

Isaiah 64:1-12 **Prayer for Revelation of God – That the World may Know**

A Prayer for Help

1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence — 2 As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil — To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence!

3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence.

4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned — In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved.

6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

7 And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

9 Do not be furious, O Lord, Nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look — we all are Your people!

10 Your holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

11 Our holy and beautiful temple, Where our fathers praised You, Is burned up with fire; And all our pleasant things are laid waste.

12 Will You restrain Yourself because of these things, O Lord? Will You hold Your peace, and afflict us very severely?

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Facts Revealed:

✧ Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence — As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil — To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence!

[\[Isaiah 64:1-2\]](#)

✧ Isaiah desires the world to experience the presence of Yahweh in a fearful display as Israel did when Yahweh came down on Mt. Sinai to give them the Law.

✧ Isaiah thinks that a similar display of power would cause the world to know the true God and tremble at His presence.

✧ However we know that even the Great Tribulation fails to cause the world to turn to God in repentance and give Him glory. [\[Revelation 9:20-21, 16:9, 10-11\]](#)

✧ When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence.

For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You

are indeed angry, for we have sinned — In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved. [\[Isaiah 64:3-5\]](#)

- ✧ Isaiah's focus is clearly on the display of God's presence on Mount Sinai. [\[Exodus 19:16-20\]](#)
- ✧ Isaiah acknowledged that none of the world witnessed the display of Mount Sinai except Israel when Yahweh gave them His Law and commandments. [\[Exodus 20:1-17, 22 - - 23:33\]](#)
- ✧ At that time members of the Children of Israel actually saw the God of Israel. [\[Exodus 24:1-11\]](#):
- ✧ However the rest of the world did not have this experience.
- ✧ Still Yahweh will meet with those who rejoice and do righteousness following God's ways.
- ✧ Isaiah also acknowledged that the anger of Yahweh is justified because Israel has sinned and continues to sin and needs to be saved.
- ✧ But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. [\[Isaiah 64:6-7\]](#)
- ✧ Isaiah acknowledged that the best of our righteousness is like filthy rags to Yahweh and that it is our sins that have taken us away from our God.
- ✧ No one applies himself to reach out and take hold of God, and Yahweh has turned His face from us.
- ✧ We are consumed because of our iniquities.
- ✧ But now, O Yahweh (Lord), You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. Do not be furious, O Yahweh (Lord), Nor remember iniquity forever; Indeed, please look — we all are Your people! [\[Isaiah 64:8-9\]](#)
- ✧ Isaiah prayed that Yahweh would remember that Israel is His people whom He had chosen and made into a nation.
- ✧ Therefore the request for Yahweh to end His anger against them.
- ✧ Your holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful temple, Where our fathers praised You, Is burned up with fire; And all our pleasant things are laid waste. [\[Isaiah 64:10-11\]](#)
- ✧ Isaiah sees the holy cities Zion and Jerusalem along with the Temple mount as laid waste and desolate.
- ✧ Will You restrain Yourself because of these things, O Lord? Will You hold Your peace, and afflict us very severely? [\[Isaiah 64:12\]](#)
- ✧ Isaiah asked Yahweh if He would not respond to the desolation of all that represents His Name and fame before the world.
- ✧ The desolation is because of their iniquity and sin and the punishment is viewed as severe.

Paul warned the Church of the danger of experiencing the same punishment:

²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²² Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.** [\[Romans 11:21-22\]](#)
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