

The background features a central diamond shape with a fine grid pattern. This diamond is set against a larger, multi-colored background of overlapping geometric shapes like triangles and rectangles in shades of yellow, orange, red, and blue. The overall effect is a vibrant, abstract composition.

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 63:17—64:2

“Behold, We Need You!”

Isa. 63:17 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.

64:1 Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, **that thou wouldest 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!

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them. Several weeks ago we shifted our focus to begin a new series...

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

A few weeks ago, we began looking at Isaiah, chapter 40, which is packed full with wonderful truth about the greatness and power of God. This morning we will return to the Book of Isaiah and our “Behold” series to consider **“Behold – We Miss You!”**

The Prophet Isaiah has been given by God a vision of his nation’s destruction by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He has warned the people, and in our text he is praying to God for His deliverance.

We are only 2 days from an election that has life-changing ramifications. We need to consider Isaiah's prayer for his nation and take-to-heart the need to pray for our own nation. Isaiah is asking the Lord to return to his people in blessing and power as He had in the past. Our nation has been so blessed in the past, but now, like Israel, we are in desperate need renewal and revival of His presence in our country. Today's generation has no idea how our country has changed in the last 50 years regarding morality, respect for the Bible, and treatment of each other. We need the Lord to "come down."

Last week, we began looking at Isaiah's prayer for Israel, which we entitled, **"Behold, We Miss You."** We considered how Isaiah expressed his concern of missing the Lord's Countenance, Care, and Compassion. This morning, we will consider Isaiah's prayer expressed by...

"Behold, We Need You"

I. BEHOLD, WE NEED YOU FOR REVIVAL

- Isaiah's prayer reveals a misguided understanding of God, which produces a misdirected accusation against God.

A. The Misdirected Accusation, 63:17

Isa. 63:17 **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.

1. The Reproach toward God – “**O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear?**”

- An accusation toward God reveals a heart that needs revival.
- Isaiah acknowledges Israel's disobedience in straying from "thy ways."
- Isaiah then acknowledges Israel's "hardened...heart" in NOT fearing God.

Psa. 36:1 The **transgression of the wicked** saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

The Scriptural Description of those in need of Revival:

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

11 There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God.**

12 They are all **gone out of the way**, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

17 And **the way of peace have they not known:**

18 **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**

2. The Request for God – “...Return for **thy servants’** sake, the tribes of **thine** inheritance.”

“Behold, We Need You”

- The request is not only for Isaiah, but for “thy servants’ sake.”
- Like Israel, believers have a special relationship with God:

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are **the sons of God**.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father**.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God**:

17 **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

B. The Mire of Apathy, 63:18-19

Isa. 63:18 The people of thy holiness have **possessed it but a little while**: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary.

- Isaiah recognized that Israel should be a reflection of the holiness of God, but the nation only “possessed *it* but a little while...”
- America once possessed a fear of God as a nation: “America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”.



Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good America will cease to be great.

(Alexis de Tocqueville)

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- When a country, a church, or any person becomes apathetic toward God and the things of God, the result will be the abandonment of God and His blessings.
- “There’s too much apathy in this country....but who cares?” Bumper sticker
- Isaiah realized that Israel had lost a special, spiritual relationship with the Creator:

Isa. 63:19 **We are thine**: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name.

Psa. 119:176 **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant**; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Psa. 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

- Seeing the need for revival will lead to the action of repentance:

2 Chron. 7:14 If **my people**, which are **called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;** **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- Repentance is another way to pray... ***“Behold, We Need You”***

II. BEHOLD, WE NEED YOU FOR RECONCILIATION

Isa. 64:1 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!

A. The Characteristics of the Unspiritual

1. The Mountains – “...that the mountains might flow down at thy presence...”

- The sinner has mountains of opposition against the spiritual things of God: mountains of hardness, stubbornness, unbelief, pride, blindness, rebellion, rejection, etc.

2. Cold hearts – “...the melting fire...causeth the waters to boil...”

- Cold hearts prevail in sinners and must be melted by the power of the Holy Spirit

3. Thorny hearts – “...fire burneth...”

Isa. 9:18 For **wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briars and thorns**, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up *like* the lifting up of smoke.

Isa. 10:17 And **the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame**: and it shall **burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day**;

Isa. 33:12 And the people shall be *as* the burnings of lime: **as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.**

Mt. 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

B. The Concern for the Unspiritual – “**...to make thy name known to thine adversaries**, *that* the nations may tremble at **thy** presence!”

- Real revival changes the heart of the sinner, (2 Cor. 5:17) from self-centeredness to soul-consciousness.

- After being reconciled to God, a revived sinner wants others to be reconciled to God!

2 Cor. 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath **given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

“Behold, We Need You”

Conclusion

Psa. 55:18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle *that was* against me: for there were many with me.

Psa. 86:13 For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Isa. 38:17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul *delivered it* from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.