

Isaiah

Fruther on Isaiah 63:7-64:12

The passage that runs from Isaiah 63:7 to the end of chapter 64 has some-  
 times been greatly misunderstood. It begins with the words: "I will mention the  
 loving kindnesses of the LORD." With the exception of one verse (v. 10), <sup>its first eight verses give</sup> ~~it gives~~  
 the impression that the entire passage is to be a poem of praise to God for His  
 goodness to Israel in early days, <sup>for they present</sup> ~~They contain~~ a beautiful description of the  
 wonderful kindness and deep sympathy that God displayed at that time. This is  
 the emphasis of most of the statements from verse 7 through verse 14. The only  
 exception is verse 10 which ~~strikes a very different note.~~ It reads: "But they  
 rebelled and vexed his Holy Spirit; therefore he was turned to be their enemy,  
 and he fought against them."

The next verse (v. 11) has often been misunderstood. In many translations,  
 including the Authorized Version, it ~~begins~~ begins: "Then he remembered the days of  
 old, Moses and his people saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea?"  
 In this translation the beginning of the verse sounds ~~as if~~ as if it meant that after  
 the people had rebelled against God, God remembered the days of old and asked the  
 question that follows. This idea is quite at variance with the context. Besides,  
 God would hardly be thought of as asking where He Himself was. The words, "and"  
 and "saying" are not in the original (and this is indicated by italics in the Authorized  
 Version). Many commentators feel that, in line with the entire context, "his  
 people" should be taken as the subject of the verb "remembered," rather than to  
 insert the word "he." ~~What follows represents the attitude of the people after~~  
~~God "was turned to be their enemy." They are the ones who ask why God is not~~  
~~helping them as He did in former days.~~