replace His Righteousness”

Human righteousness is:

Insufficient.

Principle:

Salvation rests not upon how impressive we can make ourselves appear but upon the mercy and righteousness God provides.

CXXIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Do Not Become a Leaf in the Wind”

Withered leaves are:

Dry.

Detached.

Easily carried.

Principle:

A life no longer rooted deeply in God will eventually be carried by whatever spiritual wind blows strongest.

CXXIV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Stir Yourself to Seek God”

No one:

Called.

No one:

Stirred himself.

Principle:

Do not make spiritual apathy comfortable; deliberately return to prayer, Scripture, worship, confession, and obedience.

CXXV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Clay Is Safest in the Potter's Hands”

We are:

Clay.

He is:

Potter.

Principle:

Surrender does not place us in danger; surrender places us in the hands of the One who knows what we were created to become.

CXXVI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“A Beautiful Building Cannot Replace a Holy People”

The temple was:

Beautiful.

Holy.

Treasured.

Yet it became:

Ruins.

Principle:

God never intended architecture to substitute for obedience.

CXXVII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Take Your Questions to God”

The chapter ends:

Will You hold back?

Will You remain silent?

Principle:

Faith does not mean never asking painful questions; faith means refusing to stop talking to God while asking them.

CXXVIII. THE HEAVENS

Need for:

Divine intervention.

Spiritual Principle

Human need reaches:

Upward.

CXXIX. THE MOUNTAINS

Obstacles.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Nothing remains immovable when the Creator chooses to move.

CXXX. THE FIRE

Purity.

Power.

Presence.

Spiritual Principle

God's presence changes:

Whatever it touches.

CXXXI. THE NAME

Glory.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The highest purpose of revival is not to make our church known but to make God's name known.

CXXXII. THE NATIONS

Witness.

Spiritual Principle

God's glory reaches:

Beyond borders.

CXXXIII. AWESOME THINGS

Divine intervention.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never let familiarity with Scripture make you forget that God specializes in works humans call impossible.

CXXXIV. WAIT FOR HIM

Faith.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting demonstrates:

Trust.

CXXXV. WE SINNED

Repentance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Confession becomes powerful when it becomes personal.

CXXXVI. WE NEED TO BE SAVED

Dependence.

Spiritual Principle

Humanity needs:

A Savior.

CXXXVII. UNCLEAN

Condition.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin is not merely a mistake requiring improvement; it creates defilement requiring cleansing.

CXXXVIII. FILTHY RAGS

Insufficient righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Self-righteousness cannot:

Save.

CXXXIX. WITHERED LEAF

Spiritual weakness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What is disconnected from its source cannot remain alive forever.

CXL. SWEPT BY THE WIND

Loss of direction.

Spiritual Principle

Sin produces:

Bondage.

CXLI. NO ONE CALLS

Apathy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The silence of prayer can become louder evidence of spiritual decline than the noise of open rebellion.

CXLII. TAKE HOLD OF YOU

Seeking.

Spiritual Principle

Pursue God:

Earnestly.

CXLIII. HIDDEN FACE

Distance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The solution to spiritual distance is not pretending closeness; it is confession and return.

CXLIV. OUR FATHER

Relationship.

Spiritual Principle

God welcomes:

Repentance.

CXLV. THE CLAY

Humility.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Clay has no reason for pride because everything it becomes depends upon the Potter.

CXLVI. THE POTTER

Authority.

Spiritual Principle

God shapes:

Purposefully.

CXLVII. WORK OF YOUR HAND

Ownership.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The hands that made us have the right to shape us.

CXLVIII. DO NOT REMEMBER FOREVER

Forgiveness.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy offers:

Hope.

CXLIX. WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE

Belonging.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Covenant identity should produce covenant humility.

CL. WILDERNESS

Spiritual consequence.

Spiritual Principle

Rebellion leads toward:

Barrenness.

CLI. ZION A DESERT

Lost vitality.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sacred places become spiritually empty when sacred devotion disappears.

CLII. TEMPLE BURNED

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Sacred history alone cannot:

Protect.

CLIII. TREASURES IN RUINS

Loss.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never wait until something is ruined to decide whether it was worth guarding.

CLIV. WILL YOU REMAIN SILENT?

Desperate prayer.

Spiritual Principle

Keep calling upon:

God.

CLV. ISAIAH 63 AND ISAIAH 64

Isaiah 63:

“You are our Father.”

Isaiah 64:

“You are our Father.”

The declaration continues.

Key Truth

In both chapters, the people appeal to:

God's fatherhood.

CLVI. ISAIAH 63 AND THE DIVINE ARM

Isaiah 63:

God's own arm brought:

Salvation.

