

24 - THE NATION'S DILEMMA (ISAIAH 63:7-65:25)

I. The Nation's Prayer (Isaiah 63:7-64:12)

A. The question (Isaiah 63:7-14)

- The remnant tells of the goodness and mercy of the Lord in the past.
- The remnant knew that God was their savior.
- Yet Israel rebelled against the Lord and he fought against them.
- They recalled the patience of God in the events of the Exodus.

B. The complaint (Isaiah 63:15-19)

- The remnant called for the Lord to look down on them from heaven.
- They acknowledge that the Lord God is their Father.
- They questioned the Lord as to why he allowed them to stray and harden their hearts.
- They ask God to return them since the Temple has been destroyed.
- They have become like those who have never been ruled by God.

C. The petition (Isaiah 64:1-5)

- The remnant cries out that the Lord would come down from heaven.
- They want the Lord to make his presence known to his adversaries.
- They proclaim that the world has not seen a God like the Lord who can do as he does.
- They recognize that they are suffering because of their sin.

D. The contradiction (Isaiah 64:6-7)

- The remnant recognized that they are unrighteous and consumed with iniquity.
- They acknowledge that no one seeks the Lord and that he has turned from them.

E. The petition (Isaiah 64:8-12)

- The remnant reminded the Lord that they are his children and that he is their father.
- They call for the Lord not to remember their sin forever.

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- They tell the Lord that Jerusalem and its temple are destroyed.
- They asked the Lord if this will not move him to action.

II. The Lord's Response (Isaiah 65:1-25)

A. The problem (Isaiah 65:1-7)

- The Lord revealed himself to those who did not ask him to.
- He reached out to those who chose their own path.
- This people provoked the Lord because of their idolatry.
- The Lord will repay them for their sin.

B. The faithful remnant (Isaiah 65:8-12)

- The Lord will not totally destroy them as a remnant will remain.
- The remnant's flocks will flourish in Israel.
- The prophet points out that Israel is a people given over to idolatry.
- Those that have forsaken the Lord will be punished.

C. God's promises (Isaiah 65:13-16)

- The Lord contrasts those who are his servants and those who have forsaken him.
- His servants will eat and drink while those who forsake him will hunger and thirst.
- The faithful will be blessed and the Lord forgets their past troubles.

D. The future creation (Isaiah 65:17-25)

- The Lord will create a new heaven and a new earth.
- Jerusalem will be a place of joy.
- The people will dwell in safety and enjoy long life spans.
- There will be harmony in nature as the world experiences peace.