

being associated with Christ in His crucifixion. In the wonderful description of our Lord's attitude toward His sheep in John 10 He declared the necessity of entering the sheep fold through Him Who is the door. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (John 10:1). God never leaves us in ignorance of the fact that the problem of sin must be dealt with, since wickedness inevitably receives its just deserts. Hence it is quite natural that the grand section which we are now studying should begin and end with the note of vengeance against the adversaries of God. The attitude of the unregenerate mind toward such a passage is well illustrated by the comment of one critic, who called the picture in Isaiah 63:1-6 "beautiful but ethically repulsive."

The passage begins with a vivid picture of the coming of the righteous judge from Edom. This is not the only case in Scripture where God is pictured as coming from Edom to bring destruction upon His enemies. Thus in Judges 5 the song of Deborah begins with a description of God as marching out of the field of Edom. In that instance there was no particular reference to the people of Edom, since the purpose of the song was to celebrate deliverance from oppressors that had come from the opposite direction.

The reference to Edom is paralleled with mention of Bozrah. Other Scriptural passages refer to Bozrah as one of the leading cities of Edom. Its name is preserved in that of the modern village of Buseira, about twenty miles southeast of the Dead Sea.

In some ways this is indeed a horrible picture. The garments of the majestic figure are stained with blood evidence of the terrible carnage. He says, "For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come" (v. 4). It often appears as if sin and injustice were in such control of human life that they could never be dislodged. Yet inevitably the time comes when terrible vengeance is poured out. Over and over in the history of the world these terrible holocausts have occurred. It would be well that we should take warning in our own country and think what terrible fate may be in store for our people if we do not again as a nation turn to God and repent of the injustice and