

**ISAIAH 63-64**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

**Ch. 63-64 – WHOSE ELSE BUT GOD?**

I. The Lord is the Only Judge and Savior (63:1-6)

II. Divine Faithfulness Despite Israel's Sinfulness (63:7-14)

63:7-14 – “A retrospective glimpse of Israel’s formative years shows that the Lord in mercy chose the Israelites as His people, redeemed them and sustained them. When they rebelled they were punished; as they repented, they again enjoyed the Lord’s saving intervention. The paragraph emphasizes divine faithfulness despite Israel’s sinfulness, thus grounding the petition which follows in the character of God and not in any merit of the nation” (Woods, 273).

III. Begging for God’s Blessings (63:15-19)

63:16 – “Though Abraham was ignorant of us, and Israel does not acknowledge us...”

Joey Davis: “Appealing to their lineage and ancestral connection to these great patriarchs would have no redemptive merit and would not be as strong a plea for help as that of children crying out for their father’s mercy, pity, and compassion” (Schertz 2010, 314).

Clyde Woods: “The text may simply emphasize Israel’s helplessness as being beyond any human remedy, but more likely the sense is similar to that expressed in 49:15 and Psalm 27:10, e.g., even if the nation’s human forefathers should deny it, the Lord, its Father and Redeemer, must surely come to its aid” (275).

Wayne Jackson: “Abraham and Jacob, being dead, could not help. Those in the realm of the dead have no knowledge of, nor ability to assist, those on earth. Israel’s only hope was in the everlasting Redeemer (v. 16)” (103).

IV. “Help Us, Lord!” (64:1-7)

64:5 – “The latter portion of verse 5 has perplexed expositors for generations. ... Perhaps the sense is: ‘Lord, even though you demonstrated by your wrath your displeasure of sin in our lives, we continued in our sins. Can we be saved if we continue such a course?’ Surely not (v. 5b)” (Jackson, 103).

V. Another Plea for Mercy (64:8-12)