

or cause His people
 Why does God permit His people/to err from His ways? They can't do anything about it. The sin is within them and they can't escape it. There is nothing they can do about it? Why doesn't He come and help them? Why doesn't He recognize that they are simple, weak, erring humans and they can't help themselves? Why doesn't He come and give His mercy? It is, as Delitzsch and other commentators say, a whining plea to God for mercy, to God that He will remember His people and that He will come back to His people and that He will reestablish them and Delitzsch says in his commentary after this great prayer, he stresses the urgency of the plea and he says that the suffering would be aggravated if this introduced Israel's destruction or didn't issue at last in Israel's restoration, such an urgent plea as presented here. he says, "Such an aggravation is inconceivable. Jehovah's mercy cannot violently refrain itself much longer. It must burst forth like Joseph's tears in a recognition scene as in Genesis 45:1." That is the impression Delitzsch gives here, which many get from the prayer, but it is not quite the impression that you have got from the words I just said about it. I don't think that I gave quite that picture of the prayer, that many commentators seem to get from it. They say, "Surely God must immediately answer with a declaration. He is always too anxious to deliver His people from the suffering into which they fall. And yet Delitzsch continues with very strange words. Here's what he says. He says, "After the people have poured out their hearts before Jehovah He declares what they have to expect from Him. The promise does not follow at once, as one might expect after the preceding prayer, but at first rebuke and menace for though the penitent portion of the church identifies itself in this prayer with the entire nation, destruction, not redemption, awaited a portion of the people and that portion the larger one. Truly, this is very strange, the fact that Delitzsch has pointed out. If you take this as a wonderful prayer, from 63:7 on to the end of 64, remembering God's loving kindness. We are God's people. We are in this condition. Surely God must save us. Oh, Lord, look down from heaven and give us your mercy. How can God refrain Himself from answering such a