



JOURNEY  
TO THE  
**CROSS**

**Lament**

“The real enemy here is not Russia, not even Putin, but spiritual evil, which to some degree infects every human heart, including mine. That moves me to **lament** every loss of life in this vicious war.

—Brendan Payne



18 The Lord is close to the  
brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed  
in spirit.

—Psalm 34:18



22 The steadfast love of the Lord never  
ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:22-23



# Lament is Transformative

Lament transforms us as we pray from complainers into worshipers because we trust God and expect Him to act in mercy and justice.



15 Look down from heaven and see,  
from your lofty throne, holy and  
glorious....

**Return** for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes that are your inheritance.  
—Isaiah 63:15,17b



# Big Idea

We can trust God to act on behalf of those in pain because of his loving character and care.



# Isaiah 64

1. Pleading with God.
2. Preparing for His Return.
3. Praying for Deliverance.



- 1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens  
and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble  
before you!
- 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name  
known to your enemies and cause  
the nations to quake before you!



3 For when you did awesome things  
that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the  
mountains trembled before you.

—Isaiah 64:1-3



4 Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for  
him.

5 You come to the help of those who gladly  
do right,  
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?



- 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
- 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; For you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.



- 8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.
- 9 Do not be angry beyond measure,  
Lord;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.



<sup>10</sup> Your sacred cities have become a wasteland;  
even Zion is a wasteland,  
Jerusalem a desolation.

<sup>11</sup> Our holy and glorious temple,  
where our ancestors praised you,  
has been burned with fire,  
and all that we treasured lies in ruins.



<sup>12</sup> After all this, Lord, will you hold  
yourself back?

Will you keep silent and punish us  
beyond measure?

—Isaiah 64:4-12



15 **Look down** from heaven and see,  
from your lofty throne, holy and  
glorious....

—Isaiah 63:15

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens  
and **come down**, that the mountains  
would tremble before you!

—Isaiah 64:1



<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

<sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.



<sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

<sup>9</sup> However, as it is written:



“What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has  
conceived”—  
the things God has prepared for  
those who love him—

<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed  
to us by his Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 2:6-10



13 This is why I speak to them in parables:  
“Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or  
understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:  
““You will be ever hearing but never  
understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never  
perceiving.



<sup>15</sup> For this people's heart has become  
calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.'



<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

<sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

—Matthew 13:13-17



24 “But in those days, following that  
distress, “the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
25 the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’  
26 **“At that time people will see the Son of  
Man coming in clouds with great  
power and glory.** —Mark 13:24-26  
(Quoting Isaiah 13:10; 34:4)



32 “But about that day or hour **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.



<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

<sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

—Mark 13:32-37



<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

<sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

—Mark 13:32-37



**Return** for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes that are your  
inheritance.

—Isaiah 63:17b

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says,  
“Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

—Revelation 22:20



32 “But about that day or hour **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

—Mark 13:32



26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

—Mark 13:26



# Isaiah 64

1. Pleading with God.
2. Preparing for His Return.



...How then can we be saved?

<sup>6</sup> All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

—Isaiah 64:5b-6



7 No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.  
—Isaiah 64:7



24 Therefore **God gave them over in the sinful desires** of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

—Romans 1:24



13 Keep your servant also from willful  
sins; may they not rule over me.

—Psalm 19:13

8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be angry beyond measure,  
Lord; do not remember our sins  
forever.

—Isaiah 64:8-9a



# Isaiah 64

1. Pleading with God.
2. Preparing for His Return.
3. Praying for Deliverance.



Be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

—2 Corinthians 5:20b-21



8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be angry beyond measure,  
Lord;

do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,

for we are all your people.



<sup>12</sup> After all this, Lord, will you hold  
yourself back?

—Isaiah 64:8-9;12a



“While I cannot directly do much for Ukraine, I consider more how I might seek the good of my neighbors around me each day. And that is hard work, much harder than self-righteous indignation at obvious evils at work in the world.”

—Brendan Payne





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