



BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 64:5a

“Behold, We Meet You!”

Isa. 64:5 **Thou meetest** him that rejoiceth and
worketh righteousness, *those that* remember thee in
thy ways...”



Our theme this year is...

VISION	20/20
HIS VISION.	OUR FOCUS.

We are down to the last seven 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.

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.



Looking at Isaiah's prayer for Israel, we have already considered three aspects:

"Behold, We Miss You,"

"Behold, We Need You"

"Behold, We Wait for You"

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

"Behold, We Meet You"

I. BEHOLD, WE MEET YOU ON YOUR TERMS

Isa. 64:5a **Thou meetest** him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, *those that* remember thee **in thy ways...**"

- What does it mean to “meet God”?
- What emotions would a person experience when meeting God?
 - Confusion?
 - Consternation?
 - Comfort?
 - Companionship?

- Here it means to meet for purposes of peace, friendship, protection, and fellowship.
- Isaiah is praying for a rebellious nation experiencing the judgment of God, yet offers encouragement to those who are willing to meet God, on His terms.
- A characteristic of God is that He met such persons as are described for purposes of kindness and favor.
- Isaiah expresses the belief of the petitioners that whatever they were suffering, still they had no doubt that it was the character of God to bless the righteous.

A. The Rejoicing – “Thou meetest him that rejoiceth...”

- The phrase indicates that God meets those “that rejoiceth” and to denote the general habit of God. It was a characteristic of Him to meet the just who “rejoiceth,” that is, lives joyfully.

Psa. 35:9 And **my soul shall be joyful in the LORD**: it shall **rejoice in his salvation**.

Psa. 40:16 **Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee**: let such as **love thy salvation** say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Isa. 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

- Meeting God is man's greatest achievement when accomplished "God's way."

Psa. 86:11 Teach me **thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth:** unite my heart to fear thy name.

Prov. 11:20 They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but ***such as are upright in their way are his delight.***

Prov. 15:9 The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: **but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.**

- A believer's attitude for rejoicing is a reflection of the heart.

Prov. 23:7a “For **as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence;** for out of it *are* the issues of life.

- The greatest commandment is to love the Lord!

Mt. 22:36 Master, **which is the great commandment** in the law?

37 **Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

Deut. 6:5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**, and with **all thy strength**: this *is* the first commandment.

...

33 And to **love him with all the heart**, and with **all the understanding**, and with **all the soul**, and with **all the strength**, and to love *his* neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy strength**, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Psa. 31:23a **“O love the LORD, all ye his saints...”**

- Love for the Lord produces a longing to meet Him, on His terms, without complaining about those terms, but, rather, embracing them.

“Behold, We Meet You”

B. The Righteousness – **“Thou meetest** him that rejoiceth and **worketh righteousness...**”

- Meeting God on His terms combines rejoicing with righteousness.

Psa. 68:3 But **let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God:** yea, let them **exceedingly rejoice.**

- “...and him that...worketh righteousness...” It was a pleasure for God to meet one who puts faith into practice and, consequently, to procure His favors.
- The love that meets God’s terms is one of righteous action.

Jn. 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth them, he it is that loveth me**: and **he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him**, and will manifest myself to him.

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

- The proper love relationship with God is one of reciprocation.

Jn. 15:10 If **ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love**; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and **abide in his love**.

- When love is reciprocated with God, a believer receives the benefit of fellowship, and spiritual maturity.

1 Jn. 2:5 But **whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected**: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 Jm. 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**

- When a believer's love is manifested in righteous obedience, there is a moving toward God, and He "meets us in the middle."

Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

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- The third ingredient, after rejoicing and righteousness, is remember...

C. The Remembering – “...*those that* remember **thee** in **thy ways**...”

- God’s terms for meeting Him, as mentioned in Isaiah’s prayer, include rejoicing, righteousness, and remembering.
- The importance of remembering focuses upon God and His ways.

Deut. 5:33 **Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you**, that ye may live, and *that it may be* well with you, and *that* ye may prolong *your* days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deut. 8:6 Therefore thou shalt **keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.**

1 Chron. 16:12 **Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;**

Psa. 119:16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

Psa 20:7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psa. 77:11 I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

Psa. 78:35 And they remembered that God *was* their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

- Our “ways,” how we order our steps, should be a perpetual reflection of our reminder of Who God is, and that we are meeting Him on His terms, clearly seen by our attitude of rejoicing, and our righteous living.

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Conclusion

Deut. 10:12 And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee**, but to fear the LORD thy God, **to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,**