

MIGHTY TO SAVE

ISAIAH 63:1-3

Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? -

“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.

For the last ten weeks we've been looking at **portraits of Jesus in the prophecy of Isaiah...** Jesus is the Root of Jesse,

Immanuel, the First and Last, a Great Light, A Sure Foundation, Smitten By God - *among many others.*

The 66 chapters of Isaiah are like a photo album. Amazingly, Isaiah took these snapshots 700 years before Jesus walked this earth. His photos are prophetic.

And they cover Jesus' ministry from *His birth to the end of time.* The portraits of Isaiah span both *Jesus' first and second comings.* They are a priceless collection.

And here in Chapter 63 is another important portrait.

Though you may've never read these verses before, if you're a patriotic American *you've heard a song that was inspired by this passage!* The music was written by a rowdy band of soldiers at the outset of the Civil War.

Originally the tune was called “**John Brown’s Body**” - mocking one of the soldiers. It amounted to a *bar tune* used to rally the war-wearied morale of Union troops.

But one day in November, 1861, a devout abolitionist named Julia Ward Howe heard the song played by a military band during a troop review outside Washington.

The melody stuck in her mind. That night, she awoke from sleep inspired with lyrics. Stanzas began to twine together as she lay in bed. She jumped up, found a pen, and scrawled the words before they were forgotten.

And what words did she write? Here’re they are...

“**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He**

hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.”

Then the chorus, “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah... Our God is marching on.” It sounds like Isaiah 63 set to music!

You and I recognize Julia Howe’s lyrics as “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” For Americans, it’s one of our favorite hymns. It’s played at most patriotic celebrations.

Interestingly it was Winston Churchill’s favorite song... “*The Battle Hymn*” was played at the memorial for the 9/11 victims in the week following the terrorist attacks...

It’s featured at most presidential inaugurations... And the last recorded words of Martin Luther King, Jr., the night before his assassination, were these, “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord...”

This picture in Isaiah 63, of Jesus in the winepress, trampling His enemies, is imbedded in American culture.

Surely, when Julia Ward Howe was awakened that night with these lyrics forming in her head, surely she had been reflecting on Isaiah 63, or *Revelation 19*.

It was the start of the Civil War, a conflict that loomed large... Much was at stake. Julia Howe and her husband had been working tirelessly to put an end to slavery.

But now that war was imminent, she wondered how many men would have to die. Perhaps she turned again to her Bible for comfort. She reflected on the final war, a war to end all wars. At the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus will come a second time. He'll move swiftly and justly.

I'm sure Julia hoped *her war* would be just, but swift.

Revelation 19 sees into the future, and describes the return of Jesus Christ... Heaven opens, and Jesus is seen on the back of a white horse. Not a *show pony*, not a *race horse*, not even a *work horse*... but a *war horse*!

John doesn't see Jesus floating from heaven on a fluffy, puffy cumulus cloud. He's on the back of a stallion. It's been bred for battle. It's shaking its mane and stomping its hooves. Hot-breath billows out its nostrils.

Revelation 19:11 says of its Rider, "In righteousness He judges and makes war." At His first coming Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of donkey - *a beast of burden - the chief servant among the animal kingdom*.

But there is no donkey this time. Jesus isn't coming *to serve*, but *to slay*. His patience has been tapped. His mercy has been rebuffed for the last time. Now He comes to judge, and make war - and do so righteously.

In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace,” but apparently He gets that title only after He kills off all His enemies. This Prince of Peace is no pacifist.

When Jesus returns to this Earth He’ll be coming to *bust chops, take names, and start breaking kneecaps.*

Earlier in Isaiah’s prophecy, 42:13 declares, “The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.”

Revelation 19 provides us an ominous description of our Lord Jesus in that day, “His eyes like a flame of fire... on His head were many crowns... He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood... out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He

should strike the nations... He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...

In addition, names are ascribed to Jesus, “faithful and true,” “the Word of God.” Then on His robe and thigh is the name, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

That’s when the writer of Revelation, John the Apostle, reveals his source material. He’s been reading Isaiah 63. For in 19:15 John writes this of Jesus, “He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” It’s the same imagery of divine judgment we find in the passage before us, Isaiah 63.

