

Their hope is based upon the fact that God did wonderful things for them in the past. They recognize the reason they are in trouble now is because they have rebelled. But where is there any expression of repentance for their rebellion? Where do they say, "O God we have done wickedly in the past and we deserve what you have brought upon us, but now we want a change. Give us a right spirit within; change our hearts; make us truly yours; help us do your will." Instead the whole emphasis is upon their being God's people and He is their Father and redeemer. (63:16). Because this is the case they think they have a right to expect God will do wonderful things for them. They say, "Why, O Lord, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?" You might say that is Calvinism carried to the extreme of hyper-Calvinism! They make God responsible for their going into sin and wickedness! They seem to be attributing their sin to God making Him the author of evil.

They seek a return of God's favor and deliverance from their enemies (63:18) who have "trampled down your sanctuary." (63:18) They say, "We are yours from of old; but you have not ruled over them, they have not been called by your name." (63:19) They argue from the fact they are God's people and their enemies are not that God should help them, and be kind to them. God does have a special interest in His chosen people. But the fact that God has showed them mercy in the past is not the most vital thing. The most vital thing is what is their relationship to Him now? The way they are treated by other people is not the most vital thing but rather are his people acting righteously and justly? It is possible to so emphasize the element of God's chose that we obscure other important truths as well, namely the fact that God is desirous of righteousness and justice on his people's part.

The people say, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! . . . Come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!" (64:1-2) / They ask God to do wonderful things. He can be cause He is a God of power. They recognize His power and his anger against sin (64:4-5). They acknowledge they have been wicked (64:6) but they ask God not to be angry with them (v.9) and they desire Him to give immediate answer to their wonderful moving prayer (v.12).