

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

Theme: Come down!

Outline

1. We want Jesus to come? Really? Scary due to Sins
2. Jesus comes in mercy and grace!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Old Testament Lesson of Isaiah chapter sixty-four verses one through nine.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well today. Whenever we gather for mealtime, what do we pray? Right, we pray, “Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let Thy gifts to us be blessed.” We pray that the Lord would come and join us in our meal. That the gifts that He gives to us would be a blessing to us as we live out our lives upon this earth. In our Old Testament Lesson for today, we see that the Lord does come. Is His coming scary or a blessing? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **1. We want Jesus to come? Really? Scary due to Sins**

When we pray Come Lord Jesus, either at mealtimes, or during the Lord’s Prayer when we pray, “Thy Kingdom come.” Do you really want Jesus to come at that moment? Yes? No? I doubt that many of us would expect Jesus to come right there and then. We have plans, we have dreams, all of that would be shattered if Jesus came there and then.

What a shattering that would be. Hear again how Isaiah describes it, Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup> as 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! <sup>1</sup> The very mountains melting away and shivering before the presence of the Lord, shaking as much as when fresh kindling catches flame.

That's what we want? We pray for the coming of the Lord. Truly, it is a coming that we look forward to as believers. It is a good thing as He comes to act for those who wait for Him. Isaiah here is drawing upon everything that God did for Israel in the Old Testament. One such example is found in the Exodus. Before God called Moses, who ever would have imagined an entire nation leaving their bondage? Who could have thought God would deliver his people by separating the sea and leading them safely to the other side? Who could have predicted that the pride of Pharaoh's army would be drowned in the Red Sea? If we need an example of the mountains trembling, consider Mount Sinai. When the Lord descended, "the whole mountain trembled violently" (Exodus 19:18). This prayer attaches its hope of future deliverance upon the past grace of God.<sup>2</sup>

A deliverance that we need because of our great and many sins. God's coming does bring us salvation. Yet it is also a coming that should instill terror within us. God is holy. God is just. He cannot stand sin nor sinners. And us? We are sinners. "We 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. There 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." Who does good? No one, not one single person. Sure, we may look good and clean on the outside. We may say the right words, do the right things outwardly. Inwardly? Stained, sinful, dead. All our lies, coveting our neighbors' possessions.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Is 64:1–2). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> Braun, J. A. (2001). [Isaiah 40-66](#) (p. 367). Northwestern Pub. House.

Have you ever said a bad word? Thought bad about your children or spouse? Neglected your to do the housework simply because you could? Our best works? The ESV is nice, and says they are polluted garments. The Hebrew? *Ida* רָעָה Dirty, bloody, menstrual rags. That is our best! How ugly is our worst!

## **2. Jesus comes in mercy and grace!**

If this is our best how can we be saved? Not by our own power or our own work, but by God rending the heavens and comes down. He does not come down in power and might, but in meekness and humility, as a baby in a manger born to a virgin. Just as no one in the past could have imagined the Exodus, so no human could ever imagine the deliverance God has provided for his people. God's entire plan of salvation lay outside the scope of human thought and imagination. Who could imagine that God would send his one and only Son as a substitute to redeem the world from sin and deliver all humanity from death? Who would have ever imagined that God would accomplish this by sacrificing his own Son? What human mind could have anticipated the empty tomb? Would any single human imagine that by faith in God's Servant, Jesus Christ, a man or woman could become an adopted child of God? God reveals these truths to humanity. God proclaimed his plan through the prophets and then recorded the fulfillment of his plan through the evangelists of the New Testament. The wisdom of God's gracious plan lies beyond the imagination and thought of the most gifted human mind. If anyone is to understand God's grace, God himself must impart that understanding to the human mind, through His Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate this Adventide, let us look forward to celebrating our Lord's birth in Bethlehem, and look forward to the day of His return. That day when He will rend the heavens and come in power and glory. When we will see Him face to face. When we will praise Him because of everything He has done. Our deliverance from sin, death, and the

power of the devil, God has come. He has not remembered our iniquities forever, but laid them upon Jesus with all the punishment that comes with them. Jesus takes our worst and gives us His best, His perfect righteousness and life with Him forever and ever.

“Come Lord Jesus.” Indeed, Rend the Heavens wide, come down come down with mighty stride. Come, that we may sing your praises evermore for the wonderous deliverance won for us by Your death and resurrection from the dead.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.