

The Great Day of God's Vengeance and Mercy: A Picture of Armageddon Isaiah 63:01–64:12

1. *The great day of God's vengeance, 34:1-17; Rev 19:1-21*

a. Who will be judged?
Edom and its capital Bozrah —
a world that rejects God

b. Who will execute judgment?

- 1) He who comes in glory,
strength and righteousness
- 2) He who has clothes stained red:
Christ, Jn. 5:22; Rev 14:17-20

- He will act alone:
Not use nations and people
- He personally will crush the
wicked and the oppressors

c. Why will He execute judgment?

- 1) Because vengeance against evil
and redemption for His people
are in His heart
- 2) Because He will find no one
else who will help His people
 - His own arm (power) and
wrath will save His people
 - His own arm (power) and
wrath will crush the nations

2. *The great mercy of God: Proves that He will execute judgment and save His people*

a. God's acts of love for His people
down through history:
To be praised for His unfailing
acts of compassion

1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah,
with his garments stained crimson?
Who is this, robed in splendour,
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?
“It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save.

2 Why are your garments red,
like those of one treading the wine-press?

3 I have trodden the wine-press alone;
from the nations no one was with me.
I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
and I stained all my clothing.

4 It was for me the day of vengeance;
the year for me to redeem had come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help,
I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm worked salvation for me,
and my own wrath sustained me.

6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger,
and make them drunk in my fury,
and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

7 I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the lord has done for us —
yes, the many good things he has done
for the house of Israel,
according to his compassion
and many kindnesses.

1) God had chosen them
to be His people:
Trusted them to be true to Him

2) God had become their Saviour

- Identified with their distress and sufferings
- Saved, redeemed and carried them through all the years

3) God had disciplined them
when they rebelled
and grieved His Holy Spirit

4) God had used His discipline
to stir them to repent
and to remember His care

- To remember God's gift of the great leader Moses
- To remember God's giving them His Holy Spirit
- To remember God's awesome power in dividing the Red Sea
- To remember God's guidance in leading them
- To remember the rest that God had given them in the promised land (Jos 23:1)

b. God's purpose:
To make sure
His name is glorified

3. *The great cry for deliverance*

a. A cry for God to look down:
To hear and help His people

- 1) Because God's strength and compassion seemed to be withheld from them
- 2) Because God was still their Father and Redeemer:
Although Abraham and Jacob would have disowned them

8 For he said, Surely they are my people,
children that will not lie:
so he was their Saviour.

9 In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he turned and became their enemy
and he himself fought against them.

11 Then his people recalled the days of old,
the days of Moses and his people —
where is he who brought them through the sea,
with the shepherd of his flock?
Where is he who set his Holy Spirit
among them,

12 Who sent his glorious arm of power
to be at Moses' right hand,
who divided the waters before them,
to gain for himself everlasting renown,

13 Who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in open country,
they did not stumble;

14 Like cattle that go down to the plain,
they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord.
This is how you guided your people
to make for yourself a glorious name.

15 Look down from heaven and see,
from your lofty throne, holy and glorious.
Where are your zeal and your might?
Your tenderness and compassion
are withheld from us.

16 But you are our Father, though Abraham
does not know us or Israel acknowledge us;
you, Lord, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

3) Because they had turned away from God

4) Because there were still some true believers among them

5) Because their enemies had destroyed God's holy temple

6) Because they were so sinful, it was as though they had never belonged to God

b. A cry for God to come down:
To display His power

1) To come down to execute judgment: A picture of God's awesome power on Mt. Sinai, Exo 19:16-19

- To make His name known to His enemies
- To cause the nations to tremble

2) To come down because He alone had proven He was God

3) To come down to help those who waited (believed) on God

c. A cry of confession

1) Confessed they were habitual sinners: They angered God and did not deserve to be saved

2) Confessed they were unclean, impure, infected with sin: Their righteousness was filthy rags

3) Confessed they were weak, unstable: They were like a shrivelled up leaf

17 Why, Lord, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?

Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.

18 For a little while your people possessed your holy place, but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary.

19 We are yours from of old; but you have not ruled over them, they have not been called by your name.

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1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

4) Confessed no one sought God's mercy or forgiveness

5) Confessed God was forced to turn His face away from them

6) Confessed God was their Father: He was the Potter; they were the clay

d. A cry for forgiveness:
Feared God would be so angry
He would remember their sins

1) Because they were His people

2) Because their cities —
even the Holy City Jerusalem
— had been destroyed

3) Because the holy, beautiful
temple had been burned
and ruined

4) Because they desperately
needed His deliverance:
He must not keep silent,
refuse to help

7 No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and made us waste away because of our sins.

8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

10 Your sacred cities have become a wasteland;
even Zion is a wasteland,
Jerusalem a desolation.

11 Our holy and glorious temple,
where our ancestors praised you,
has been burned with fire,
and all that we treasured lies in ruins.

12 After all this, LORD,
will you hold yourself back?
Will you keep silent
and punish us beyond measure?