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# “Why Are Your Garments Red?”

*“Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?” (Isaiah 63:2).*

A kind of dialogue takes place between the prophet and the Lord in the beginning of Isaiah 63. Isaiah asked, “Who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah . . . ?” (v. 1a). The Lord answered, “It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save” (v. 1b). The prophet further asked, “Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?” (v. 2) The Lord responded by saying, in effect, “I have trampled the enemies of My people in My wrath. Their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, and I have stained all My raiment with their blood” (v. 3).

The language being used is highly figurative. It portrays God in His might, delivering His people from the terrors and dangers of their enemies. Edom is pictured as the opposing nation. The Edomites had always stood against God’s people, and here Isaiah used them as a symbol of all those who desired to defeat Israel. God said that He was clothed in blood, or that His clothes were sprinkled with blood. He had defeated the enemy, pressing down the peoples who defied Israel. In His anger, He had poured out their lifeblood on the earth, staining His robe with that blood.

Arising from this figurative expression is a touching question: “When does God wear red?” To say it another way, we could ask, “When is God covered with blood?” The Scriptures answer this question with pathos and clarity.

*He wears red when He comes in defense of His people.* This is the important truth taught by the passage. God said, “I trod down the peoples in My anger and made them drunk in My wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth” (v. 6). The figure highlights how thoroughly God destroys the enemies of His people. In

finality, He poured out their lifeblood on the earth.

This portrayal of God is a picture that we must not forget. He encircles His people with His mighty arms. No nation, no individual, no power of any kind can harm them. Enemies who attempt to approach will be trodden down by God until He is covered with their blood.

*Furthermore, God wears red when He forgives our sins.* He has done this through His Son, Jesus. Perhaps on a much higher level, a glimmer of the future is revealed in this description. Revelation 1:13 pictures Jesus as “clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.” Later, the scene is much different. He is pictured riding on a white horse. We read, “He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses” (Revelation 19:13, 14).

The only way for God to save us was by allowing His Son to wear red, to don a royal robe of blood. This was the price of God’s gift of salvation, which He has freely given to us. John said of Jesus, “This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood . . .” (1 John 5:6). He further said that the water, the blood, and the Spirit give a testimony that cannot be denied: “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (1 John 5:11, 12).

*In addition to all of this, God wears red when He bears our burdens.* On the Damascus road, when Jesus appeared to Saul, He asked him, “Saul,

Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4). Saul was stunned by such a question, for he did not know of anything that he was doing to Jesus. He energetically pursued His followers because he regarded them as apostates who deserved punishment, but he had not touched Jesus. In his confusion, he asked, "Who are You, Lord?" Jesus replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). The realization that what is done to Jesus' followers is done to Him must have fallen upon Saul's mind with terrific force.

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*Look up at God and see that beyond His glory, beyond His great majesty, He wears red — the warrior-red of defense for His people, the ruby red of redemption, and the loyal red of the martyr's blood. What a Father we have; what a Friend we have! We live in the fellowship of the Almighty One who is covered with His blood for us, covered with our blood from suffering with us, and covered with our enemies' blood because He has defended us!*