

# GOD'S DAY OF VENGEANCE

## **TEXT: ISAIAH 63:1-6**

### **Introduction:**

1. You will recall that when our Lord read from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue in Nazareth, He stopped in the middle of Isaiah 61:2 – right before, “and the day of vengeance of our God” (cf. Luke 4:16-21).
2. Why did our Lord stop at that point? Because “the day of vengeance of our God” has not come yet. The “the day of vengeance of our God” refers to the second coming of Christ, and is described for us in Isaiah 63:1—6.

### **I. WHO IS THIS THAT COMETH FROM EDMON?**

1. We can be certain it is the Lord Jesus Christ. “I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save” (63:1b).
2. In Zechariah 14:4, we are told that the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives. Isaiah 59:20 says, “And the Redeemer shall come to Zion” (Jerusalem).
3. The book of Revelation tells us that Christ will return to the Battle of Armageddon.
4. But nowhere in the Bible except for here in Isaiah 63 are we specifically told our Lord will be in Edom (63:1). Edom is representative of Christ-rejecting wicked sinners who hate God, and Israel.
5. Psalm 83 describes the enemies of God (83:2) gathering together to destroy Israel. Psalm 83:3, 4 says, “They have taken crafty counsel against Thy people, and consulted against Thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.”
6. Sounds like Mr. Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran.
7. Several countries are mentioned as part of this confederacy, including Edom in Psalm 83:6.
8. “Edom” means “red” (cf. 63:2). Revelation 19:13 says, “And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.”
9. Some expositors have taught that the blood was Jesus’ blood, shed on the cross for our sins. That certainly is the message of Isaiah 53, which prophesies the first coming of Christ.
10. But here Isaiah is prophesying the second coming of Christ. Isaiah 63:3 says, “Their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments.”
11. It is the blood of God’s enemies. Edom was the ancient foe of Israel. Bozrah was their capital city.

12. The picture that we see here of our Lord is much different than the one in Isaiah 53. Isaiah 53:3 says, “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”
13. But Isaiah 63:1 says, He “is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”
14. This is a stark contrast between the first coming and the second coming of Christ. In Isaiah 53, “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter.”
15. But in Isaiah 63:6, our Lord is doing the slaughtering (cf. 63:6).
16. This passage in Isaiah 63 should be diligently compared with the description of Christ given in Revelation 19.
  - “In righteousness He doth judge and make war” (19:11).
  - “And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood” (19:13).
  - “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” (19:15).
17. The imagery of the “winepress” (Isa. 63:2, 3) is used in the book of Revelation to depict the fierce wrath of God (cf. Rev. 14:19, 20; 19:15).
18. The blood from God’s “winepress” will flow all the way from Bozrah to Jerusalem. Revelation 14:14-20 describes the Battle of Armageddon. Verse 20 says, “And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.”
19. The “city” is Jerusalem. Up to “the horse bridles” means the blood will literally be several feet deep. “A thousand and six hundred furlongs” means the slaughter will cover a radius of about 200 miles.
20. That is quite a battlefield! Cf. Isa. 63:3, 4.
21. We see a similar picture in Joel chapter 3. Verses 13 and 14 say, “Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”

## II. WHY DOES OUR LORD TREAD THE WINEPRESS ALONE?

1. Notice our Lord says, “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me” (Isa. 63:3, 5).
2. Revelation 5:2 says, “Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”
3. The four and twenty elders then sing, “Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us

to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Rev. 5:9).

4. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to open the seven seals. And only the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to judge the wicked at the Battle of Armageddon.
5. And only the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to judge the wicked at the Great Throne Judgment, recorded in Revelation 20.
6. Furthermore, only the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to judge the nations (cf. Matthew 25:31-46).
7. And finally, it will be the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge us at the judgment seat of Christ (cf. Romans 14:10; II Cor. 5:10).
8. Our Lord said in John 5:22, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.” And in John 5:27, “And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.”
9. The apostle Paul said in Acts 17:31, “Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.”
10. Second Timothy 4:1 says the Lord Jesus Christ, “shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”

### **III. WHY WILL OUR LORD TREAD DOWN THE PEOPLE IN HIS ANGER? (ISAIAH 63:3, 6)**

1. These Scriptures can only be properly understood in the light of God’s holiness and man’s wickedness.
2. We can never appreciate God’s holiness until we first understand how much God hates sin.
3. Psalm 5:5 says, “The foolish shall not stand in Thy sight: Thou hatest all workers of iniquity.” But sinners have been brainwashed into thinking that God is some jolly, worldly fellow like Santa Claus.
4. We are living in a very wicked day and age. The Bible is attacked. God’s holiness is scorned. Men flaunt their sin. Scoffers, mockers, God-haters, atheists, evolutionists, perverts, and other Christ-rejecting sinners, are cursing God and shaking their fist at Him.
5. Sinners take God’s name in vain without even blushing.
6. The Psalmist said, “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?” (Psalm 2:1).
7. Homosexuals and their liberal allies are demanding to be “married.”
8. I heard that lesbian entertainer Ellen Degeneres (degenerate) announced on her TV show that she is planning on “marrying” her lesbian girlfriend. I

- read that when she made this ridiculous announcement, her studio audience applauded her.
9. Miss Degenerate allegedly asked President Bush's daughter if she could "borrow" her family's ranch in Texas for their "wedding" and supposedly the president's daughter agreed to it.
  10. Senator John McCain went on her show and joked about walking her down the aisle. The worldly crowd thinks this is all wonderful.
  11. Or it is all fun and games. But this is no joke. God rained fire and brimstone down upon Sodom and Gomorrah.
  12. We can only wonder how much time America has left.
  13. After reading reports like this (and this is typical of the world of entertainment and politics), Isaiah 63:6 is not difficult to understand.
  14. I have heard foolish people say that the God of the OT is different from the God of the NT. They obviously do not know either the OT or the NT (cf. Revelation 6:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-9).
  15. The judgment of God will be absolutely necessary because of man's unbelief and wickedness. Man's rebellion will come to full fruition during the tribulation period when men will bow down and worship the antichrist and the devil.
  16. God will start pouring out His wrath upon this sin-loving world but sinners will refuse to repent (cf. Rev. 9:20, 21; 16:8-11).

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. As we have been studying the book of Isaiah week after week since September of 2006, we have noted time and time again that God will restore Israel.
2. The other day, Osama ben Laden posted a message on a Muslim website that was widely reported in the news media. He said, "We will continue, Allah permitting, the fight against the Israelis and their allies ... and will not give up a single inch of Palestine as long as there is one true Muslim on Earth... The participation of Western leaders with the Jews in this celebration (Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary) confirms that the West backs this Jewish occupation of our land, and that they stand in the Israeli corner against us."
3. In response to these words from ben Laden, let me quote Deuteronomy 3:22, "Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God He shall fight for you."
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back. Time will not permit me to go beyond the first six verses of Isaiah 63.
5. But let me point out that verse 7 refers to the Lord's "great goodness toward the house of Israel." God will certainly fight for Israel.
6. We can be sure that these prophecies will be literally fulfilled, and they may very well be fulfilled in our lifetime.