

# Our Faithful Avenger

Isaiah 63:1-14

Halifax: 8 May 2011

## Introduction

Isaiah has certainly been telling us some remarkable things about the coming of Christ's kingdom!

- It is a marvellous thing that in the very day when Israel was being crushed by her enemies,
  - He was able to see that the day was coming when the nations of the world, who were all in his day, lost in idolatry, would be restored to the true God!
  - If people were not blinding by sin, they would be compelled to believe.

One of the things Isaiah has told us all along the way is that in order for Christ's kingdom to fully come,

- There must be destruction to God's inveterate enemies!
  - There is a picture of the nations coming for salvation,
    - but there is at the same time a picture of the destruction of those within all nations—including Israel—who oppose His kingdom.
  - The kingdom cannot fully come until the rebellious are destroyed.
    - Satan, the leader, must be cast into infernal torment along with all of those who continue in the rebellion that he introduced into the world.
    - Jesus comes to rescue us from Satan and his rebellion...
      - but those who will not have His salvation must be cast into the flames of torment along with the Devil and all his allies.
- Perhaps you remember back in Isaiah 61 where we were told that Jesus, the anointed one, would proclaim "the acceptable year of the LORD," and "the day of vengeance of our God."
  - The *acceptable year of the LORD* refers to salvation—to freedom from bondage to sin and complete forgiveness...
    - But it does not come a part from the day of vengeance which brings destruction to the enemies of God who continue to reject Him.
      - Salvation comes, but vengeance also comes.

This is a hard truth to accept.

- We live in a time when the church has become embarrassed about God's judgement.
- We want to just wish it away.
  - That is one of the reason people don't feel comfortable singing Psalms...
    - In the Psalms we praise God for both His mercy and His judgement.

- We want soft sermons and soft doctrine and soft songs...
  - Rob Bell is a great example! Love wins! Ghandi is okay!
- But our gracious Lord does not call us not to dismiss His judgement!
  - He calls us to glory in it!
    - There are many who say that God’s judgement goes away when Jesus comes because He preaches love.
    - But that is just not true!
      - Jesus did indeed preach love—more fully than it had ever been preached before...
        - But He also preached judgement—more fully than it had ever been preached before!
        - If you want the true Jesus of History,
          - you must accept Him as a Jesus who brings both salvation and judgement.
    - You can make up your own Jesus if you want to,
      - but I warn you that made-up Jesuses cannot save you!
      - The Only Jesus that can save you is the One who came and died on the cross two thousand years ago...
        - And He is the one who comes with vengeance that casts His enemies into eternal torment.

My brothers and sisters, I say all this to prepare you for the picture of Jesus that Isaiah presents to us in chapter 63—

- the passage we come to today in our study of Isaiah.

**I. See how Jesus is presented here as a great destroyer!**

**A. The passage opens with a question—Who is this?**

1. We know for sure that this is the LORD Jesus.
  - It is clear enough from what Isaiah says about Him,
    - But it is absolutely certain because the faithful Apostle John picks up this imagery to describe Jesus in His vision,
      - Jesus coming to judge the nations.
      - This puts it beyond all question that this is the LORD Jesus Christ!
        - Jesus Himself made it clear that though He did not come for judgement the first time,
          - He would return again for judgement...

- He said that the Father had committed all judgement to Him and that He would come to destroy His enemies.

TRANS> It seems that when Isaiah first sees him and asks, “**Who is this?**”...

2. The impression is given that perhaps there is some fear!
  - The approaching figure is one that strikes terror and dread!
    - We may think of Joshua who met Him with His drawn sword and cried out,
      - **Joshua 5:13: “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”**
      - What dread there would have been if He were against us?
  - Oh congregation—nothing could be worse than to have the LORD of glory against you!
    - And do not be deceived—
      - There **are** those that He is against!
        - You do not want to meet Him on the day of judgement if He is against you!
        - I plead with you—do not leave yourself open to His judgement—
          - **Isaiah 2:17-19: The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone will be exalted in that day...They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.**
      - Be reconciled to Him while you still have a chance!
        - You do not want to meet Him as an angry judge!
        - If He is against you in that day, no one will be able to help you!

