

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

It's time to make a searching inventory of your life. It's not comfortable to examine yourself and objectively examine both the good and the sin, but it's necessary. It's time to see yourself in serious need of mercy and grace.

This week, acknowledge your sinfulness to God. Seek his forgiveness through Jesus. Admit weaknesses and temptations, but most especially the sins in your life.

Rejoice in your forgiveness.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville Church of Christ

Isaiah's Prayer for Mercy
Isaiah 64:1-12

Prayer Study # 32

Study Series by Bill Denton, D.Min.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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Isaiah's Prayer for Mercy

Isa. 64:1-2

Prophecies of Comfort (40–66):

Having pronounced Judah's divine condemnation, Isaiah comforts them with God's promises of hope and restoration. The basis for this hope is the sovereignty and majesty of God (40–48). Of the 216 verses in these nine chapters, 115 speak of God's greatness and power. The Creator is contrasted with idols, the creations of men. His sovereign character is Judah's assurance of future restoration. Babylon will indeed carry them off; but Babylon will finally be judged and destroyed, and God's people will be released from captivity.

Chapters 49–57 concentrate on the coming Messiah who will be their Savior and Suffering Servant. This rejected but exalted One will pay for their iniquities and usher in a kingdom of peace and righteousness throughout the earth. All who acknowledge their sins and trust in Him will be delivered (58–66). In that day Jerusalem will be rebuilt, Israel's borders will be enlarged, and the Messiah will reign in Zion. God's people will confess their sins and His enemies will be judged. Peace, prosperity, and justice will prevail, and God will make all things new. — *Talk Through The Bible*

What Can We Learn?

1. 64:1-2 — This is a frequent but puzzling question of those who believe in God. God's presence would have a chilling effect on the nations.
2. 64:3-4 — Read 1 Cor. 2:9. Paul understood that God had brought those amazing things to pass in Christ.
3. 64:5-7 — This is a concise, accurate statement of the problem of sin.
4. 64:8 — This is the attitude that changes a person from rebellion and desire to shape one's own life, to submission to God and to the molding of his hand.
5. 64:9 — There is a simple but profound plea expressed here. Isaiah leans completely on the fact that, as the people of God, they could depend completely and safely on him.
6. 64:10-12 — The picture painted here had not actually occurred in Isaiah's day, at least not physically. He may have been speaking of what was to be, or perhaps he was describing a spiritual wilderness and destruction.

Questions to Ponder

1. Have you ever wanted to ask the question of 64:1-2? If so, why? What were the circumstances that moved you to ask this kind of question?
2. Make a list of God's works that amaze you.
3. Make a list of things that we need to understand about sin and our relationship with God based on 64:5-7.
4. In what ways are you cooperating with Isaiah's desire in 64:8? What kind of shape do you think you're in?