Think of the wicked inhabitants of Earth as *grapes*, and the world as a winepress, *full of grapes*... There will come a day when God finally puts His foot down!

Like a vineyard worker crushing the grapes between his toes, Jesus will tread *or trample* the wicked of this Earth under His feet. Their blood splatters on His robe.

Granted, this is not *Baby Jesus, or Gentle Jesus, or Jesus blessing the children, or Jesus breaking bread...*

This is the Lord Jesus breaking the stiff necks of evildoers who won't stop sinning against God and man.

And if Jesus is King He has to take action! Humanity can't walk into eternity with people hellbent on robbing, raping, cheating, swindling. That's not Heaven, it's Hell.

I'm sure you've seen the bumper sticker, "[Visualize World Peace.](#)" Well, to really do so, *visualize this...*

Jesus annihilates Satan and all who join in his rebellion... He retakes the reigns of a run-away planet... He conquers His

enemies, establishes His kingdom, and enforces obedience to His sovereign will.

Then and only then, will we **realize world peace.**

One Saturday night I was on a plane. I was taking a red-eye, preparing to teach Sunday AM on Revelation.

Unbeknownst to me, while I was typing away on my computer, the young lady next to me was looking over my shoulder. Finally she blurted out, “**How can you say Jesus “crushes His enemies” and “breaks their stiff necks.”** That doesn’t sound very Joel Osteen-ish.” *I’m not picking on Joel. That’s just what she said to me!*

In her mind she had limited the concerns of Jesus to feeding poor people, and caring for the elderly, and making us all happy. She couldn’t imagine why Jesus would prioritize holiness, and justice, and what’s right.

She'd pushed *obeying God* to the back of the bus.

And let me tell you how I responded to her... I told this lady that what God will one day do to rebellious people, He's already done to His only Son.

The Father sentenced Jesus to crucifixion. The price of sin is death. Thus, Jesus died in our place. At the cross He pardoned our sin, and satisfied God's justice.

That means when Jesus returns, every death will be a senseless suicide. *No one has to die.* People do so because they reject Jesus, and resist His authority.

They *put* themselves under His wrath.

And this is what we find in Isaiah 63, at *the second coming of Jesus*. Isaiah lived 800 years before John, yet his prophecy gives us details John didn't envision.

The OT prophets saw more than the NT writers...

John sees heaven open, and Jesus coming with an army!...

Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2 adds that Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with “the breath of His mouth and with the brightness of His coming...” Both NT writers are reporting on the battle - *but from the press box.*

It's **Isaiah** and **other OT prophets** who give us an up-close look. Isaiah is embedded with the troops. He's a war correspondent filing reports from the battlefield.

And Jerusalem is in trouble! The Lord has watchmen on the walls. Isaiah knows the city is surrounded.

The prophet **Joel** identified the center stage of the final battle - “the Valley of Jehoshapat.” It's right in the heart of Jerusalem. What we call the **Kidron Valley**.

For Jerusalem's sake God will not rest. It'll be time to act. Isaiah 62:11 states, "Say to the daughter of Zion, surely your salvation is coming; behold His reward is with Him and His work before Him." Jesus the Savior is coming to *reward the righteous* and *repay the wicked*.

Remember in Matthew 24 Jesus warned the Jews of the last days, "When you see the '*abomination of desolation*,' spoken of by **Daniel** the prophet, standing in the holy place... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." This abomination that causes desolation refers to the antics of the evil Antichrist.

It's his army that attacks Jerusalem, and forces the Jews to escape to the mountains of Edom. Edom is the region southeast of Jerusalem. Bozrah was its capitol.

The last battle is often called "**Armageddon**." But "**Har Megiddo**" or "**the mountain of Megiddo**" is just the staging area. The battle

is over Jerusalem, and those who are protected are hidden further south in Edom.

The final battle covers all the Promised Land - north to south. The enemy camps in the north. Refugees flee to the south. Jesus returns in the middle, to Jerusalem.

