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Isaiah 63

Isaiah 63:1-64:1

Isaiah > Chapter 63

63. מִיָּזָה בֵּא מְאֹדֹם חֲמוֹן בְּגָדִים מִבְּצֻרָה זֶה הַדּוֹר בְּלִבוֹשׁוֹ צַעֲה בְּרַב כַּחוֹ אֲנִי
 מְדַבֵּר בְּצַדִּיקָה רַב לְהוֹשִׁיעַ:
 מְדוּעַ אָדָם לְלִבוֹשׁוֹ וּבְגָדֵיךָ כְּדֹרֶךְ בְּגַת:
 פִּוְרָה דְרַכְתִּי לְבָדִי וּמַעֲמִים אֵין-אִישׁ אֶתִּי וְאֲדַרְכֶם בְּאִפִּי וְאַרְמָסֶם בְּחַמְתִּי וְזֶ
 נִצַּחֶם עַל-בְּגָדִי וְכָל-מִלְבוּשֵׁי אֲגָאֲלָתִי:
 כִּי יוֹם נָקָם בְּלִבִּי וּשְׁנַת גְּאוּלֵי בָאָה:
 וְאָבִיט וְאֵין עֹזֵר וְאֲשֶׁתוֹמֵם וְאֵין סוֹמֵךְ וְתוֹשֵׁעַ לִי זֶרְעִי וְחַמְתִּי הִיא סִמְכָתִנִּי:
 וְאָבוֹס עַמִּים בְּאִפִּי וְאֲשַׁכְרֶם בְּחַמְתִּי וְאוֹרִיד לְאֶרֶץ נִצַּחֶם:
 חֲסָדִי יִהְיֶה אֲזִכִּיר תְּהִלַּת יְהוָה כַּעַל כָּל אֲשֶׁר-גָּמְלָנוּ יְהוָה וְרַב-טוֹב לְבַיִת
 יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר-גָּמְלָם בְּרַחֲמָיו וְכָרַב חֲסָדָיו:
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדַעֲמֵי הַמָּה בְּנִים לֹא יִשְׁקְרוּ וַיְהִי לָהֶם לְמוֹשִׁיעַ:
 בְּכָל-צָרָתָם לֹא צָרָה וּמִלֵּאךְ פָּנָיו הוֹשִׁיעֵם בְּאַהֲבָתוֹ וּבְחַמְלָתוֹ הוּא גָאֵלָם
 וַיִּנְטָלֵם וַיִּנְשָׂאֵם כְּלִימֵי עוֹלָם:
 וְהַמָּה מָרוּ וְעַצְבוּ אֶת-דְּרוֹחַ קִדְשׁוֹ וַיְהִיפֵךְ לָהֶם לְאוֹיֵב הוּא נִלְחַם-בָּם:
 וַיִּזְכֹּר יְמֵי-עוֹלָם מִשֶׁהָ עָמוּ אִיֵּה הַמַּעֲלָם מִיָּם אֶת רַעִי צֹאגוֹ אִיֵּה הַשָּׁם בְּקִרְבּוֹ
 אֶת-דְּרוֹחַ קִדְשׁוֹ:
 מוֹלֵדָה לִימֵינוּ מִשֶׁהָ זֶהוּנֵה מִפְּאֻרֵהוּ בּוֹקֵנוּ

Isaiah 40-66 > 41. Introduction to Chapters 40-55 (Second Isaiah) > 53. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 > 3. Exposition

[4-6] In v. 4 the narrative continues with a series of striking contrasts in which the Hebrew *ʾaken* ("surely") marks the beginning of a theme. "Surely it was our sickness he bore," yet "we regarded him as plagued." "He was wounded because of our sins," yet "we have all gone astray like sheep." Two additional notes are sounded in the sorrowful recital. First, the confessing community bears testimony to what it has seen and now understands brought us peace was on him" and "by his wounds we are healed." Second, it was God's will and purpose that the servant was dealt this affliction. Not only did God allow it (the passive voice softens the theological tension), but God is understood as the active agent of his suffering; He was "smitten by God and afflicted" (v. 4); "Yahweh laid on him the guilt of us all" (v. 6). What occurred was not some unfortunate tragedy of human history but actually formed the center of the divine plan for the redemption of his people and indeed of the world.

It is at this juncture in the interpretation of the chapter that the modern debate over the term "vicarious" suffering has set in. Some of the controversy turns on the various ways in which the term has been construed. Beuken (*Jesaja*, II/B, 214ff.) is rightly concerned that the term be used with great caution lest theological categories foreign to the witness of the Old Testament be uncritically applied. Clearly Christian interpreters should

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God's Vengeance on the Nations

- Who is this who comes from Edom,
 With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
 This One who is majestic in His apparel,
 Marching in the greatness of His strength?
 "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."
- Why is Your apparel red,
 And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?
 "I have trodden the wine trough alone,
 And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
 I also trod them in My anger
 And trampled them in My wrath;
 And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
 And I stained all My raiment."

miscellany, nominalizer, Blessing to Divinity, which

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