

“THE LORD IS COME” - Isaiah 64:1-9

Reading

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— 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! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? 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. 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. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people. Isaiah 64:1–9 (ESV)

Introduction

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing." - Isaac Watts

"We are living between the Hallelujah of Christ's resurrection and the Maranatha of Christ's return." Adam Ramsey

How do we live into that hope?

1. Pray with fierceness

"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence - 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!" Isaiah 64:1-2

2. Watch with openness

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:9-11 (NIV)

When you did *awesome things that we did not look for*, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. Isaiah 64:3

3. Wait with faithfulness

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. Isaiah 64:4

“[waiting is] the agonizing tension between hope and dread, stretched and almost torn apart between two dramatically different anticipations.” W.H. Vanstone

“The Lord is good to those who wait for him” Lamentations 3:25

“There is actually something happening while nothing is happening. God uses waiting to change us...That miserable, uncomfortable, sometimes painful state of silence is one of God’s most powerful tools to set us free. If we are willing, that is.” Jade Mazarin

“You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways...” Isaiah 64:5a

4. Repent in humbleness

“Those things that we cannot accept about ourselves we project upon others. If I do not admit my shadow side, I will unconsciously find another who will carry my shadow for me.” John English

“Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?” Isaiah 64:5

“we have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.” Isaiah 64:6

“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. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.” Isaiah 64:8–9

Closing Reading

“Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13