Our Lord descends onto the Mount of Olives, *to the same spot from where He ascended 2000 years ago.*

Revelation 14:20 speaks again of His treading out the grapes, “the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridle, for one thousand six hundred furlongs (200 miles).” Two hundred miles is the length of Israel, from north to south, Megiddo to Bozrah. John foresees all Israel, each of her pleasant valleys, filled with blood.

And here in Isaiah 63, the prophet beholds our King Jesus at the end of the battle! The forces of Antichrist have been annihilated. The Jews who obeyed and fled, have now been rescued. The revolt that raged for ages between sinful man and a Holy God has finally been decided! The coup struck down. Jesus Christ has won!

And Isaiah says proudly of God's champion, "*Look at Him!...*" "*Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?*"

You can hear the pride and praise in Isaiah's voice!

Jesus is a conquering hero and He looks the part...

"Glorious in His apparel." That's another way of saying of a soldier - "*He is a credit to the uniform.*"

He's also *“traveling in the greatness of His strength!”* I picture Jesus marching boldly - nothing cocky, no strutting - but He strides with confidence and strength. He carries Himself with class - with dignity and honor.

Then Isaiah asks Jesus a question, *“Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?”* Jesus is fresh from battle. He's been to the winepress. His robe is covered in a reddish stain.

Have you ever spilt wine or grape juice on a white shirt or blouse? You can forget ever getting it completely out. Expect a permanent stain. The wine is almost like a dye.

But there's one substance that stains worse than wine, and that's blood. There are companies today that specialize in cleaning crime scenes and removing blood.

And Jesus has gotten bloody. Isaiah notices the stains on His garments. He's been to the winepress of judgment. He's trampled the bodies of faithless men.

And understand, Jesus makes no apologies. He offers no disclaimers or justifications for His definite actions.

Only modern man is fuzzy about God's judgment.

We are the one's who've *excused our sin*, and *denied our sin*, and *renamed our sin*, and *ignored its penalties*, and *have convinced ourselves that God doesn't care*, even though He's warned us that He very much does.

Jesus answers Isaiah, "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury..." And it got messy...

“their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.”

After seeing this firsthand, Isaiah could've now sung with Julia Ward Howe, “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah...”

But here's the main point of this morning's lesson...

I want to draw your attention to what else Jesus says at the end of verse 1. When Isaiah asks, “Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?” Jesus answers Isaiah, but look at how He identifies Himself...

It's “I who speak in righteousness, **mighty to save.**”

Here He is, King of kings and Lord of lords. He's just proven His supremacy. He's beaten all challengers. He's conquered all rivals. Every uprising He's put down.

And there's no guilt in His heart. Though His robes are splattered with the blood of men, not one drop is innocent blood. He bears no blame. His judgment is just.

He has defended God's people, and God's honor.

When Isaiah inquires, the Messiah answers, “(This is) **I who speak in righteousness...**” Jesus is just back from battle, but it's clear He's done right in every instance - *in all that He's performed, and in all that He has spoken...*

Let me reiterate, when all the blood has been spilt, and when the birds are feeding on the flesh of wicked men, *at last Jesus will stand righteous!* No one will question *the justness of His judgments*

or *the fairness of His tactics*. He has pleased the Father in all He's done.

In that day, expect to hear the Father say yet again, “**This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.**”

In that day, listen for the angels, perhaps they'll repeat the praise they spoke at His birth, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill toward men.**”

In that day, all of us, all people, will join to sing, “**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.**”

But realize, ***that's not what Jesus says!*** He doesn't talk about *His decisive victory*, or *His righteous warring*, or *His long-awaited judgment*, or *His vindication of God's glory*, or *His upholding of God's holiness...*

He's not sorry for what's happened, but there is some remorse for what could've been. For even when the final chapter is written,

Jesus identifies Himself, not as *mighty to conquer*, or *mighty to judge*, but as *“mighty to save.”*

To the end, this is what presses on Him most. Not His skill to fight, and war, and judge - but His ability to save!

Recall in Isaiah 9, the prophet lists a whole repertoire of names for the Messiah, “Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,” even “Mighty God.”

