

Return for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your heritage.

18 Your holy people held possession for a little  
while;

our adversaries have trampled down your  
sanctuary.

19 We have become like those over whom you have  
never ruled,

like those who are not called by your name.

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

2 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!

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

4 From 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.

5 You meet him who joyfully works  
righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.

(17) He cries out for God to return. He gives 3 reasons. 1. The people who serve Him need Him. 2. The tribes or nation needs Him. w/out Him there is no nation. 3. THE HERITAGE of God's relationship w/ Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc is at stake.

(18) The prophet says they had served Him in the past but were eventually defeated. He does not mention their sins or rebellion.

(19) They are like those who never knew Him. It is almost as if He will have to start over. They are no longer the people who represent God. They are so far from Him they have lost all.

(1) THE PRAYER CONTINUES. THEY WANT GOD TO RETURN TO THEM. SHOWING HIS RETURN w/ the shaking of the earth.

(2) They want God to show Himself clearly. Here fire may well also represent judgment and cleansing. THE FIRE IS TO REMOVE ENEMIES and to change them from "lukewarm" (Rev. 3:16) and to restore them to full fellowship. God is to show THE ENEMIES that He is their God and to remove the people's fear and give it to those who have enslaved and persecuted them.

(3) Isaiah says God has arrived surprising the people in the past. It is as if they don't want to be surprised but they want to be able to anticipate. They are asking Him to do now what He has done in the past. They want to see the mighty God.

(4) He is the only God who has ever done these things, and they want Him to show the world He is still that same God. THE IDEA that they wait on God is to show their desire to restore fellowship.

(5) God is reminded how His joy is meeting righteous people. It is their desire. He sees them no longer as sinners but as those who are righteous and wait on Him to act.

Prayer

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall  
we be saved?

6 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.

7 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer

5b) The people hope to be righteous but here admit their true selves. Not only have they sinned but they did so for a long time. THE QUESTION NOW IS CAN THEY BE FORGIVEN? WILL GOD HEAR THEIR PRAYER AND RESPOND WITH FAVOR TO THEM?

⑥ THIS VERSE SAYS THEY ARE LIKE LEPROUS IN THEIR SINS. THE APPROACH GOD DECLARING THEY ARE "UNCLEAN." (LEV. 13:45) WEARING GARMENTS THAT REFLECT THEIR UNCLEAN SINFUL LIVES. THEY ARE CONSUMED AND ARE DESTROYED BY THEIR SINS.

⑦ THE PEOPLE ARE SO CONSUMED BY SIN THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS LEFT TO CALL ON GOD. THEIR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IS GONE. THEY ARE UNABLE TO EVEN LOOK TOWARD HEAVEN, LET ALONE GRASP HOLD OF GOD. GOD HAS TURNED AWAY SO HE WILL NO LONGER SEE THEIR SINS. THE PEOPLE DISOLVE, OVERTAKEN BY THEIR SINS. THEY ARE EATEN ALIVE BY THE EVIL THEY ONCE ENJOYED & TO WHICH THEY GAVE LIFE. WITHOUT GOD THEY ARE W/OUT HOPE, SLAVES TO SIN.

⑧ HERE IS THE KEY NOT ONLY TO BE FREE FROM CRIPPLING SIN BUT TO BE MADE SOMETHING NEW. TO BE SOMETHING USEFUL AS DETERMINED BY GOD. HERE IS THE SAME IMAGE AS JEREMIAH 18:1F. THE PEOPLE ARE CLAY AND GOD IS THE POTTER WHO WILL REFORM THEM TO BE USEFUL.

⑨ THE PEOPLE WANT GOD TO ABATE HIS ANGER. THEY CALL ON HIM AS FATHER IN VS 8, HERE HE IS LORD. HIS FORGIVENESS IS SOUGHT. THEY REMIND GOD THAT HE IS THEIR GOD AND THEY ARE HIS PEOPLE.

⑩ THE RESULTS OF GOD'S ANGER AT THEIR SINS IS PRESENTED. W/OUT HIM THE ONCE HOLY CITIES WHERE HE WAS WORSHIPPED ARE EMPTY AND W/OUT LIFE. ZION OR THE NATION IS DESOLATED, AND JERUSALEM WHERE THE TEMPLE OF GOD STANDS IS RUINED, EMPTY, UNOCCUPIED.

⑪ THE TEMPLE IS DESTROYED BY THE ENEMY, EVERYTHING REMOVED AND THEN BURNED. THIS MUST BE SEEN AS A PROPHECY STILL 160 YEARS AWAY. HOW THIS MUST HAVE BOTHERED THE FAITHFUL KNOW THIS WAS COMING. THIS IS SHOWN AS HAPPENING IN JEREMIAH 52:13.

⑫ HERE IS A PRAYER ADMITTING SIN, CALLING ON GOD FOR FORGIVENESS, AND PREDICTING (PROPHECY) THAT THIS WAS COMING. THE QUESTION WAS IF THERE IS ANYWAY THIS COMING DISASTER CAN BE AVOIDED. THE LAST LINE IS SO HUMAN. IT ALMOST BLAMES GOD FOR NOT STOPPING THEM FROM DOING WHAT HE HAS SEEN IS COMING. GOD'S SILENCE IS BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS. THEIR SINS ARE WHY GOD WILL WITHDRAW AND LEAVE THEM TO THEIR ENEMIES.