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The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Bozrah

63: 1-6

The second coming of Jesus Christ to Bozrah DIG: Edom (symbolic for God's enemies) means red. What might the symbols here mean? Whose blood is it? How is this the opposite of the salvation coming to Jerusalem? What does this picture of God as warrior add to the other images of Him in 62:1-12? How does the divine Warrior here in 63:1-6 parallel the divine Warrior in 59:15b-21? What does He mean when He says: The year of My redemption has come?

REFLECT: Does this scene seem harsh or righteous to you? Does it worry you or give you comfort? Why? Where do you think you will be when this scene plays itself out? Why do you think the world rejects this message? How do you feel about Jesus as a divine Warrior (Joshua 5:13-15; Numbers 21:14)? Isaiah 60:1 to 63:6 portrays what the coming Kingdom of God will be like. It will include judgment of those who rebelled against Him. Is this comforting or disturbing to you? Why?

Heaven connects with earth.

This passage forms an independent oracle on the final triumph of God over Isra'el's enemies, which is preliminary to the redemption. The image presented is one of the most impressive and awe-inspiring in the TaNaKh and it is difficult to say which is most to be admired, the dramatic vividness of the vision, or the discretion which conceals the actual work of slaughter and concentrates the attention on the Divine Hero as He emerges victorious from the conflict. A solitary and majestic figure, in blood-red clothing, is seen approaching from the direction of Edom. A question of surprise escapes from the prophet's lips as he sees the singular and startling apparition; and a brief reply comes from afar. The Hero is none other than the God of Isra'el.

Once again the single-handed aspect of **the Messiah's** Second Coming is shown (59:15b-29). A **watchman** (see 62:6) is standing at some high point in **Jerusalem** looking to the southeast to **Bozrah** (the modern-day Buseirah). It is located about 25 miles southeast of the southern end on the Dead Sea in what is today Jordan. It was an important

city in **Edom** and was a sheep-herding center. The name means *grape-gathering*.

The watchman sees a very graphic figure coming toward **him** from the land of **Edom** and the city of **Bozrah** (in Hebrew) or Petra (in Greek). The origin of the Second Coming is **Bozrah (34:1-7)**. **Habakkuk** also brings this point out. **God came from Teman** (Ta-MAUN), **The Holy One from Mount Paran (Habakkuk 3:3)**. **Teman** is just north of **Bozrah** towards **Jerusalem**. So for **Jesus** to get to **Jerusalem**, **God** would have to come **from Teman**. **Teman** and **Mount Paran** are both in the vicinity of **Bozrah** and are located in the same Mount Seir. **The watchman** asks: **Who is this coming from Bozrah, from Edom (63:1a)?**



The Bible clearly pinpoints the beginning of the Second Coming at the city of **Bozrah**. But why **Bozrah**? Because that is where the believing remnant will be hiding in the last days (**Micah 2:12-13**), which is why the antichrist and the armies of the world are drawn to **Bozrah**. Satan knows that **Isra'el** is the **apple of His eye (Deuteronomy 32:10)** and he knows Scripture (**Matthew 4:1-11**). So he and his armies are drawn, like a fish with a hook in their mouths to **Bozrah** to destroy the Jews once and for all (**Jeremiah 49:12-13**). But this would not be a permanent home for the believing remnant; it was a temporary home. That is why **Zechariah 12:7 to 13:1** says that **the LORD will save the tents of Judah first**. In other words, when **Jesus Christ** comes back a second time, **He** will come to **Bozrah first**, saving the believing remnant, before going to **Jerusalem** through **Teman**.

The watchman enters into a discussion with this fast approaching figure. **He** asks: **Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with His garments stained crimson. The Hebrew word for red is of the same root as Edom**, therefore **red** (*adom*) is a wordplay on **Edom** (*edom*). A **winepress** was usually a shallow pit with a hole on the side leading out to a container. As individuals trampled on grapes in the press, the juice flowed through the hole into the container. Obviously some juice would also splatter on the workers' clothes.

The watchman continues to ask: **Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of His strength (63:1b-c)?**

The divine Warrior answers: **It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save (63:1d)**. Who is this **Person? The One** whose constant characteristic is **speaking** what is righteous. The idols cannot do this for they do not know either the past or the future **(43:9)**. Only **One** has the power that is **mighty to save**. This is an important point. These verses are ultimately not about judgment or destruction - they are about salvation. Because the enemy is destroyed, **His** people are delivered **(52:7-12)**. What did **the watchman** see? **He** saw **the arm of the LORD (59:1), Yeshua Messiah** marching toward **Jerusalem**. The **salvation** that was announced in **62:11** will then be seen.

But now **the divine Warrior** has approached close enough for **the watchman** to see more details. **He** noticed that **His** clothing, though brilliantly shining with the Sh'khinah glory, is nevertheless stained with **blood**. That raises the second question. **Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress (63:2)?** In **Isaiah's** day, people would get into **the winepress** barefooted and trample out the grapes. The **red** juice would spurt out the ripe grapes and stain their **garments**. The Hebrew actually reads: *Why is there such redness in your garments?* In **Revelation 19:13** we are also told that **He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood**. Several commentaries say that the **blood Christ** is stained with **His** own **blood** that had been shed for the believing remnant. But this is not **His** own **blood**, but that of the enemy.