Isaiah 64:

Human righteousness cannot:

Save.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah 63 tells us whose arm saves; Isaiah 64 tells us why our own righteousness cannot.

CLVII. ISAIAH 63 AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Isaiah 63 warns:

Do not grieve:

The Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 64 reveals:

The consequences of continued rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

Persistent resistance eventually produces:

Spiritual desolation.

CLVIII. ISAIAH 64 AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

Paul uses the language of Isaiah 64:4 in:

1 Corinthians 2.

But Paul explains that God reveals His truth through:

The Spirit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What human eyes cannot discover by themselves, God is able to reveal by His Spirit.

CLIX. ISAIAH 64 AND GRACE

Verse 6 destroys:

Self-righteousness.

Verse 8 restores:

Relationship.

Verse 9 appeals to:

Mercy.

Key Truth

Grace does not deny:

Sin.

Grace provides:

Hope after confession.

CLX. ISAIAH 64 AS A WHOLE

The chapter moves:

From:

Closed heavens.

To:

God coming down.

From:

Mountains standing.

To:

Mountains shaking.

From:

Unknown intervention.

To:

God's name being known.

From:

Human expectation.

To:

Awesome works.

From:

Waiting.

To:

God acting.

From:

Righteousness.

To:

Confession of sin.

From:

Self-confidence.

To:

“We need to be saved.”

From:

Human righteousness.

To:

Filthy rags.

From:

Strength.

To:

Withered leaves.

From:

Prayerlessness.

To:

Taking hold of God.

From:

Sinful people.

To:

The Father.

From:

Human independence.

To:

Clay in the Potter's hand.

From:

Anger.

To:

A plea for mercy.

From:

Holy cities.

To:

Wilderness.

From:

A beautiful temple.

To:

Ruins.

From:

Divine silence.

To:

A desperate prayer:

“Will You remain silent?”

Key Truth

Isaiah 64 teaches that revival requires God's presence, salvation requires God's grace, restoration requires confession, and spiritual renewal requires surrender to the Father and Potter who alone can reshape what sin has ruined.

CLXI. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 64

1. God's People Cry for Heaven to Open

They long for God Himself to come down.

2. God's Presence Shakes Creation

Mountains tremble and nations fear.

3. God's Past Works Are Remembered

He has done awesome and unexpected things.

4. God's Uniqueness Is Declared

No other God acts like Him for those who wait.

5. Sin Is Confessed

The people acknowledge:

“We sinned.”

6. Self-Righteousness Is Abandoned

Human righteousness cannot provide salvation.

7. Prayerlessness Is Exposed

No one stirs himself to seek God.

8. God Is Confessed as Father and Potter

His people recognize both relationship and sovereignty.

9. Desolation Is Mourned

Cities, Zion, Jerusalem, and the temple lie ruined.

10. Mercy Is Desperately Requested

The chapter ends asking God not to remain silent.

Key Truth

Isaiah 64 moves from the cry “Come down” to the confession “We sinned,” then to the surrender “We are the clay,” and finally to the plea “Do not remain silent,” revealing the path from spiritual desolation toward hoped-for restoration.

CLXII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 64 begins with:

A cry.

Not:

A lecture.

Not:

A program.

Not:

A strategy.

A cry:

“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down.”

There are moments when God's people realize:

We do not merely need:

Better plans.

Better programs.

Better organization.

Better methods.

Better advertising.

Better politics.

Better circumstances.

We need:

God.

Come down.

That is the heart of:

Revival.

Lord:

Come down into:

Our churches.

Our homes.

Our families.

Our communities.

Our hearts.

Our ministries.

Our prayer lives.

Come down.

Then Isaiah says:

The mountains would:

Quake.

Whatever mountain stands before you—

Fear.

Addiction.

Grief.

Rebellion.

Pride.

Brokenness.

Sin.

Impossible circumstances.

Remember:

Mountains tremble before:

God.

Then the prayer asks that God's name become:

Known.

That must always remain the goal.

Not:

Our name.

Not:

Our ministry.

Not:

Our denomination.

Not:

Our church.

Not:

Our achievements.

But:

His name.

Then Isaiah remembers:

God has done:

Awesome things.

Unexpected things.

Maybe you need to remember:

The unexpected things God has already done.

Perhaps there was a time when you said:

I do not know how this can work out.

And somehow:

God made a way.

Perhaps there was a prayer you thought:

Impossible.

But God answered.

Perhaps there was a season you thought:

Would destroy you.

But you survived.

Perhaps there was a door you never expected:

To open.

But it opened.

Do not forget:

God has done unexpected things before.

Then Isaiah says:

God acts for those who:

Wait.

Waiting can be difficult.

We want:

Immediate answers.

Immediate relief.

Immediate direction.

Immediate change.

But waiting is not:

Doing nothing.

