

**“the kindnesses of the
LORD”**

Isaiah 63:7-64:12

“the kindnesses of the LORD”

Isaiah 63:7-10

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 the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. **8** He said, “Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false 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. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. **10** Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

“the kindnesses of the LORD”

“The intercessor is Isaiah himself... there is much to discourage him in the history of his people. They have always been marked by rebellion, hardness of heart, wandering, and spiritual torpor.”

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“the kindnesses of the LORD”

“God gracious and powerful deliverance from Egyptian bondage established a father-child relationship between Him and them, and through the whole wilderness experience He cherished them as His children. He felt their distress, saved them from the perils of the way, lifted them up and carried them when they were weak, and rightly expected that they would return His love by being true to Him.”

“the Spirit of the LORD”

Isaiah 63:11-14

11 Then his people recalled 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.

“the Spirit of the LORD”

“The memory of former things has brought assurance of God’s power and faithfulness, but also of their own deeply ingrained sinfulness, and has raised painful uncertainties in their minds.”

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“the Spirit of the LORD”

Exodus 34:6-7

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

**7 maintaining love to thousands,
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion
and sin. Yet he does not leave the
guilty unpunished; he punishes the
children and their children for the
sin of the parents to the third and
fourth generation.”**

“We are yours from of old”

Isaiah 63:15-19

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, O 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

“We are yours from of old”

[Isaiah asks] “Where are you God? Why are things so different from the way they used to be? Why are our hearts so hard? How can we be saved? How much longer will you be angry with us? They are hard questions, all of them, expressing real pain and perplexity...[But now] they are directed upwards to God who is addressed again and again as Father...”

“come down”

Isaiah 64:1-5

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! **2** 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!

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

4 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. **5** 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?

“come down”

Mark 1:10-11

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven:
“You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased.”

“come down”

Matthew 19:25-26

25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Isaiah 64:6-7

6 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. **7** No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Isaiah 64:8-10

8 Yet O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. **9** Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people. **10** Your sacred cities have become a desert; even Zion is a desert, Jerusalem a desolation.

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Romans 9:20-21

20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ ” **21** Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Isaiah 64:11-12

11 Our holy and glorious temple, where our fathers praised you, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins. **12** After all this, O LORD, will you hold yourself back? Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Psalm 74:10-11

10 How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever? **11**

Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!

“our righteous acts are like filthy rags”

Psalm 83:1

**O God, do not keep silent; be
not quiet, O God, be not still.**

Applications

- **Trust in God's sovereignty**
- **Pray, pray, pray**

Final Thoughts

“Intercession glorifies God because it is an expression of utter dependence on Him. It recognizes that we need to be delivered as much from ourselves as from our enemies, and that deliverance of this radical kind can only be found only in God. It is His gift, not our achievement.”

Final Thoughts

2 Chronicles 7:14

**if my people, who are called by
my name, will humble
themselves and pray and seek
my face and turn from their
wicked ways, then I will hear
from heaven, and I will forgive
their sin and will heal their land.**

Final Thoughts

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.