Next, we learn that **He** has come from the trampling of **the nations**, or defeating the antichrist and the armies of the world. **He** did it all by **Himself**. **The Warrior's** answer to the question above begins here and continues through **verse 6**. There was no one to help **Him** in **His** awful task. Earlier **He** had said: **I saw that there was no one, I was appalled that there was no one to intervene but Me; so My own arm worked salvation for Me and My own righteousness sustained Me (59:16)**. So **Jesus** declared again: **I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one in the whole world was with Me (63:3a)**. **Yeshua Messiah** was **alone** on the cross, and **He** will be **alone** in **His** judgment. How would it be possible for the millennial Jerusalem to exist? Only because **Messiah** made it possible.

The watchman sees that there is **blood** on **His** beautiful **garments** *just as if He had trampled the winepress*. The word **blood** here is *nesah*, meaning *squirting blood*. We are told clearly that two armies will return with **Him**. One is an angelic army (**Matthew 16:24**), the other is the army of believers (**Jude 14-15; Revelation 19:14a**). But neither the angles

nor believers participate in any of the fighting. The image used here is the treading **of the winepress**. **Jesus Christ** declared: **I trampled them in My anger and trod them down in My wrath; their blood splattered My garments and I stained all My clothing (63:3b).**

God's wrath is also pictured as being like a **winepress**. **He** attacked the enemies of **His** people and trampled them under foot like grapes, so that their lifeblood has spurted out and splattered **His garments**. This imagery is used in **Haggai 2:16**, and also in **Revelation 14:19-20** where the final treading of the nations is viewed as the treading of the grapes **in the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the City, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia** or about 180 miles or 300 kilometers (see my commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Ex - The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon**).

Now comes the explanation: **For the day of vengeance was in My heart, and the year of My redemption has come (63:4)**. But doesn't all this carnage merely suggest a heavenly tyrant out of control? Is this not **blood** lust? No! But what about the word **vengeance**? Doesn't that convey a mean spirit of revenge and bitterness? It might if it were by itself, but the parallelism in the context of the verse speaks volumes. What is the **vengeance** about? Payback? No, its about **redemption**, about breaking the power of sin and evil so that those who are held captive can go free. The very thing that **Isaiah** prayed for in **62:12** is now being fulfilled when **Messiah** says: **The year of My redemption has come.**

I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so My own arm worked salvation for Me, and My own wrath sustained Me (63:5). This verse reemphasizes that **Christ** will fight *alone*. There was no one else in the world that could help. There is no one else in the world that can save **Jerusalem** from the invading armies of the antichrist. Therefore, **God's own arm worked salvation** for the Jews. This is the ninth and last of nine references to the **arm of the LORD** in **Isaiah (30:30 and 32, 40:10, 50:2, 51:5 and 9, 52:10, 53:1, 59:1 and 16, 62:8)**. **His own wrath sustained Him** during this campaign.

The results are seen. **Messiah** says: **I trampled the nations in My anger (63:6a)**. Paul records a similar thought: **and then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet (First Corinthians 15:24-25)**. After capturing five Amorite kings, **Joshua** summoned all the **men of Isra'el**, and he **said to the army commanders who had come with him, Come**

here and put your feet on the necks of these kings. So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

This is a form of public humiliation of defeated enemy leaders and was usually the climax of warfare in the ancient Near East. When the statue of Saddam Hussein was brought down in front of an international audience, the people trampled it and hit it with their shoes to show their contempt for him. The monuments of ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Persia give numerous illustrations of the custom of conquerors trampling on the vanquished. In the cave at Beit el Walley in Nubia is a hieroglyphic description of Ramses II trampling on his enemies. It reads, "Kol, the strange land, is beneath your sandals." At the foot of a wooden mummy case in the British Museum are painted the soles of two shoes, and on each is the figure of a man with his arms and hands tied behind him, and his feet tied at the ankles. In this helpless state he is supposed to be trampled on by the wearer of the shoes. It was a very expressive illustration of mingled triumph and contempt. These customs strikingly illustrate the text and numerous parallel passages (**Ps 8:6, 110:1, 119:118; Isaiah 14:19, 25:10, 28:3 and 18; Lam 1:15, 3:34; Dan 8:13; Micah 7:10; Malachi 4:3; Luke 21:24; Rom 16:20 and Hebrews 10:29**).²⁵¹

The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed (Revelation 5:5). Here Ha'Shem says: **In My wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground (63:6b).** The lifeblood shed and therefore **His wrath** was decisively finished. To those who do not fully understand the true nature of **ADONAI**, verses like this seem contrary to the character of **ADONAI**. They believe that **the LORD** is love, and that is true. **The LORD** is love. But if a person rejects **Christ**, the sacrifice, he or she *becomes the sacrifice*. On the cross, **God the Father** poured out His **wrath** on **God the Son** as a punishment for sin (**53:5**). So anyone who rejects **His** sacrifice is **cursed**. This is what we see in the Second Coming, a world who has rejected **Messiah** being held accountable. Those who reject this truth only want to see **the LORD** as love because they want to be able to sin with no accountability. The truth does not set them free, they choose to believe a lie, and in the end they will spend eternity apart from **Christ** and **His** love. **Then He will say to those on His left: Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Mattityahu 25:41).** *Their* death is only the result of refusing to avail themselves of **His** death.

Therefore, **Isaiah** has given a vision of how **his** prayer and **the angels'** prayer of **Chapter 62** is going to be fulfilled. These verses describe how salvation will come, how **His** reward is with **Him**, how **His** judgment is with **Him**, and how **He** will save **His** redeemed ones. However, it is a clear teaching of Scripture that the Second Coming cannot occur until the



Jewish people ask for it. That is what **Isaiah** describes next.