

## **Study 112: Isaiah, Part 68**

### **Isaiah 64**

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

<sup>2</sup> 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!

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you; [cp. **Rom 3:11**]

for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to [*or* have made us melt because of] our sins.

<sup>8</sup> Yet you, Lord, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Your sacred cities have become a wasteland;  
even **Zion is a wasteland, Jerusalem a desolation**. [cp. **Dan 9:17; Matt 23:38; Luke 13:35**]

<sup>11</sup> Our holy and glorious temple, where our ancestors praised you,  
has been **burned with fire**, [cp. **Matt 22:7**]  
and all that we treasured lies in ruins.

<sup>12</sup> After all this, Lord, will you hold yourself back?  
Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

### **Footnotes:**

[Isaiah 64:1](#) In Hebrew texts 64:1 is numbered 63:19b, and 64:2-12 is numbered 64:1-11.

### **Isaiah 65**

**“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;**

**I was found by those who did not seek me.**

**To a nation that did not call on my name,**

I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’

<sup>2</sup> All day long I have held out my hands  
to an obstinate people,  
who walk in ways not good,  
pursuing their own imaginations—

<sup>3</sup> a people who continually provoke me  
 to my very face,  
 offering sacrifices in gardens  
 and burning incense on altars of brick;  
<sup>4</sup> who sit among the graves  
 and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;  
 who eat the flesh of pigs,  
 and whose pots hold broth of impure meat;  
<sup>5</sup> who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me,  
 for I am too sacred for you!'

Such people are smoke in my nostrils,  
 a fire that keeps burning all day.

<sup>6</sup> "See, it stands written before me:  
 I will not keep silent but will pay back in full;  
 I will pay it back into their laps—  
<sup>7</sup> both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,"  
 says the Lord.

"Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains  
 and defied me on the hills,  
 I will measure into their laps  
 the full payment for their former deeds."

<sup>8</sup> This is what the Lord says:  
 "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes  
 and people say, 'Don't destroy it,  
 there is still a blessing in it,'  
 so will I do in behalf of my servants;  
 I will not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup> I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
 and from Judah those who will possess my mountains;  
 my chosen people will inherit them,  
 and there will my servants live.

<sup>10</sup> Sharon will become a pasture for flocks,  
 and the **Valley of Achor** a resting place for herds, [cp. **Josh 7**]  
 for my people who seek me.

<sup>11</sup> "But as for you who forsake the Lord  
 and forget my holy mountain,  
 who spread a table for Fortune  
 and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,

<sup>12</sup> I will destine you for the sword,  
 and all of you will fall in the slaughter;  
 for I called but you did not answer,  
 I spoke but you did not listen.  
 You did evil in my sight  
 and chose what displeases me."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
 "**My servants** will eat,  
 but you will go hungry;  
 my servants will drink,  
 but you will go thirsty;  
 my servants will rejoice,  
 but you will be put to shame.

<sup>14</sup> My servants will sing  
 out of the joy of their hearts,  
 but you will cry out  
 from anguish of heart  
 and wail in brokenness of spirit.

<sup>15</sup> You will leave your name  
for my chosen ones to use in their curses;  
the Sovereign Lord will put you to death,  
but to **his servants he will give another name.**

<sup>16</sup> Whoever invokes a blessing in the land  
will do so by the one true God;  
whoever takes an oath in the land  
will swear by the one true God.  
For **the past troubles will be forgotten**  
and hidden from my eyes.

<sup>17</sup> “See, **I will create**  
**new heavens and a new earth.**  
**The former things will not be remembered,**  
**nor will they come to mind.**

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I will create,  
for **I will create Jerusalem to be a delight**  
**and its people a joy.**

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem  
and take delight in my people;  
the sound of weeping and of crying  
will be heard in it no more.

<sup>20</sup> “Never again will there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not live out his years;  
the one who dies at a hundred  
will be thought a mere child;  
the one who fails to reach [*or*: the sinner who reaches] a hundred  
will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and dwell in them;  
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> No longer will they build houses and others live in them,  
or plant and others eat.  
For as the days of a tree,  
so will be the days of my people;  
my chosen ones will long enjoy  
the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They will not labor in vain,  
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;  
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,  
they and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer;  
while they are still speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> **The wolf and the lamb will feed together,**  
**and the lion will eat straw like the ox,**  
**and dust will be the serpent’s food.**  
**They will neither harm nor destroy**  
**on all my holy mountain,”**  
says the Lord.