B. Look at the dreadful way that He is described!

1. His garments are stained with blood from trampling upon the nations!
  - a. He Himself declares it to be so!
    - Isaiah asks Him in verse 2...
      - **Isa 63:2: Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?**
    - And He answers most plainly in verse 3:
      - **Isa 63:3: "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.**

- What a gory sight—
    - Just think of it—covered with blood—from trampling on *people*!
    - In those days, they extracted the juice from the grapes by putting them in a wine press—
      - and then they would jump into the wine press and stomp on the grapes so that the juice would spurt all over the place!
        - It was a time of great rejoicing.
    - But here it is the picture of the nations—people—being trampled by the LORD in His wrath and indignation so that their blood is spurting all over the place.
      - It is a terrifying picture of His judgement.
- b. And you see that He does this in His anger and wrath!
- There is no sense of “loving the sinner and hating his sin” here!
    - This is a dreadful outburst of wrath!
    - It is the outpouring of indignation!
  - At the end of verse 5, He says that His fury sustained Him in all this!
    - He kept going, not because someone was forcing Him to do so,
      - but because He Himself was furious with His enemies!
2. And look at how mighty He is!
- He has done all this alone—
    - Verse 3 and verse 5 both emphasise this...
  - And yet, He is described as one who is brimming with vigour!
    - It has not even tired Him to do this great work of destruction upon the nations!
    - Isaiah describes Him in verse 1 as one **“travelling in the greatness of His strength.”**
      - Imagine the great power that He has unleashed—
        - and yet it does not faze Him!
        - He could do it a thousand more times!
3. And look, He claims that He has done all this in righteousness!
- He refers to Himself as the one who **“speaks in righteousness”!**

- Over and over Isaiah has shown the Servant of the Lord to be one who speaks.
  - And here His speaking to show us that His trampling of the nations is not a capricious act—
    - He has spoken as a righteous judge.
    - He has pronounced judgement upon them.
    - He has exposed their wicked rebellion and brought down upon them the wrath that they fully deserve!
- He does not apologise as one who has overreacted!
  - He glories in what He has done as an act of righteousness!
- If it seems unjust to you for Him to trample on the nations like this, you need to re-evaluate.
  - When He speaks in righteousness on the day of judgement, you will see that all of your complaints are worthless and unjust.
  - No one will come away from His judgement with a self-righteous spirit.
    - I advise you not to argue with Him, but to repent and believe Him.

TRANS> So you see that Jesus is presented as a most terrible yet most righteous destroyer.

- But what is the cause of all this destruction?
  - Why does He bring such great judgement upon the nations?

## **II. He brings this terrible judgement as a faithful avenger.**

A. He is described as an avenger in verse 4...

1. Do you know what an avenger is?

- An avenger is someone who comes to take care of your enemies for you.
- Perhaps you are familiar with the parable of the unjust judge...
  - You know - the one where the widow goes to the judge and asks him to avenge her because of wrongs that have been done to her...
    - Judges are supposed to protect the defenceless.
    - It is his duty to act in her behalf by stopping her enemies.
      - That is called “avenging her.”
  - So if Jesus avenges us, it means that He punishes our enemies and frees us from whatever wrongs they are doing to us.

2. This is precisely what He says that He has purposed to do in verse 4...

- It says:
  - **Isa 63:4: For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.**
    - It is in His heart to avenge.
- a. Notice how vengeance is joined together with redemption.
  - Isaiah often speaks about Christ as our redeemer.
    - Do you remember what a redeemer is?
      - He is someone who is your next of kin who comes to rescue you from slavery.
        - If you have been sold into slavery, He comes with money to purchase your freedom.
        - If, on the other hand, enemies have come and taken you as a slave by force,
          - your redeemer comes to avenge you of your enemies.
          - He raises up an army and comes to rescue you.
          - He brings vengeance on your enemies in order to set you free!
- b. Jesus comes as our redeemer in both of these ways.
  - 1) Remember back in chapter 59, verse 2, how the LORD told us that we have sold ourselves into slavery to sin...
    - But Jesus comes with full payment to redeem us!
      - The payment that He makes is the offering up of Himself as a sacrifice to atone for our sins.
    - That payment was fully described back in Isaiah 53.
      - All of our iniquities are laid on Him.
      - By His stripes, we are healed.
      - The Father sees the affliction of His soul and is satisfied.
        - Full redemption is paid to set us free from the curse of the law.
  - 2) But we also stand in need of redemption from Satan.
    - a) He took us captive in Garden of Eden when he tempted us.
      - He seduced us so that we forsook God as our LORD and master in order that we might become our own master.
      - In fact, we became the slaves of Satan and sin.
        - We were brought into a most miserable bondage in our effort to find independence.

