

WHO IS THIS THAT COMETH FROM EDOM? (Is 63:1-6)

Especially approaching the conclusion of His ministry on earth, the Lord Jesus constantly instructed His disciples to *watch* for His return, **Mt. 24:42** *Watch* therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come ... **Mt. 25:13** *Watch* therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh ... Previously, He had mourned over the city, **Mt. 23:37** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! **38** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. **39** For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.* ... “I’m coming again”, He promised.

Let’s go back seven hundred years to the time of Isaiah, to about the year 739 BC. He prophesied through the reigns of four kings ... the last of which was King Hezekiah. This was a particularly volatile period in the history of the Middle East region when the Assyrian Empire was the dominant power. However, the Babylonian Empire was on the rise, and it was beginning to threaten Assyria’s position. Unfortunately, Israel and Judah were gravely under threat for they were within the area affected. This was part of God’s plan to chastise them because they had allowed themselves to become increasingly influenced by idolatry.

Through the period though, God repeatedly appealed to His people, but they would not listen. He had sent faithful prophets, but they had been rejected. Instead, the people received the more welcome message from the *false* prophets ... and Isaiah warned them of the danger they were in, **Is. 29:10** For the LORD hath poured out upon you *the spirit of deep sleep*, and hath closed [*sealed*] your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. **11** And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: **12** And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. **13** Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: **14** Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and *the understanding of their prudent[eminent, intelligent, educated] men shall be hid [concealed]*. ... And Isaiah went on to describe the people as a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear [*attend to, obey*] the law [*instruction*] of the Lord (Is. 30:9).

Nevertheless, such is the grace and mercy of God that He sent *more* faithful prophets to warn the people, **Is. 62:6** I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence ... Hosea was also a watchman (Hos. 9:8), at the earlier part of

Isaiah's prophecy. Ezekiel belonged to a later period but he explains in chapter thirty-three the watchman's grave responsibilities, **Ezek. 33:3** If when he [*the watchman*] seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; **4** Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. **5** He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. **6** But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. ... The watchmen were answerable to God, **Ezek. 33:7** So thou [*Ezekiel*], O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

These were alarming times for the nation of Israel, and they did not realise it. However, along with the warnings, Isaiah brought hope for those faithful watchmen *would* make mention of the Lord's name and not keep their silence. Those same faithful prophets also foretold a coming day when God would turn it all to His favour, **7** And give him no rest, till he establish, *and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

How would God bring about the fulfilment of such a wonderful promise? ... Here's how ... Someone unparalleled and without equal is introduced onto the scene in Is. 63:1-6. As the people of Israel looked out over the ramparts of the city wall, and saw the enemy gathering, their hearts were pumping with fear. ... But as they watch, they see a Figure approaching in the distance, and they turn to each other and ask, **Is. 63:1** Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? ... He is not *limping* along, mortally wounded, escaping with His life, and running from the battle. No, for He is *glorious in his apparel*, and coming in the *greatness of his strength*. ... He is the Victor!

They want to know, "Who is He? And the answer comes back to them from the One approaching, **1** I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ... The Saviour of His people is on His way ... that is how He describes Himself here and also in the forty-third chapter, **Is. 43:3** I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.

And they ask Him a second question, **2** Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? ... You are covered in blood, what has happened? Where have You been? What have You been doing?! ... And the reply comes back from this triumphant Conqueror, **3** I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. **4** For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. **5** And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there

was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld 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.

Do you know Who this? ... It is the same One we see in the Book of Revelation, **Rev. 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ... This is the Lord Jesus Christ! ... Look again, and if you have a margin in your Bible, look and see where it takes you ... *It takes you back to Is. 63*, and **THE CONDITION OF HIS GARMENTS** ... **Is. 63:1** Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength?

