

Judgment and Love

Text: Isaiah 63:1-9

Date: 6-11-23 10:30 AM

I. God's judgment on Zion's enemies (Isa. 63:1-6).

"Because Edom became a perpetual enemy of Israel (cf. comments on Ezek. 35; 36:5), she was an appropriate example of what the Lord will do to all nations that fight against His people".¹ Edom's root issue was pride, but the reasons that this nation was under God's judgment stemmed from their actions against Israel. Edom had battled against Israel for some time. Edom was more than a warring nation, they were family to Israel. Edom was a descendant of Esau while Israel was a descendant of Jacob. Edom was the estranged brother of Israel.

God was singling out Edom for their hatred and for being an enemy to His people.

The person coming out of Edom:

He is none other the one who *speaks in righteousness and is mighty to save*. Later in the Bible in Revelation 19:13 the Apostle John wrote: "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God" (NKJV). This Person can act in complete righteousness with the power to deliver mankind. This must be the Lord Jesus Christ and points to His vengeance and judgment upon Edom and the world, those who opposed God's people. Isa. 59:16

"Why are your clothes like crimson and why do you look like someone who has stomped on grapes in the wine press?"

Clearly the picture demonstrates the Person has been involved with something that has caused His clothes to become red like blood.

Several truths can be taken from this verse:

- The Lord Jesus will single-handedly do the work of saving His people and executing justice against their enemies.
- God's wrath will be poured out not just on Edom but on other nations as well.
- For this to happen these enemies had to have been guilty of sins committed and justice was right and appropriate in being carried out.
- Just as easily as grapes are trodden in a wine vat, God's judgment will befall His enemies.
- The anger is God's righteous judgment against man's sinfulness.
- This Person now comes to Jerusalem in this manner showing the dramatic and vivid picture of the judgment to come upon the nations.
- Without this judgment, the blessings of Isa. 62 cannot be enjoyed by God's people.

God's vengeance and retribution against sin is why God acts in this manner. This punishment is the exoneration of God's holiness against sin. Once the day of vengeance has come God will redeem His people.

God alone will receive credit for both judgment and salvation. The victory alone will be the Lord's victory.

God's judgment will be swift. God's judgment will be complete. God's judgment will be thorough. God will reduce them to total helplessness and their lives will end at the hands of His judgment.

¹ Martin, J. A. (1985). [Isaiah](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1084). Victor Books.

II. God's redeeming love showered upon Zion (Isa. 63:7-19).

Isaiah now confesses great praise to the Lord for His work through the ages towards His people.

- Lovingkindnesses (bookends in this verse) – The unfailing love, kindness, or goodness that God has towards His people based on the faithfulness to His covenant. The prophet prays that God will remember His mercies towards His people.
- Praises – Acts of worship which are on account of His lovingkindness
- Great goodness on account of all that the Lord had given to them (Isa. 5:1ff)
- Mercies according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses, including all of the Lord's compassions for His people and His deep love like a Father to a child.

Jehovah does all these things because Israel is *my people*. This hearkens back to Exodus and the beginning of the nation. Israel alone is His people whom He will graciously and mercifully care for.

The nation went through much oppression (*affliction*) but even so out of God's great love and compassion He also suffered with them.

It was God who promised to help His people; it was God who delivered His people. Everywhere the nation went God Himself went with them. Christ Himself was with them (I Cor. 10:4).

In His love and pity then the Word of God became human flesh (John 1:14) and their Messiah whom they rejected came to this world and redeemed them. This angel probably was the pre-incarnate Messiah. He lifted them up and carried through all the ancient times. He never left them nor forsook them even all the while they did that to Him. The nation's life was completely in God's hands.