- b) When God came to Adam and Eve after they had rebelled,
- (i) The very first thing He promised was that He would raise up from among the fallen human race a seed...
    - A Seed who would be born of the woman.
    - And God promised that He would put enmity between the woman's seed and the serpent's seed.
      - In other words, He would make the woman's seed to be loyal to Him again.
      - He would reconcile them to Himself.
      - They would be His own people once again!
  - (ii) And He promised that there would be an individual in whom this seed would be identified—
    - an individual born to the woman—
      - who would eventually completely free His people from Satan and his dominion over them...
      - He would free them by crushing the serpent's head—
        - bringing upon him and final and fatal blow!
        - He would be a redeemer to set them free.

TRANS> This was the first promise of redemption!

- It is a promise of vengeance against the enemies of those who have returned to God.
- (iii) And over the years, God revealed this redemption more and more fully...
- He revealed it by taking vengeance on Pharaoh in Egypt when he would not let Israel go to serve God.
  - He revealed it by taking vengeance on Babylon for the same reason...
  - But most of all, it is revealed when Jesus comes and we are told that He came to destroy the works of the Devil.
    - As we read in Revelation 19, the Devil and the beast and false prophet are all cast into the lake of fire.
      - This is the world's trinity—
      - The Devil, false religion, and worldly powers that are at enmity with God.

- Understand that these enemies are called **Edom** in this passage.
    - Edom is the people of Esau—Jacob’s apostate brother!
      - He is the one who once knew God, but turned away, just as Adam had done.
    - Jacob and Esau were both circumcised.
      - They both were both the sons of Isaac, the son of Abraham to whom the promises of God were made.
  - But Esau despised his birthright.
    - He did what every human being does but for the grace of God.
    - He did what Adam did in the garden all over again.
    - The whole human race is represented by Edom until God’s grace makes us an Israel.
  - And once we become and Israel,
    - Edom opposes us for serving the LORD, but the LORD comes and crushes Edom...
      - Like grapes in the wine press, He tramples upon them.
- c. So do you see how vengeance is joined to redemption?
- Satan, false religion, and worldly powers, are united with one goal—
    - to overthrow the LORD God who created heaven and earth that He might not rule.
    - They oppose Him by opposing all who have been reconciled to Him.
      - They use violence, lies, deception, and ridicule—anything they can—to keep God from being honoured.
  - These enemies are just like Pharaoh...
    - When the LORD comes with gospel and calls His people to come out and serve Him—to come to Christ and live...
    - When He comes and says to Satan and the world and false religion:
      - “Let my people go”
      - These enemies refuse to release us.
    - Therefore, our Lord comes with vengeance against them to redeem us!
      - He avenges us of Edom so that we can serve Him.

B. See how the LORD loves us!

1. In verse 4 He says that vengeance is in His heart!



- It is at the very core of Him to come and set us free from bondage that we might come forth to serve God as His people!
    - We have already seen the zeal of our Lord for us!
      - We saw it in Isaiah 50 where nothing would stop Him from doing what had to be done to bring us forth to freedom...
        - He was shown the shame and suffering He would have to bear as an offering for our sins, but it was His great desire to redeem us!
      - And in chapter 62 we saw how He refused to hold His peace or rest until He had made Jerusalem, the City of God,
        - a praise in the earth!
        - Oh how He loves us!
2. Here you see that His fury against the nations grows out of His love for us!
- a. He is greatly stirred when He sees how they hold us in bondage and that there is no one to deliver us...
    - And so He comes with His mighty arm to do it Himself!
      - Look at verse 5:
        - **Isa 63:5: I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.**
    - His fury sustains Him.
    - He is incensed with our enemies who continually try to dissuade us from God's service!
      - Remember when Peter—well meaning Peter—protested when Jesus told them that He was going to the cross?
        - Remember how He called Peter Satan—and said,
          - **Mat 16:23: Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**
    - Our Lord was very zealous for this work.
      - He cannot bear to see His people restrained from serving God!
      - He comes with zealous love to avenge us.
        - He labours until He has brought down their strength to the earth.
          - until He has rendered them powerless.
  - b. Doesn't that stir your heart?
    - Jesus is angry because of His great love for you and because of His yearning for you to be fully restored to God!

