

Isaiah 64  
Punished Beyond Measure?

Our Condition – Filthy Rags (1-7)

Calling Upon a Holy God (1-4) **do you consider that a privilege?**

LORD come down – that the mountains would tremble before You (Ps. 18:6-14)

Let Your Name be known – that the nations would quake (Matthew 24:29-30)

Looking for awesome things – unexpected things (Psalm 145:3-6) **His ways are higher!**

Learning to wait – no other God to call upon (Jn 6:68-69/I Cor 2:9-10/Is 40:29-31)

Considering our need (5-7)

Help – **our first step is to recognize how desperately we need His help.**

For those who gladly do what is right (Tit. 2:14) – **He responds on His terms.**

For those who remember His ways (Rev 2:4-5) – **not based on our righteousness**

How then can we be saved? (Tit.3:4-5)

Who continue to sin – **we must turn to God from sin**

Whose righteousness is as filthy rags (Luke 18:19-25) – **no bargaining chip**

Who are swept away by our sins – **I am responsible for my condition**

Hidden His face from us – **the last thing we need (Numbers 6:24-26)**

No one calls on His Name (Judges 2:10; 21:25) – **sign of darkness.**

No one strives to lay hold of Him (Romans 3:10-12) – **all have turned away**

Now we waste away because of our sin (Psalm 32:3-4 / Ephesians 4:18-19)

**Sin affects our body, soul, and spirit.**

Our Plea – Father’s Love (8-12) (Lamentations 3:19-22) – **His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness!**

Potter’s Hand (Jeremiah 18:1-10) – **We must accept what He wants us to be.**

You are our Father (Matthew 6:9-13) – **What a privilege (I John 3:1)**

You have made us (Psalm 139:13-14) – **as He desired for His purpose**

Your anger we cannot endure (Heb. 12:11, 28-29) – **be merciful to us!**

Predicament – **all they treasured and hoped for are in ruin**

The Holy City is deserted and desolate

The Holy Temple is burned and in ruin (Jeremiah 52:12-14 / Mark 13:1-2)

Plea – **only God is able to restore us**

Do not hold Yourself back (Jdg. 10:13) – **is there no hope?**

Do not punish us beyond measure (Job 34:12-15 / Habakkuk 3:2)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 64

What motivates people to call upon God? (Psalm 107:27-32 / I Samuel 12:16-19 / Acts 9:3-6 / Romans 2:4) ***Times of distress, especially when there seems to be no hope, no way of escape. When confronted with God's holiness and power, recognizing that we deserve nothing but His judgment and wrath. When we recognize the love and kindness God has shown to us in spite of our own rebellion against Him.***

What does God desire of those who cry out to Him? (Psalm 32:3-6; 57:1-2; 86:1-11 / Luke 18:7) ***He desires that we would own and confess our sins, no more cover up, but a desire to repent. He wants us to seek Him, to follow Him, and to look to Him as our refuge. He has a plan for us and wants us to walk in that plan according to His purpose and will. (Philippians 2:13) We are to recognize our need of Him, that apart from Him we can do nothing. We are to invite Him to teach us and show us His way. We are to persistently cry to His for His mercy and deliverance.***

What hope can sustain us when our situation is hopeless? (Lamentations 3:19-22 / II Corinthians 4:16-18 / Deuteronomy 31:8 / Hebrews 13:5-6 / Romans 5:3-5 / James 1:2-4) ***We must never forget the great love God has shown us through the cross – His mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great! We must remember that our trials are temporary (Psalm 30:5) and that what awaits us on the other side will make our sufferings seem as nothing. We must believe that He is with us, He will never forsake us, and our loving God has a reason for our suffering. We must seek to learn from our trials, knowing that God is molding us into the character of His Son.***

What must we recognize about our God and how He responds to wickedness? (Isaiah 45:9-11 / Job 34:14-15; 40:8 / Psalm 6:1-4 / Jeremiah 17:10 / Matthew 12:33-36 / Revelation 21:27) ***He is my Maker. He is in charge. I have no right to accuse Him. He would be perfectly just in destroying my life, I can only ask for His mercy. He alone is just, I am the one who deserves condemnation. I could not survive His rebuke if it was according to His anger. My only hope is in His unfailing love and mercy. He sees everything I do including my motives. I can hide nothing from Him. What is seen in my life and comes out of my mouth reveals the wickedness of my heart. My only hope is to have my name written in His book of life. (to receive the gift of eternal life from Him – Romans 6:23)***

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