A VISION FOR REVIVAL AND A WAKENING
Isaiah 64:1-4 (HCSB)

Introduction: Days of fasting and prayer, God placed this passage deep within my heart. Desperation is rising. *The people had wandered away from God—Isaiah is crying out to God for a mighty move of God. *Church of America #1 need is revival; America’s #1 need is a spiritual awakening, where millions come to Christ. What do you see? Let me tell you what Isaiah saw!

Read: Isaiah 64:1-4 (HCSB)

Title: A VISION FOR REVIVAL AND A WAKENING

*When God comes down like this: forms are forgotten, normal church goes out the door, everything changes.
*LIFEWAY PERSONNEL: Please sound forth the vision for revival and awakening, the hope for it, and carry the torch for the next great move of God—Revival—Awakening.


1. Always begins with a burden. (v. 1a)
*Passion
“Oh”—I thirst, deep desire—taking hold, not letting go until God answers me.
Ill: “Oh God”—Crying out in deep prayer with burden. "burst from the heavens"—rend, tear open the heavens, rip apart the heavens, revealing to us all God is concealing from us now. *(Urgency to his prayer)
Ill: Look up into the heavens today and imagine all the heavens opening and revealing all God is concealing today! This is what Isaiah saw and wanted passionately. “come down!”—God to step into our lives now. For the Holy Spirit to come now in the midst of God’s people.
*The manifested presence of God is what He desired. (God reveals Himself to us personally and to others)
Ill: In the journals of the great George Whitfield, he wrote about how moments happened where, “God, the Lord, came down among us.”
(He always preached with unction, but also was aware of those special times when God showed up powerfully)

*We need to pray, LEAD, and preach—God among us!

III: Prayer gatherings with pastors: “Oh, Lord” Cry out!

*Perspective

Here is what Isaiah saw as he was praying for the heavens to open up

When God comes down:

Everything will shake, including the mountains!

(Refers to the power of God—Can you imagine the Rocky Mountains shaking—When God comes down God will shake up everything, including you!)

Fire of God’s Spirit will ignite the wood to burn and cause the waters to boil!

(Fire is emblem of the Holy Spirit—Pentecost)

(Water is graphic of the Holy Spirit and the movement of God being like oceans to surf and ride)

Enemies will scatter and learn the reason for God’s fame!

(Why? The fear of God would come upon all, reverencing His Holiness and Power!)

Psalm 68:1, “God arises, His enemies scatter.”

App: When you pray with vision it always begins with a passionate burden for God to come down in power, manifesting Himself to us and before us AND with a perspective that He will shake our lives, igniting us with the fire of His Spirit and moving upon us the power of the oceans, scattering all of the enemies who fear His coming wrath and judgment!

“Oh let our God ARISE and COME DOWN!”

2. Always set on fire by a right view of God.

(v. 3-4a)

“When you came down long ago”—this is a reference to even Isaiah 63 when He saved the people of God, fighting for them in Egypt, releasing them through the exodus, and opening the Red Sea before them, placing His Spirit
among them, guiding them, and protecting them with His power! Yes, He came down then among His people!

THEN, GOD CAME DOWN and placed “Baby Jesus” in the womb of a young virgin woman named Mary;

AND GOD CAME DOWN at Pentecost with the fire and power of His Holy Spirit, placing Him inside of His people, never to depart from them again!

Joel 2:28-32, “. . . I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity . . . prophecy . . . dreams . . . visions . . . display wonders . . . THEN everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

*Partially fulfilled at Pentecost
*Ultimately fulfilled right before the Lord comes back—GREAT FINAL OUTPOURING LEADING TO A GREAT FINAL HARVEST OF SOULS! The next great move of God!

A vision for revival and awakening is always set on fire by a right view of God:

*God always exceeds our highest expectation
(You did AWESOME deeds BEYOND our highest expectations—God always goes above and beyond what we expect Him to do!)

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT), “Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

God always exceeds our highest expectations!

*God is all-powerful
(And OH, how the mountains quaked! God shakes the unshakeable!)

*God is limitless
(For since the world began! God is NOT limited by time nor space nor people! You cannot contain Him and you cannot limit Him! God CAN DO what He wants to do whenever He wants to do it with whomever He chooses to use at the time!) *We will pray with fire when we pray
knowing God is limitless! Just as He shakes the mountains, He can remove our problems and obstacles!

**God is the ONE and ONLY true God**
No ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like You!
NOT one of God’s creation can comprehend all God is saying and all God is doing!

**App:** A vision for revival and awakening is always set on fire by a right view of God: God always exceeds our highest expectations, God is all-powerful, God is limitless, and God is one and only true God.

3. **Always creates confidence that God is working for our good and for His glory.**
   (v. 4b)
   “Who (God described above) works for those who wait for Him”—God is always working for our good and for His glory! Listen: God is always at work, God is always at work, God is always at work! For our good, for our good, for our good! For His glory, for His glory, for His glory! “wait on Him”-trust in Him.

**Isaiah 40:31 (NLT), “But those who trust in the Lord will find**

*New strength*
*They will soar high on wings like eagles*
*They will run and not grow weary*
*They will walk and not faint.*

Waiting on God is trusting in God, looking eagerly for God in their lives and situations.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV), “But as it is written: What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

By no means do I believe that I understand fully this text and I am reminded often how we really look through a stained glass as we look at life.

Yet, here is what I feel I know about God’s working in our lives. I want to say it this way:
God’s work is sometimes mysterious, frequently unimaginable, and usually incomprehensible, but always for our good and for His glory.

What we know God is doing:
* Sometimes revealed through His Word
* Sometimes revealed through His Spirit
* Sometimes revealed only in Heaven

App: Yes, it is this God, our God, that Isaiah said, “Oh, that you would burst through the heavens and come down!”

I plead with you today to begin to pray with a vision for revival and awakening personally, in your church, and in our nation: Remember . . .
* It always begin with a burden
* It always is set on fire with a right view of God
* It always knows God is working for our good and for His glory

Conclusion: When I read Isaiah and try to get inside of his head and his heart about what he was saying in this passage, here is what I see Isaiah is saying to us: “I don’t understand all there is about our great, mysterious God; but this I know about Him: For those who trust in Him, He always is working for our good and for His glory.

*LIFEWAY LEADERS AND ALL PERSONNEL: I don’t know what you are going through personally or your church is going through collectively OR your department or division, whether a season of great victory or even a season of despair and defeat; but here is what I know: GOD is always working for our good and for His glory; therefore, trust in Him completely today. GOD can do more in a moment than you can do in a lifetime. This is WHY we need Revival and Awakening.