- All the blood and all the gore and all the vengeance is for your redemption!
  - We don't even appreciate it, but still He comes that He might set us free to serve God.
    - I don't mean that you should be cold-hearted toward your enemies.
      - You should love them and pray for them and do all you can to win them to the Lord, even as you were won.
  - But isn't it wonderful to know how much the LORD wants your service?
    - Doesn't that make you want to serve God?
    - Doesn't it make you thankful?

### III. Consider how faithful He has been to avenge us (His people) through the ages!

#### A. Isaiah remembers His faithfulness starting in verse 7...

- Join with Isaiah in remembering His faithfulness.
  1. In verse 7, Isaiah says,
    - **I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD and the praises of the LORD,**
      - He is going to bring it up for us to think about!
      - He is going to call our attention to what God does for us.
    - a. The word **lovingkindnesses** is the word *hesed*.
      - It speaks of God's faithful covenant love—
        - the love that He has promised,
        - the love that we do not deserve,
        - the love that endures forever,
        - the love that is always faithful.
    - You will have opportunity to sing of God's *hesed* at the end of our service when we sing Psalm 136.
      - In that Psalm, the word *hesed* is translated by the word **mercy**.
      - Do you remember that Psalm?
        - If not, let me remind you of it.
          - It is the one that repeats the phrase, **“for His mercy (*hesed*) endures forever”** after every line.
      - But what is interesting (and may seem strange to us sometimes) is the way that the LORD's *hesed* is described in that Psalm.

- The proof of His *hesed* is seen in creation and in providing food for us,
  - that makes sense...
  - but it also seen in destroying Egypt and Pharaoh and Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan.
  - And that seems strange to us...
    - **To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His *mercy* endures forever;???**
  
- This is the expression of God's covenant love, His loving-kindness,
  - expressed by taking vengeance on our enemies—so that we can serve God!
    - It is this avenging us of our enemies that Isaiah has been talking about.
    - It is this vengeance that has prompted Isaiah to speak of God's lovingkindnesses toward us.
  - This is what the LORD has done for us, an expression of:
    - His **great goodness toward the house of Israel...**
      - as Isaiah goes on to say in v. 7...
      - **which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies** (this time it is the word that speaks of compassion or pity)
      - **according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses** (*hesed* again)
  
- b. Just think where we would be if God did not take vengeance on our enemies!
  - Do you think Satan would let us go if he were not forced to do so?
  - We would still be in bondage!
    - The Lord avenges us so that we might be free to serve Him...
    - As Zacharias put it in Luke 1:68-75:
      - **Luke 1:68-75: Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.**
  - That captures it very well!

- He takes vengeance on our enemies so that we can serve Him.
  - That is how His faithful covenant love is exercised.
2. The LORD does this for us because we are His people—His elect people.
- Verse 8 is poorly translated—a more literal translation would be:
    - **Isa 63:8: For He said, “they only are my people, children who will not lie. And He became their Saviour.”**
    - The way it is translated in the NKJV, it almost sounds like God chose them *because* they were children who would not lie.
      - But this is not grammatical.
      - The idea is rather that God has saved them because they only—they alone—are His people.
        - And because they are His people, they will not deal treacherously with Him (or lie).
        - He will preserve them—
          - As Paul says, they are a remnant according to election.
          - As Isaiah said in chapter 1, verse 9
            - **Isa 1:9: Unless the LORD of hosts Had left to us a very small remnant, We would have become like Sodom, We would have been made like Gomorrah.**
  - From this you are taught to give God all the glory for your salvation!
    - If He had not become your Saviour, you would never have come to Him—you would still be a slave to sin.
    - There is no room for boasting.
      - It is by grace that you have been saved, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
      - The only reason God’s vengeance falls on others instead of you is because He has chosen you in Christ—if, in fact, He has chosen you!
        - Christ has borne your sin and Christ sets you free from bondage to sin that you might serve God.
        - This is God’s faithful covenant love that He promised to Abraham.
3. His redeeming, rescuing love is described in verse 9:
- a. First, there is the this very beautiful description of His compassion for us:
    - **Isaiah 63:9: In all their affliction He was afflicted,**

- 1) He sees us in bondage to sin, oppressed and afflicted, groaning in our slavery as Israel groaned in Egypt,
  - And He identifies with us—so closely, that He is afflicted when we are afflicted!
  - That is why He comes in His zeal to release us from our enemies!
    - He saw Israel groaning under the oppression of Egypt and came to save them.
    - He said, “these only are my people!”
      - And He became their Saviour.
  
