

A Contrite Heart

God brings comfort and peace to those with a contrite heart.

Are You Hungry?

When was the last time you were enraged by an injustice against you?

When someone commits an injustice against you, it is understandable that you might feel angry toward that person. Maybe they stole your computer or unfairly accused you of cheating on a test, and now you want to respond by punishing them. In this passage, we see that God was enraged after His people continually sinned against Him, and He decided to punish them and hide His face from them. As their Creator, He had the right to be angry because of their sinful behavior. He did not remain in His anger, however. God also chose to respond with undeserved mercy and grace.

Taste and See

What does God promise He will do for His sinful people (v. 18)?

Though He punished them for their sins, He also promises to comfort and heal them.

God was enraged and punished His people because they were greedy and willfully disobedient, but He also intends to heal, guide, and restore comfort to Israel. He will not continue to accuse them and leave them to mourn and grieve forever. Because God loves His people, in His compassion He will restore His relationship with them and guide them back to Him. The people will be at peace, and in response to His goodness, there will be praise on their lips for the God who brought comfort and healing to their weak and wayward hearts.

How has God responded to your sinful ways?

When we sin against God, we sometimes fear that He will judge us and strike us down in His anger and wrath. If He were to do so, He would be completely justified in punishing us because He is always righteous, and sin separates us from His goodness. We can rest assured, however, because God loves us, and He does not want us to remain in habitual sin, so He sent His only Son to suffer and die on the cross in order to restore our relationship with Him. When believers sin, therefore, we are called to quickly repent and turn back to Him.

What happens to the wicked (vv. 20–21)?

While God revives the heart of the contrite, the wicked will have no peace.

Those who are humble and contrite are repentant of their sins, so God will revive their spirits and bring them peace. The wicked, however, are like a tossing sea that cannot rest. When they commit wicked and evil deeds, they are like waves that kick up dirt and mud. They do not have peace because they have continued to walk away from God, who can bring peace and comfort to His people. The repentant and contrite sinner will dwell with Him, but those who continue to rebel and oppose God only reap chaos and destruction.

What has helped you to remain humble and contrite before God?

Habitual sin may try to plague us, but our hearts can be moved to repentance if we keep our eyes on God. Instead of focusing on our pride and our fleshly desires, we can call out to the Holy Spirit, who is at work in our hearts. He can redirect our path back to Him so that we can rest in the peace that is found in His love and grace. Confessing our sins to mature and godly believers can also be helpful because they can pray for us and keep us accountable for our actions.

Chew on This

How can you help others experience the grace and peace found in God?

In Scripture, Jesus models how we can graciously and lovingly interact with those who do not know Christ. Remember that Jesus reflected the heart of the Father, and similarly, we reflect the love and grace of Christ here on earth. We are His representatives and ambassadors, and as our words and actions reflect more of Him, people around us will see and experience His grace and peace through us. We can share the Gospel with them directly and indirectly through what we say and do, and we can pray that they will seek to know Him more by reading the Word and joining a community of believers.

Isaiah 62:1--9

The Delight of the Groom

God is committed to His people and delights in them just as a bridegroom delights in his bride.

GROUP
DEVOTION

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Are You Hungry?

What future event or milestone do you look forward to most?

There are many things to be excited about in the future. You might look forward to getting into college, getting married, or having kids. These milestones are usually joyful events because they signify new stages of life, and they are exciting because they mark the end of something old and the beginning of something new. They are an indication that we are growing and maturing. In this chapter, we see the prophet Isaiah talk about a future event that is exciting and new. This event will mark a defining moment in the relationship between God and His people.

Taste and See

What new name do God's people receive? Why do they receive this name? (v. 4)

They will be called Hephzibah because the LORD delights in them.

Because God's people strayed far from Him, they were once called Deserted, and their land was called Desolate. But they will not keep this identity forever, as nations and kings will one day see their vindication and salvation. God's redeemed people will no longer appear to be abandoned by God. Instead, they will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow upon them. They will be called Hephzibah, which means "my delight is in her," because the LORD delights in the renewed and redeemed covenant relationship He has with His people.