



BEHOLD – TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

Isa. 64:5-8

“Behold, We Thank You!”

Isa. 64:5 **Thou meetest** him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, *those that* remember thee in thy ways: **behold, thou art wroth**; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and **we all do fade as a leaf**; and **our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away**.

7 And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

8 **But now, O LORD, thou art our father**; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

Our theme this year is...

VISION	20/20
HIS VISION.	OUR FOCUS.

We are down to the last six 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"

Last week, we began 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...**

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

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

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

This morning we continue in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 64, to see God's grace and handiwork in spite of mankind's shortcomings.

"Behold, We Meet You"

We are privileged to meet God on His terms, as we are.

II. BEHOLD, WE MEET YOU WITH OUR TRANSGRESSIONS

Isa. 64:5b "...**behold, thou art wroth**; for we have sinned..."

A. The Consequences of Sin – "...behold, thou art wroth..."

- Isaiah was conscious of the consequences of his nation offending God.

Psa. 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and **God is angry with the wicked every day.**

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but **the wrath of God abideth on him.**

B. The Confession of Sin – “...for we have sinned...”

- Isaiah agrees with God = true confession = seeing ourselves as God sees us.
- Meeting God on His terms includes an honest perspective and evaluation of sin, its consequences, and the need for repentance.

III. BEHOLD, WE MEET YOU IN THE TRANSFORMATION

Isa. 64:5c ...in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.”

A. The Reality of the Dominion of Sins – “...in those is continuance...”

- Isaiah acknowledges that sin has been a “long term” problem for Israel.
- Americans have also had a “long term” problem with sin.
- God’s grace is available to transform sinners into saints.

“Behold, We Thank You!”

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

B. The Recognition of Deliverance from Sins – “... and we shall be saved.”

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

13 **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,** and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

- Backslidden Israel, by the love, mercy, and grace of God had hope.
- America, by the love, mercy, and grace of God, has hope for which we should be most thankful!

IV. BEHOLD, WE MEET YOU WITH THANKSGIVING

A. Behold, we are thankful for your greatness!

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

- The Almighty Creator condescends to our level for which we should be thankful!

B. Behold, we are thankful for your grace!

Isa. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

7 And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

- Before the Holy One, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, our righteousnesses is atrocious to Him!

Jer. 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- “Brethren, if our righteousnesses are so bad, what must our unrighteousnesses be?” Charles Spurgeon

Eph. 2:5 Even **when we were dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved**;) ...

8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*:

9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

- The frailty of mankind is seen by “...and we all fade as a leaf...” and “...our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Psa. 1:4 **The ungodly** *are* not so: but *are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

- The instability of the lost is not a deterrent to the available grace of the Savior!

Rom. 5:8 **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

C. Behold, we are thankful for your goodness!

Isa. 64:8 **But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father**; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

- We are thankful to be His children, adopted into His family!

Rom. 8:15 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.

“Behold, We Thank You!”

Conclusion

1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**