- 2) What a comforting thing it is to know that He is not indifferent to your pain when you are called to suffer in this world!
  - It pains Him to see what sin does to you.
    - Is this not what caused Jesus to weep at the graveside of Lazarus?
    - Is this not what also caused Him to raise Lazarus up?
    - Is this not what will cause Him to raise all His people from the dead at the last day?
      - What a wonderful thing—
        - **“in all their affliction He was afflicted.”**
  
- b. Verse 9 goes on to tell you that He does not stop at merely sympathising with us in our affliction—He comes to redeem us!
  - It says:
    - **Isa 63:9: And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them;**
  
- 1) This is what God did...
  - He came and took vengeance on Egypt and carried His people out of there.
    - He did it because of His love and His pity.
    - If you are saved, it means that He came and took you from the grip of Satan!
  
- 2) And look who it is that is said to have done this great rescue!
  - **The Angel of His Presence!**
    - This Angel is spoken of several times in the books of Moses.
    - He is God’s revealed Presence or God’s Face...
      - Sometimes it is clear that this Angel is Jehovah Himself...
      - At other times, He is a distinct person, sent by Jehovah.

- This is clearly a reference to Jesus Christ as the second person of the Trinity.
  - He is fully God, yet He is distinct from the Father and the one who reveals Him and carries out His redemptive work.
  - He is the one who came to save us in Egypt—
    - and all the more when He came to die on the cross.
      - He saw us in bondage to sin and so He came to set us free!
      - He saw us in bondage to Satan and so he came down from glory to deliver us.

3) But that is still not the end of what He does in His great mercy!

- Verse 9 goes on to show that after He redeems us, He preserves us.
  - **And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.**
  - He is the one who keeps us because the Father has given us into His hand.
    - Our enemies cannot tear us away from Him.
    - As he said, no one can snatch them from my hand!
      - That is your security.
        - Your enemies would swallow you up in a moment—but the wicked one touches us not!

TRANS> How great are the lovingkindnesses of the LORD!

- How great is His love toward us!
  - But look—there is more to be said about this!
    - Isaiah speaks of His faithfulness despite our unfaithfulness!

B. Join with Isaiah in remembering His faithfulness despite our unfaithfulness.

1. Verse 10 shows the awful response that so often characterises us as God's people!
  - He did all this saving of His people...
    - **Isa 63:10: But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;**
  - a. Even after God's initial work of salvation, we find, as Paul put it in Romans 7, that evil is still present with us.
    - You would think that when the LORD has done so much to rescue us and to make His people, that we would be overflowing with such gratitude that we would serve Him faithfully all the days of our lives!
      - But instead we rebel and grieve His Holy Spirit!
        - **Isa 63:10: But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;**
          - Sad words!

- b. Notice that now the third person of the Trinity is brought into the picture!
- His personal nature is seen in that He is said to be grieved by our rebellion.
    - Why does this grieve Him?
    - It grieves Him because it is always and ever His work to reveal Christ and the glory of His salvation to us.
      - The Holy Spirit is the One who testifies of Christ and who impresses upon us the height and depth and breath of what He has done.
      - He delights in showing us our Saviour...
        - But He is grieved when we are cold and indifferent to this revelation!
        - When we are not motivated at once to lay down our lives for our gracious Saviour!
        - He marvels at how cold we are toward the One who has loved us so well.
        - He marvels that we do not love Him and keep His commandments.
- c. And so He turns against us as an enemy!
- It is an awful thing!
    - But that is what it says as verse 10 continues. Here, I will read the whole verse:
      - **Isa 63:10: But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.**
    - He must punish us for forgetting our Saviour.
      - It is an awful thing to forget that we have been redeemed to be God's people.
      - And He must punish us for it.
        - That is why many fell in the wilderness after they came out of Egypt.
        - That is why the Assyrians came against Israel and destroyed all by Jerusalem.
        - That is why the Babylonians came and took the people away so that only a remnant was saved—
          - God sent them in His anger against His people.
          - He must punish us when we grieve His Spirit.