But when it’s all said and done, Jesus isn’t focused on being “Mighty God,” He relishes being *“mighty to save.”*

In a verse I read earlier, Isaiah 42:13, it speaks of Jesus, “The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war.” Jesus is *“a mighty man.”* *Look at Him in battle, He’s mighty in war.*

It's no surprise, that Jesus, the God-man, God made flesh, is referred to as both “Mighty God” and “mighty man.” Yet when He refers to Himself it's *“mighty to save.”*

Read through the Gospels and you'll discover Jesus was mighty in a million ways... He was **mighty in wisdom** - Jesus corrected the scholar, confounded the skeptic, comforted the sinner, and taught His disciples.

Jesus was also **mighty in power**. He calmed the sea... and walked on water... and multiplied the fish and bread... and healed the sick... and raised the dead.

He was **mighty in spirit**. He resisted the Tempter when He was at a point of great weakness... He kept His composure when tried before Pilate... Even on the cross He asked the Father to forgive His accusers...

He was **mighty in discernment**. With the woman at the well Jesus steered the conversation to coax her into examining her own soul... He read the hearts of the people - often knowing their thoughts before they spoke.

And He was **mighty in the Scriptures**. Jesus had a command of God's Word. He spoke simply, yet powerful. He taught like no one else - with an authority from God.

But here at the end of the age, Jesus doesn't identify Himself as **mighty in wisdom**, or **mighty in power**, or **mighty in spirit**, or **mighty in discernment**, or **mighty in the Scriptures**, no... He calls Himself ***"mighty to save."***

This is the heart of Jesus. Here's what makes Him tick. If you're looking for a motive... *Of this He's definitely guilty, **Jesus is mighty to save!*** He loves saving people, and He's good at it. In fact, there's no one He can't save!

Zacchaeus, the tax collector was a short man with a long list of sins. He'd betrayed His fellow Jews to strong-arm for Rome. He defrauded His own people, and took more tax than necessary. He was a greedy little guy.

Jesus first saw Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree. Zac had climbed the tree for a better look, yet it was Jesus who looked into his heart. He took an interest in a man who'd cut himself off from others - burned all his bridges.

When Jesus showed up at Zacchaeus' house, people criticized, *"He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."* *Of course, He did. Jesus is mighty to save, and who needs to be saved but sinners.* Jesus forgave Zacchaeus, and it felt so good, Zac made restitution so he'd be forgiven by all the people he had defrauded.

The visit Jesus paid to Zacchaeus changed his life forever. And in Luke 19:10 Jesus explains His motive in the matter, *"For the Son of*

Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” In fact, He is *mighty to save*.

Of all the things that Jesus was mighty in doing, *He was mightiest to save!* Think of all the examples...

The woman taken in adultery, in the very act, naked and angry and fuming as they threw her at Jesus’ feet. Yet He showed her mercy and gave her a new start.

Or the puzzled rabbi, Nicodemus, Nick couldn’t figure it out. *How could a man be born again? Once you leave your mother’s womb, there’s no going back.* Yet Jesus pointed Him to the Holy Spirit and to faith in God’s Son.

And what about the lame man lowered through the roof, again Jesus was *mighty to save*... Not only did Jesus heal his crippled legs, but He forgave his sins...

Mary Magdalene... her heart was a hostel for seven demons, yet Jesus, *mighty to save*, evicted them all.

Or what about Saul of Tarsus? He was a Jewish rabbi who hated all things Jesus - especially His followers.

Saul was in route to Damascus to kill Christians, when Jesus Himself appeared to him on the roadside.

It was as if, Jesus sat down in heaven, and picked out the most unlikely convert he could find. He saw this Saul, “*breathing threats and murder*” says the Scripture.

This would be like Jesus picking the Chief Imam in ISIS, or its top terrorist. Just to show off His amazing grace Jesus intercepts Saul, and in one glorious moment He chooses Him, and saves Him, and calls Him.

In fact, years later, *Saul* now named *Paul*, explains that is exactly what happened. He writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:15, “**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief... (And) for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him...**”

In Paul, Jesus set a precedent. He picked out the biggest bully on the block and whipped him, *saved him*.

