***Believers Together – Discovering the Word of God - Thursday, February 15th, 2024.***

**Praise and Prayer—Isaiah 63:7–64:12**

**Open It**

1. Why do you think you are nostalgic (sentimental) about certain periods of time in your past?

**Isaiah 63:7–64:12 (ESV)**

**7I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.**

**8For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior.**

**9In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.**

**10But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.**

**11Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,**

**12who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,**

**13who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.**

**14Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.**

**15Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? The stirring of your inner parts and your compassion are held back from me.**

**16For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.**

**17O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.**

**18Your holy people held possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.**

**19We have become like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by your name.**

**Isaiah 64:1-12**

**1Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—**

**2as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!**

**3When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.**

**4From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.**

**5You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?**

**6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**

**7There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.**

**8But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.**

**9Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.**

**10Your holy cities have become a wilderness; Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.**

**11Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins.**

**12Will you restrain yourself at these things, O Lord? Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?**

**Explore It**

1. What did Isaiah tell about God’s relationship to Israel? (63:7)
2. What did God want from the people He chose to bless? (63:8)
3. How did God’s people respond to His love and mercy? (63:10)
4. After Israel rebelled, how did God relate to them? (63:10)
5. To what era in their past did the people of Israel look with nostalgia? (63:11–14)
6. Who did Isaiah acknowledge as even more important to the identity of Israel than their forefathers Abraham and Isaac? (63:16)
7. What was the current plight of God’s people as described by Isaiah? (63:17–19)
8. For what did Isaiah and the people of his day long? (64:1–4)
9. How did Isaiah view the “righteous” deeds of the people, which they might have used to argue that they deserved God’s favor? (64:6–7)
10. What craftsman’s image did Isaiah use to express Israel’s dependence on God? (63:8)
11. On what basis did Isaiah ask God to relent from His anger? (64:9–12)

**Get It**

1. What situations in your life or the world around you do you wish God would affect with miraculous power?
2. What characterizes the people on whose behalf God acts?
3. Why are our righteous acts ineffectual for reconciling us to God?

**Apply It**

1. What acts of kindness in your history can form the basis for thanksgiving and testimony this coming week?