

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, green, and red. The overall effect is a vibrant, abstract composition.

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 64:3-4

“Behold, We Need You!”

Isa. 64:3 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.**

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

We are down to the last eight weeks of a very challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the whole world upside down, and now the election has further divided our nation. We are bombarded with distractions that cause us to focus “under the sun.” How does things look from the heavenly perspective? What would the Creator want us to see? Should not our focus be upon repentance, reconciliation, and restoration?

Isaiah lived in a darker time regarding Israel's spiritual condition and judgment from God. America is paralleling Israel. The last few weeks, we have considered his prayer for Israel as we continued our series on...

BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

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.

A few weeks ago, we considered Isaiah's prayer –
“Behold – We Miss You!”

Now that the election is over, we still 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.

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.

Last week, we considered the next part of the prayer, ***"Behold – We Need You"***

and how we need Him for Revival and Reconciliation...

This morning, we continue looking at Isaiah's prayer expressed by...

"Behold, We Wait for You"

I. THE EPIPHANY OF PAIN AND GOD'S PRESENCE

Isa. 64:3 When **thou** didst terrible things **which we looked not for, thou camest down**, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.

A. Tough Love – “When **thou** didst terrible things **which we looked not for...**”

- Some events that God allows in life are “terrible” to us.

Heb. 10:31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

- Many “terrible” events in life take us by surprise – “...*which* we looked not for...”
- We must remember that NOTHING takes God by surprise!
- Things “terrible” to us, when initiated by God, most often are for our correction.

Rev. 3:19 **As many as I love**, I rebuke and **chasten**: be zealous therefore, and **repent**.

Prov. 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth**; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

- When “terrible” events happen, the “tough love” turns into “tougher learning” opportunities.

B. Tougher Learning – “...**thou camest down**, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.”

- God “came down” and exhibited His concern and correction for His people.

- God is NOT the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33) and has a purpose for His intervention.

Heb. 12:6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. ...

11 Now **no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous**: nevertheless afterward **it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

Psa. 119:67 **Before I was afflicted I went astray**: but now have I kept thy word. ...

71 *It is* **good for me that I have been afflicted**; that I might learn thy statutes.

- Israel had turned its back on God, but God still exhibited His unconditional love for His chosen people.
- The “tough love” was not what Isaiah expected – he expected something else, and was willing to wait for it.

“Behold, We Wait for You”

II. THE EXPECTATION OF PEACE AND GOD'S POWER

Isa. 64:4 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.**

A. The Obscure Revelation – “...*men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye see, O God, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared...”

- Revelation of divine truth has been a perpetual learning experience for mankind – “For since the beginning of the world...”
- From the time of Adam, through Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, then the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, and today via the Scriptures, truth has been, and is, being revealed to mankind.
- The obscurity was clarified to those interested enough “...that waiteth for him.”

B. The Opportunity Revealed – “...for him that waiteth for him.”

- Waiting indicates a willingness to get better acquainted with God and His blessings.
- Waiting subdues selfishness, placing trust in God’s timing.

Psa. 27:14 **Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: **wait, I say, on the LORD.**

Psa. 33:20 **Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.**

Psa. 37:7 **Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself** because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. ...

34 **Wait on the LORD**, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see *it*.

Psa 39:7 And now, **Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.**

Psa. 40:1 **I waited patiently for the LORD**; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psa. 130:5 I **wait for the LORD**, my soul doth wait, and **in his word do I hope.**

Prov. 20:22 **Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD**, and he shall save thee.

Isa. 8:17 And **I will wait upon the LORD**, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and **I will look for him.**

Isa. 40:31 But **they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Lam. 3:25 **The LORD is good unto them that wait for him**, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

26 *It is good that a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

2 Thess. 3:5 And **the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God**, and into **the patient waiting for Christ**.

“Behold, We Wait for You”

III. THE EXCELLENT PERSPICACITY AND GOD’S PREPARATION

1 Cor. 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**.

10 **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

- The “waiting” in Isaiah 63:4 is clarified in 1 Cor. 2:9 as “for them that love him.”

Isaiah 63:4 – “...what he hath **prepared for him that waiteth for him.**”

1 Cor. 2:9 – “...which **God hath prepared for them that love him.**”

- Patience is an expression of love that trusts in God’s faithfulness to us.
- What we do not know, the Lord will reveal to us when He deems appropriate.

A. The Searching Revelation – “But **God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit...**”

Gal. 5:5 For we **through the Spirit wait** for the hope of righteousness by faith. ...

16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.** ...

25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

- When worshipping the Lord in “in Spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24), He blesses a spiritual believer with personal revelation of Himself, His Word, His will and His way.

B. The Sweet Reality – “...the things which **God hath prepared for them that love him.**”

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good **to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

Eph. 5:2 And **walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us** an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

2 Thess. 3:5 And **the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God**, and into **the patient waiting** for Christ.

❖ Isaiah's prayer for Israel is a wonderful model for us to pray for America, individually and corporately:

"Behold, We Miss You"

"Behold, We Need You"

"Behold, We Wait for You"

Conclusion

Rom. 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**