Paul says, “*Jesus came to save sinners, and to prove from the start that He’s mighty to save... He saved me!*”

I want you to know my eyes have seen things. I’ve seen the most unlikely people saved by Jesus.

People who’ve been drug through the dregs of this world - who fully embraced the dark side - who shook their fist in God’s face - mean people - people addicted, and shameful, and perverted, and

greedy, and hateful - I've seen people who fit these descriptions *get saved!*

Never think that anyone is a hopeless cause - that he or she is beyond the reach of Jesus. They're not!

Many years ago Kathy and I were walking out of a movie theater. There was a bar next door, and the Lord prompted me to witness to the guy out front collecting the cover charges. Well, when I finally mustered the courage to obey, he'd already gone back into the bar.

I went after him. He'd moved from *money collector* to *bartender*. I approached him and asked if we could talk.

I explained that God had prompted me to tell him about Jesus. *By now this big man had a tear in his eye.*

I'll never forget him asking me, *"But what if I murdered someone?"* I looked him straight in the eye and said to him, *"There is nothing*

you've done Jesus won't forgive." And I believe that - I really do - Jesus is mighty to save!

Years ago I read that Jeffrey Dahmer had become a Christian. In the 90s Dahmer was one of America's most notorious serial killers. He was known as the "Milwaukee Cannibal" for dismembering his victims, and worse.

The story goes... once he completed his confession, he asked the detective for a Bible. After reading it, and speaking to a chaplain, he devoted his life to Jesus. In May, 1994, Dahmer was baptized in a prison whirlpool.

A couple months later, he was shanked by an inmate.

Was his conversion sincere? Was it real? Only God knows. But is it possible? Absolutely. Could a man guilty of cannibalism and worse end up next to you in heaven?

The answer is yes! I might recoil at the thought, but **Jesus is mighty to save!** And for Him to save me, I can't resent Him saving whoever He chooses to save.

I just know, salvation is His specialty. Saving sinners is in His wheelhouse. If a person is truly sincere, and genuinely desires to change, and trusts Jesus with His whole heart - there */S* nothing Jesus won't forgive!

Sometimes when you find a forgiving soul, it's actually an evidence of weakness. They're a pushover. They're soft. They would rather just drop the offense, than deal with a legitimate injustice. They have no moral fortitude.

Forgiveness is their pathology - it's their sickness.

There are people not strong enough to resist. They capitulate and explain their cowardice as forgiveness.

Believe me, this is not Jesus! He speaks and does what is righteous. There is no weakness in Him. Recall “*(He’s) glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength.*” Jesus is never manipulated or conned.

One day, He’ll trod down sinners in His anger. He’ll trample sinful people in His fury. There’s no need for me to soften those words. It’s right there before you in your Bible. It’s what Isaiah says. *Jesus is nobody’s pushover.*

When you give Him no choice - when you reject His overtures of mercy - when you harden your heart and stubbornly go your own way - He isn’t queasy. He has a heart to save, but He also has the stomach to judge.

Rest assured, Jesus forgives not from any kind of weakness, but from His strength. He is *mighty to save* because He has strong, enduring, never-ending love.

Here's the good news... On the cross a price was paid. Willingly, Jesus laid down His life for sinful man.

God continues to see His image in us.

For some reason we are still the object of His love. God planned our salvation before time began. It was Jesus' job to carry it out. And He has done so in earnest!

In fact, our text tells us, this is what will characterize Jesus until the end of time - that He is **mighty to save**.

And realize, this prowess to save doesn't just mean Jesus is able to reach low - to the slimy sinner - bottom fish, *so to speak*. Jesus *can* save the man in the gutter.

But that's not all it means. To say Jesus is **mighty to save** means His salvation extends *from the gutter-most, to the uttermost*. I love Hebrews 7:25. It tells us, **“(Jesus) is able to save to the uttermost**

those who come to God through Him.” It’s not just about the extent *from which* Jesus saves, it’s about the extent *to which* He saves.