- That is why the LORD warns us in Hebrews to see that there is not in any of us an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the Lord!
    - You may be with the redeemed people—outwardly—
      - but you need to be sure that you have a true heart of faith—that you are resting in Christ and what He has done to save you.
  - What a terrible thing to have God fight against you!
    - That is what happened to Esau!
      - He was born under the promise, but he rejected his birthright.
      - That is what will happen to you—any of you who are baptised and despise your inheritance!
        - Do not despise it—embrace it!
2. But within the mass of the rebellious people, there was a remnant according to election that the LORD spared!
- Sometimes the whole body must be purged and so the whole church must suffer...
    - But the LORD always preserves a people who remember Him and who seek Him.
  - a. The language is somewhat difficult, but verses 11-13 basically ask—
    - What happened to the God who redeemed Israel to be His own people?
    - What happened to the One who brought them across the Red Sea that they might serve Him in the land?
    - What happened to the One who gave them rest from all their enemies in the land for the glory of His name?
      - The idea is that He made their passage out of Egypt across the Red Sea, and then across the Jordon, like leading a horse across the open wilderness.
        - In other words, He made the way for them...
        - For Him, the obstacles were not obstacles of all... the horse just walked through oceans and rivers.
          - It was His work, not theirs!

TRANS> There is a looking back and there is a remembering of God's great saving work that has been revealed in the past!

- not to go back to live in the past, but see the same grace in the present.



- For us there is the cross and there is the resurrection and there is the ascension and there is the outpouring of God's Spirit and the spread of the gospel to the nations...
  - We remember what God has done—but where is He now?
  - Where is the One who did all these things?
  
- b. These are questions that God's people might ask at many times during their history.
  - 1) It was certainly a question for Isaiah to ask in his day.
    - He has just seen this vision of this One who comes to take vengeance on Israel's enemies...
      - It is a glorious vision, but where is this Avenger now?
      - Their enemies are coming against them and will soon destroy Jerusalem and the temple and carry them off into exile!
        - Where is this God of vengeance who pities His people and who comes to rescue them?
  
  - 2) It is a question that we might also ask in our day.
    - The church is in pitiful condition in North America.
      - We are in survival mode!
      - Our enemies oppress us and laugh at us and are very strong.
        - Where is the One who avenges us of our adversaries?
        - Where is the One who redeems us?
  
- c. The answer is given in verse 14—He is still leading us!
  - He will not forsake the people of His love.
    - Verse 14 says:
      - **Isa 63:14: As a beast goes down into the valley, And the Spirit of the LORD causes him to rest, So You lead Your people, To make Yourself a glorious name.**
    - What a beautiful picture!
      - God is leading you the way one would lead cattle down into a valley to find pasture.
        - He is leading us into our rest! to our final Sabbath rest!
    - The word *rest* is the same word that is used to speak of the Sabbath in the fourth commandment...
      - It is also used to speak of the rest that God gave to Israel in the time of David when He had delivered all their enemies into their hand.

- David remembered that God had said that once He gave them that rest, they could build a house for His name.
  - The LORD said that it was good of David to want to do this, but that this work would be reserved for Solomon.
  - But you see the point...
    - God gave them rest from their enemies that they might dwell with Him at His house!
    - God gives us rest from our enemies that we might serve Him.
    - He does it all along the way, and He does finally and completely at the last day.
- Verse 14 shows that He is ever leading us to this final rest!
  - It has not yet been completed, but it will be completed!
    - We must suffer many things until the church is perfected...
  - But He will truly avenge us from all of our adversaries.
    - Already we have rest in Christ, the forgiveness of sins and life in the Holy Spirit...
    - Already we have been set free from bondage to sin to serve the Lord.
    - And we are to go forth joyfully in God's service, looking to Him to complete our rest in glory.
  - This is our marvellous hope because of this Saviour who avenges us if we trust in Him.
    - Oh people of God—move forward in hope!
    - Earnestly seek all that God has promised you—
      - complete rest in His house forever!
      - complete freedom from all your enemies!

**Conclusion:** If you look ahead to the end of the chapter and on into chapter 64,

- You can see that Isaiah yearns for the LORD to avenge His people—to come and redeem them from their enemies!
- The great question for you is this:
  - Which side are you on?
    - Are you the One He comes to avenge?
    - Or are you the one on whom His vengeance shall fall?
  - Have you come to Jesus to be reconciled to God, or have you not?