Where is He coming from? He is coming from Edom, - in modern-day Jordan, - and, in particular, He is coming from Bozrah. ... Bozrah means 'sheepfold' ... He is coming out of the 'sheepfold' ... this is the *Shepherd* of Israel ... Go back to **Is. 40:11** He shall feed his flock like a *shepherd*: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young ... Ezekiel uses the same analogy, **Ezek. 34:12** As a *shepherd* seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. **13** And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. **14** I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. **15** I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. ... **23** And I will set up one *shepherd* over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their *shepherd*. **24** And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. **25** And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. **26** And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. **27** And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. **28** And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. **29** And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no

more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. **30** Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD. **31** And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

This is the Shepherd of Israel, and He is coming from the East, and Zechariah tells us it is from the east He will enter Jerusalem when He returns, **Zech. 14:1** Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. **2** For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. **4** And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem *on the east*.

He will be coming from the east to defend His people. The children of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel will be facing obliteration, their armies will be paralysed ... and then when it seems everything is about to be lost, the Shepherd of Israel, - the Messiah, - returns to fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle, on all those previous occasions throughout their history ... And He will defend them with such ferocity the *blood* of His enemies will be on His garments. ... *He* is not hiding behind the ramparts, nor shivering for fear, but He is triumphant in battle. He went into the enemy's domain, and came out victorious ... His garments red with the blood of His defeated adversaries.

Is. 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? ... **The condition of His garments.**

THE CLAIMS OF HIS GREATNESS

Is. 63:1 I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ... Here is the One to place your trust in! The people were in their predicament because they had foolishly placed their confidence in false prophets. They had turned away from God and departed from the true faith. They had heeded the seducing spirits, and been deceived by the doctrines of devils ... and now they were hiding like cowards behind the city ramparts. All hope had gone. The enemy was amassing on the other side of the walls, about to sweep in like a lion ... and then the Lord raised up His standard ... *The King is coming!* ... glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength ... mighty to save.

He is mighty to save from sin for He proved it at Calvary where He had 'trodden the winepress along', - notice the tense, **3** I *have* trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there *was* none with me ... That refers to the cross, - but now notice how the future tense takes over, for I *will* tread them in mine anger, and [*I will*] trample them in my fury; and their blood *shall* be sprinkled upon my garments, and I *will* stain all my raiment. ... The picture here is referring to a time which has not yet been fulfilled ... the salvation of the people of Israel *in the 'end times'*, **Zech. 12:2** Behold,

I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. ³ And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. ... ⁸ In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. ⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ... He will defeat the enemy, - His garments will be dyed with their blood, - 'stained crimson' ... but here is what He is *really* looking forward to, ¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son ... and what happens then? **Zech. 13:1** In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. ... Salvation in Israel ... The answer to Paul's prayer, **Rom. 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

The condition of His garments ... The Claims of His Greatness ...

THE CHARACTER OF HIS GLORY

Is. 63:2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? ³ I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me ... When we look back to His first coming, He was *alone* in the Garden of Gethsemane as He knelt to pray at the commencement of His darkest hours on earth. He was *alone* as He hung on the cross of Calvary ... *alone* in the Garden tomb ... And here, in anticipation of His second coming, - when it seems the enemy is about to at last annihilate the nation, - He is promising, ³ I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come ... 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.

Sing we the King who is coming to reign,

Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;

Righteousness, peace then His empire shall bring,

Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Where is the Assyrian Empire today? Where is the Babylonian Empire today? ... They are gone! Where, though, is the nation of Israel ... the nation they and so many others have tried to destroy? It is the 'burdensome stone' which has been the downfall of many nations, *why*? Because God has continued to honour His Old Testament covenants, and He has kept them and brought them home to their own land. ... That is the same God we are trusting in during these uncertain times. ... The world is falling apart and the reason is because it has rejected the Saviour in favour of the promises of dubious politicians and rulers. Ultimately, there will come one who will prove to be the greatest deceiver of them all, - the

Antichrist. He will make all kinds of promises and they will put their confidence in him, but he will bring them such despair and anguish, the likes of which this world has never experienced for it will be the judgment of God.

For the Christian, though, we have a greater hope for the conquering and victorious Lord Jesus is coming from the east, *glorious in his apparel, ... in the greatness of his strength.*

Kingdom of Christ, for Thy coming we pray,
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished, and Jesus is King.