Waiting says:

I will not replace God.

I will not run ahead of God.

I will not abandon God.

I will trust:

God.

Then everything changes.

Isaiah says:

“We sinned.”

That is where revival becomes:

Personal.

It is easy to pray:

God fix:

The country.

The church.

The culture.

Them.

But Isaiah says:

We.

We sinned.

True revival eventually brings the prayer from:

Them.

To:

Us.

From:

They need to repent.

To:

I need to repent.

Then comes one of Scripture's most humbling statements:

“All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”

Your best cannot:

Save you.

Your religion cannot:

Save you.

Your good deeds cannot:

Erase your sin.

Your ministry cannot:

Purchase forgiveness.

Your generosity cannot:

Earn righteousness.

Your church attendance cannot:

Create salvation.

You need:

Grace.

You need:

Mercy.

You need:

A Savior.

Then Isaiah pictures people like:

Withered leaves.

And sin like:

Wind.

Have you ever watched a dead leaf in the wind?

It has:

No direction of its own.

The wind determines:

Where it goes.

That is what sin eventually does.

At first people think:

I control this.

I can stop anytime.

I know what I am doing.

But eventually:

The wind controls the leaf.

Do not let sin become:

Your wind.

Stay rooted in:

God.

Then comes perhaps one of the saddest statements:

“No one calls on Your name.”

Nobody:

Praying.

Nobody:

Seeking.

Nobody:

Stirring himself.

Nobody:

Taking hold of God.

Could that describe:

A church?

A family?

A generation?

A Christian?

Plenty of:

Activity.

But little:

Prayer.

Plenty of:

Talking.

But little:

Seeking.

Plenty of:

Religion.

But little:

Taking hold of God.

Isaiah says:

Stir yourself.

Maybe you do not:

Feel like praying.

Pray.

Maybe you do not:

Feel like reading Scripture.

Read.

Maybe you do not:

Feel like worshiping.

Worship.

Maybe you do not:

Feel spiritually hungry.

Seek God anyway.

Sometimes hunger comes:

After you sit at the table.

Then comes:

Hope.

“Yet now, O Lord, You are our Father.”

Yet.

What a word.

We sinned.

Yet:

You are our Father.

We became unclean.

Yet:

You are our Father.

We stopped praying.

Yet:

You are our Father.

We wandered.

Yet:

You are our Father.

Then:

“We are the clay, and You are our Potter.”

That means:

Stop fighting the Potter.

Stop telling the Potter:

What shape you must become.

Stop demanding:

Your timetable.

Your plan.

Your design.

Your purpose.

Put yourself back:

On the wheel.

And say:

Shape me.

Correct me.

Clean me.

Use me.

Break what must be:

Broken.

Form what must be:

Formed.

Remove what must be:

Removed.

I am:

Clay.

You are:

Potter.

Then the prayer looks at the ruins.

Zion:

Desert.

Jerusalem:

Desolation.

Temple:

Burned.

Treasures:

Ruined.

Perhaps someone reading this feels like:

That.

A life that once seemed:

Beautiful.

Now:

Ruins.

A relationship:

Ruined.

A dream:

Ruined.

A ministry:

Ruined.

A family situation:

Ruined.

A reputation:

Ruined.

A spiritual life:

Ruined.

Isaiah does not pretend:

The ruins are not there.

But he does something important.

He brings:

The ruins to God.

And asks:

“Will You hold Yourself back?”

In other words:

Lord:

Look at this.

Look at what sin has done.

Look at the desolation.

Look at the ashes.

Look at the ruins.

And then:

Act.

The chapter begins:

“Come down.”

And ends:

“Will You remain silent?”

That is the prayer of someone who knows:

Only God can change this.

So Isaiah 64 leaves us asking:

Am I hungry enough for God to pray:

Come down?

Am I honest enough to confess:

We sinned?

Am I humble enough to admit:

I cannot save myself?

Am I desperate enough to:

Call upon His name?

Am I surrendered enough to say:

I am the clay?

Am I trusting enough to say:

You are the Potter?

Am I broken enough to show Him:

The ruins?

Am I hopeful enough to believe:

Ruins do not have to be the final chapter?

Because the God who shakes mountains:

Can restore hearts.

The God who comes down:

Can lift up.

The God who exposes sin:

Can forgive sin.

The God who is Potter:

Can reshape broken clay.

The God who sees ruins:

Can rebuild.

The God who appears silent:

Can speak again.

The God who seems distant:

Can come down.

Final Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God's people stop trusting their own righteousness, confess their sin, stir themselves to seek Him, surrender as clay in the Potter's hands, and cry for heaven to open, they discover that the God who shakes mountains is also the Father who hears His people and the Potter who can reshape what sin has broken.