

Study 111: Isaiah, Part 67

Isaiah 63

Who is this coming from Edom,
from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?

[“**Bozrah**” means “sheepfold” (“enclosure”), or “fortress,” and was the capital city of Edom. Both Jeremiah and Amos prophesied that Bozrah would become a ruin forever (**Jer 49:13; Amos 1:12**), and the city no longer exists. Isa 34:6 speaks of “a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.”

Micah 2:12-13 says, “I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen (KJV: “as the sheep of Bozrah”), like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people.

13 The One who breaks open **the way** will go up before them; they will break through the **gate** and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD at their head.”

Why “**Edom**” (which means “red”)? Edom was an enemy of Israel since ancient times. Perhaps this enmity stemmed from that of Jacob with his brother, Esau, after whom the land of Edom was named. Whereas there certainly was a judgment that took place upon the literal land of Edom, this prophecy also points to Christ – His ministry and the judgment He would bring on His enemies (the Jews – see: **Luke 19:27; 1 Cor 15:25; Rev 18:20**). “Edom,” in symbolism, represents an enemy of Israel, just as “Babylon” in the book of Revelation does. Note that other names are also used of that “great city” (**Rev 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:10-21**) “which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt – where also their Lord was crucified” (**Rev 11:8**).

Some have equated the crimson robe to the scarlet robe that was placed on Jesus before His crucifixion (**Matt 27:28; Mark 15:17; Luke 23:11; John 19:2**).]

Who is this, robed in splendor,
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?

“It is I, proclaiming victory,
mighty to save.”

² Why are your garments red, [cp **Rev 19:13**]
like those of one **treading the winepress**? [cp **Jer 25:15-18; Lam 1:15; Rev 14:18-20**]

³ “I have trodden the winepress alone;
from the nations no one was with me.

I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
and I stained all my clothing.

⁴ It was for me **the day of vengeance**; (cp **Luke 21:21-22**)
the year for me to redeem had come.

⁵ I looked, but there was no one to help,
I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm achieved salvation for me,
and my own wrath sustained me.

⁶ I trampled the nations in my anger;
in my wrath I made them drunk
and poured their blood on the ground.”

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the Lord has done for us—

yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸ He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;

and so he became their Savior.
⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them [Or: *Savior*⁹ *in their distress.* / *It was no envoy or angel / but his own presence that saved them*].
In his love and mercy **he redeemed them;**
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old. [A reference to Egypt, from which He redeemed them (see v. 11 below.)]
¹⁰ Yet they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he turned and became their **enemy**
and he himself **fought against them.**
¹¹ Then his people recalled [Or: *But may he recall*] the days of old,
the days of Moses and his people—
where is he who brought them through the sea,
with the shepherd of his flock?
Where is he who set
his Holy Spirit among them,
¹² who sent his glorious arm of power
to be at Moses' right hand,
who divided the waters before them,
to gain for himself everlasting renown,
¹³ who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in open country,
they did not stumble;
¹⁴ like cattle that go down to the plain,
they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord.
This is how you guided your people
to make for yourself a glorious name.
¹⁵ Look down from heaven and see,
from your lofty throne, holy and glorious.
Where are your zeal and your might?
Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us.
¹⁶ **But you are our Father,**
though Abraham does not know us
or Israel acknowledge us;
you, Lord, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.
¹⁷ Why, Lord, do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes that are your inheritance.
¹⁸ For a little while your people possessed your holy place,
but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary.
¹⁹ We are yours from of old;
but you have not ruled over them,
they have not been called by your name. [Or: *We are like those you have never ruled, / like those never called*]