Realize, when you get to heaven you’ll never hear anyone comment, “*Whew, that was close. I got in by the skin of my teeth.*” No way! Nobody barely gets saved.

Jesus is *mighty to save* - that means the person He saves is genuinely, and eternally, and fully, and freely, and deeply, and lavishly, and unequivocally saved!

If you’re forgiven by the blood of Jesus; then you’re as forgiven as you’ll ever be. God doesn’t assign parole, or offer probation. He only passes out complete pardons.

It’s like a pregnancy. You can’t be *partially pregnant* or *barely pregnant* - and likewise you can’t be *barely saved*, or *partially saved*. You’re either saved or you’re not.

Our Lord Jesus is *mighty to save* - that means He covers all the bases. He's attentive to all the details. Nothing slips through the cracks or escapes His notice.

His Salvation is comprehensive and guaranteed.

For example, Jesus forgives all our sin: *past sin, present sin, even future sins* we haven't yet committed.

Certainly, we need to live in faith and repentance, but even our future sin has been washed by His blood.

Jesus pays for it all. His salvation is comprehensive coverage - it includes *forgiveness, acceptance, peace, restoration, healing, joy, wisdom, the baptism and power of the Spirit, spiritual gifts, streets of gold, riches untold.*

It's all in the policy. If you're not experiencing a full and free salvation you're living below your privileges. Jesus provides for your victory. Our agent is *mighty to save!*

Recently, a Tokyo woman was saved by the combined effort of her fellow commuters. Apparently, this very skinny lady had fallen through the eight inch gap that's between the train and the platform in the Tokyo subway.

It was a Monday, in the middle of rush hour.

A public announcement that a passenger had been trapped, caused about 40 people to muscle up. The train has a suspension that allows it to lean, so her fellow travelers pushed the 32 ton train away from the platform to allow just enough room for the woman to be rescued.

She was pulled to safety. Her salvation was a community effort... ***But your salvation was not!*** It was accomplished by one person and one person alone.

Notice what Jesus says to Isaiah when He comes up from Bozrah, “I have trodden the winepress *alone*, and *from the peoples no one was with Me.*” The fury He unleashes. The righteous anger He demonstrates is very personal. No one is with Him. He does this all alone.

Think of it, this is Jesus’ solitary work. Often when He healed He recruited the help of others. He multiplied the loaves and fish, only after His disciples brought Him their lunch. Jesus was always involving others in His mission.

But not here! What an irony, the billion cries for justice that have been ringing in God’s ears for centuries are finally answered by *the One* who is *mighty to save.*

And this brings up a vital point. When you get angry over the injustices you see, or become concerned that evil men might be getting away with their crimes...

Certainly, work the system. Take the proper channels. God created government to keep evildoers in check.

But once you've done all that the Law allows, don't go further and take matters into your own hands.

Romans 12:19 tells us, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.” There is only one person God has trusted with final judgment, and that's His Son Jesus.

The One who is *mighty to save*, is the only One God has allowed to mete out and execute His righteousness.

And there's a big reason Jesus does this work solo. It's because His work to save was also done by Himself.

No one went to the cross with Jesus. Salvation was not a tag team effort. Jesus needed and asked for no else's help. He died alone. He bore our sin by Himself.

It wasn't 40 people pushing the bus so you could be saved. Only one brave Savior did all the heavy-lifting.

I read recently a quote from New York City mayor, Michael Bloomberg. I guess the same knucklehead who tried to ban 32 oz. soft drinks. He was reflecting on the good he thinks he's done for the citizens of New York...

Bloomberg told a reporter, "I am telling you... when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close." I hope the mayor was misquoted because that's really arrogant. *He's earned his place?*

Sorry Michael, that's not how God sees it. Heaven won't be earned by me or you - but by the Savior alone!

In God's plan for the Ages Jesus does two things solo. He hangs on a cross to author salvation - and treads out the winepress to bring God's ultimate judgment...

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, He has trampled out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored...”

But Jesus has a greater glory!

He says it Himself. And I hope you have ears to hear, for He means it. Jesus the Messiah is *“mighty to save.”*