

SUPPLICATING GROANS

Isaiah 64

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever reached the point of need where you cried for God to come down to help?

He was desperate for God's presence, cried 63:15 Look down from Heaven - enter our situation.

I read the story of a little boy who looked wistfully at the picture of his father who had been absent from home so long and said, "I wish father would just step out of the picture and be here with us."

The prophet in petition requested God to step down into the presence of the people.

This is what you have said in times of distress -- "O Lord help me - help me".

Inviting God to manifest himself - display his power.

The prophet made his supplication through groans - pain - only God could help!

*King Hezekiah (2 K 20:15) told he was going to die. Wept, & prayed for an extension of his years - The Lord granted his prayer & promised him 15 years.*

OUTLINE:

- I. Shaking Intervention - V. 1-5.
- II. Sin Interpreted - V. 6-8.
- III. Severity Indicated - V. 9-12.

I. Shaking Intervention - V. 1-5.

V. 1 - Prayer by making application for God:

- A. Rend the Heavens - Break Forth.
- B. Come Down - Flow Down.
- C. Mountains Melt - Quake.

God who "walketh the circuit of Heaven" - Job. 22:14.

God would come down as Sinai - Exod. 19:11,20.

God give a revelation of his glory.

Elijah - I K. 19:11 - Strong wind rent the mountain and broke it to pieces - after the wind an earthquake.

Isaiah prays for Jehovah to tear the Heavens apart, come to the earth and cause the mountains to flow down - shaking intervention and deal with their enemies.

V. 2 - Melting fire upon enemies.

As fire makes brushwood burn and fire makes water boil so the nations would shake before the presence of the Lord. (Tremble).

Judges 5:5.

Micah 1:4.

Volcanoes - Sends forth.

Desire - Lord send forth his presence - make his glory known.

↳ Prayer of Christian - I Cor. 10:11.

Cry for the Lord's Coming.

"Prayer Changes Things"

V. 3 - We looked not for exceeded our expectation.

Terrible things.

Deut. 10:21.

2 Sam. 7:23.

Wonders of Exodus - Miracles - Plagues - Red Sea

Things formerly he had done for them - Hand of God stretched out.

Defeated Sennacherib's powerful army - Judg. 5:4-5.

He came when they were not expecting and surely he will come down now!

What terrifying things happened when he brought relief in Egypt.

Painful groans he makes supplication.

Do we really want God to come down today into our situation in life?

We may feel like we do - we feel that every thing would be alright.

When He comes he makes all things right and this may be more than some of you desire.

✓ V. (4) - No Ear has heard or perceived.

Not heard of a God that worked for them like God. We hear and we understand.

I Cor. 2:9 Adds - What never entered the mind of man. God has prepared all that for those that love him.

I Cor. 2:10. Key - God revealed it to us by his spirit.

Only understand by Spirit of God.

Man will never understand the mighty deeds of God unless they look to him.

May hear with the outward ear - only the spirit give him spiritual truth of God's acts. "Neither hath it entered into the heart of man", Paul says.

Deep things of God, Acts of God in the past - only Spirit of God can communicate these things - discerned - precious things.

Man is limited to his capability.

'The things of man' - I Cor. 2:11.

God has not left the future in the dark to speculation!

Remember no man waits upon God in vain - He sends his blessings.

✓ Neither hath the eye seen - Never observed a God that cares for his people to compare to Jehovah. The only God who really works and does good is Jehovah. See the past events!

Blind except the Spirit help.

V. (5) - Further proof of the Spirit of God at work - special regard.

Favour to those who live right.

Favour to those who keep his orders, commandments.

God has never failed or turned his back upon anyone who rejoiced in God's holy way.

Works of righteousness - Hos. 14:9.

John 7:17.

Man who loves the Christian way of living and rejoices in it finds God blessing him.

Not get any sympathy from men.

God meets with them in the ministry of the word - their seasons of prayer - devotion.

Not their case - God displeased with them.

Hopelessly corrupt, Mr. Cheyne declares.

Delitzsch: "Already we have been long in this state (of sin) and shall we be saved?"

Last part of this verse has been given at least 30 interpretations - "And so we shall be saved".

History of Israel had been sin and punishment. God never changed his attitude toward sin.

When confession and repentance were present it brought salvation. We depend upon him for salvation.

Not in continuance of sin, but (in) his ways we shall be saved - their object was to be saved.

## II. Sin Interpreted - V. 6-8.

V. 6 - (Not) one good word for sin. 7

Listen ✓ 1. Sin made them as an unclean thing.

✓ 2. Self-righteousness is as a filthy rag.

✓ 3. Sin kills as a fading leaf.

✓ 4. Sin tosses as the wind.

Sin does something to a man's life.

Look at yourself! Not one person but what he is polluted.

Consider the (very best) things in your life. Are these honourable - as filthy rags.

Visited auto shop - use clothes to wipe oil or dirt from the motor - filthy. Scrub with mop - filthy with dirt - defiles all it touches or handled.

(Leprosy) - man had to rend his clothes and go about crying unclean! Unclean! That those who hear may get out of his way.

All our righteousness as filthy rags. Lam. 1:17.

Best duds of the best men is tainted with evil. Like open grave filled with dead things.

Phil. 3:6-8.

Tit. 1:15.

Heb. 11:6.

Fade as a leaf - Sins and iniquities caused you to fade as oak leaf.

Trace back to the life in the tree - goes to root.

Destiny of sinner is as faded leaf - falls from tree - while leaf was alive, it had some value and work to do. Added something - refreshed by rains. Designed for a reason.

Autumn leaves - fade - gradual change - cut down from the branch by the frost.

Taken away by wind - carried from the presence of God. His presence is not felt.

Sins as a blasting storm have swept us away!

V. (7) - General Condition

✓ 1 - No Prayer

✓ 2 - Heavens closed

General lethargy had come over the people. So there was little faith to call upon God.

There was a remnant which prayed - few that stir up faith.

→ Consumed us - delivered us to the powers of Satan. Sin masters, controls.

Rom.1:24, 26, 28.

Spiritual drowsiness has set in. 27:5.

Absence of Spiritual interest deplored. Lack of prayer 27:5.

The Prophet had pleaded the imperfections of the nation - now he pleads for greater interest in prayer. He groans with concern. He faces up to the reality.

When men began to pray - They begin to see themselves as they really are.

Isaiah was not happy with what he saw.

V. (6-7) - Unclean.

He had already had a personal experience 6:5. Seeing his sinful self exposed by the holiness of God.

He prays for the power of God to flow down the mountain - descend upon the people.

→ Book - The Inside of the Cup, by Winston Churchill. One sentence states "Mr. Plimpton did not want to see the world change". He was speaking of a man who was member of St.

John's Church - head of a not - too reputable Trust Company. He felt that Christianity

contained a vital spark, but if it was let loose it would get out of control.

Men still have this idea - they don't want to get too close to God.

Perhaps on Sunday we may think about the presence of God. But let him stay in the Heavens all other days.

(Coldness) among us - "None that calls on thy name - prayer stirs a man up, he takes hold upon God - he brings his troubles and sins to the Lord.

V. 7 - Bold Admission

✓ 1. We are clay.

✓ 2. Thou art the potter.

Remake us as a vessel - Thou hast put a lot into us as a nation - don't give us up.

Don't leave us in our shame - Jer. 18:6.

III. Severity Indicated - V. 9-12.

V. 9 - Request to be remembered - don't hold our sins against us forever.

Find a way of restoring us.

Jer. 14:9.

Lam. 5:22.

Time of captivity - God was wroth - afflicted. We are thy people - whom thou has chosen. Forego wrath and forgive our iniquity. Be reconciled to us.

V. 10 - Zion and place of worship desolate.

Groans can be heard in this supplication.

Cities - houses destroyed - left as wilderness.

V. 11 - House of Worship - ruin with Jerusalem. Vivid remembrance of the beauty of God's house - rich - magnificence - splendours.

Silent as a desert

2 K. 25:9/ 2 Chron. 36:19/ Jer. 53:13.

Glorious - Mark 13:1.

Destruction by Nebuchadnezzar.

Pleasant things laid waste - homes, objects of love.

Temple, (place) where their fathers had praised God. All these delights destroyed,  
the altar, furniture.

What have they left? Severity of the situation indicated.

V. (12) - Invites God to note their situation.

Invited God not to hold his peace.

Do not be silent and leave us in these miserable conditions.

Rom. 9:21-24.

"Afflict us" - This is no Pharisee praying not thanking God he is not in other men.  
He is a part of the rest, confessing - every one of us - not they but we.

Conclusion:

Prophets (prayer) is in right direction - open the Heavens an step out, come down!

Psa. 51:2 "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

"O wash my soul from every sin,  
And make my guilty conscience clean;  
Here on my heart the burden lies,  
And past offences pain my eyes."

God did step down from Heaven when Christ came to reconcile the world unto himself.  
Lived, was crucified, arose from the dead - today waits to receive us.

He made the way plain - told us what to do with our sins.

Palace in Rome - Guido Reni's famous fresco, "The Aurora". Beautiful in color.  
Painted on a lofty ceiling. You stand on pavement and look up - your neck stiffens and  
your head grows dizzy. The (owner) has placed a mirror near the floor and the picture  
is reflected in the mirror. You can sit in a chair and study the wonderful work.

That is an (idea) of Jesus he came down the express image of God's person.

Interprets God.

He is God stooping down enabling us to behold God. (F. M. Fairchild in Can We Believe)

This prayer was answered - God has "rent the Heavens and come down".

D. J. Burrell, "Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations. P. 330. Tells of 2 infidels in a railroad train - discussing Christ's wonderful life. One of them said, "I think an interesting romance could be written about Him." The other replied and you are just the man to write it. Set forth the correct view of his character - tear down the prevailing sentiment as to His divineness and paint Him as he was. A man among men". The suggestion was acted upon and the romance was written.

The man who made the suggestion was Colonel Ingersoll: The author was General Lew Wallace; and the book was "Ben Hur." In the process of constructing it he found himself facing the unaccountable man. The more he studied His life and character more profoundly he was convinced that He was more than a man among men; until at length, like the centurion under the cross then he was constrained to cry, "Verily this was the Son of God!"

Vil alvita God to come now - come down from Heaven