

Isaiah

Chapter 64

Christ Church

Winter 2026

- Isaiah 64 has a small chiasm
 - A. Longing for the presence of God – vv. 1-5a
 - B. Lamenting for long-standing sins – vv.5b-7
 - A'. Longing for the touch of God – vv.8-9
 - C. Appealing to the unrestrained God – vv. 10-12

A dating service ad was eye-catching: **“See if you’re a victim of bad luck or a soul in need of**

A romantic couple is shown in profile, about to kiss. The man is wearing a suit and tie, and the woman is wearing a dark dress and a necklace. The background is dark with bokeh lights.

massive intervention.”

divine
intervention

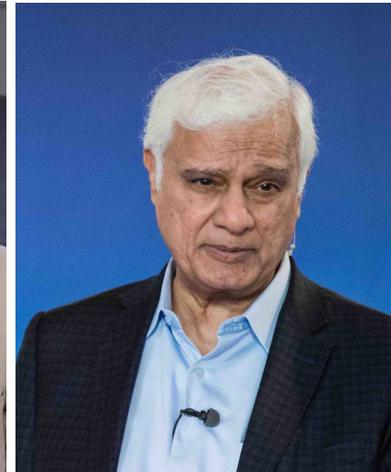
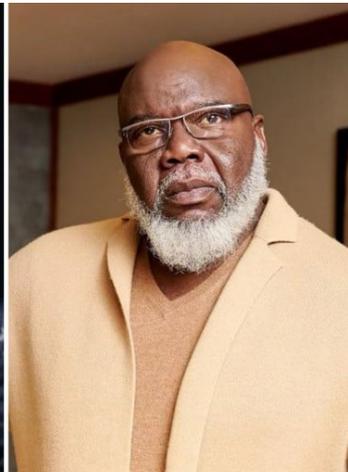
**EDITORS’
CHOICE AWARD:**
Divine Intervention
Matchmaking Offers
First-Class Dating Services for
Canada’s Busy Professionals

Am I a victim of bad luck or do I need divine intervention?

A preacher couldn’t put it better than that.

- vv. 1,2 – in other words, “*O Lord, we need an extraordinary divine visit. These are **desperate times**. We’re in a **pathetic condition**. We need the unmistakable intervention from You. Come down!*”

- Gordon MacDonald, Ravi Zacharias, Bill Hybels, James MacDonald, Carl Lentz, Brian Houston, Mike Bickle, and Philip Yancey +++
- Bill and Ben Johnson, NAR, Benny Hinn, Paula White, Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Steve Furtick +++



- *“It is important for us to know that much of the American Christianity we take for granted today is **subnormal**... American Christianity is drifting into **historic inconsequentiality**... We feel little urgency and longing. We’re hardly aware of our mediocrity. We’ve lost the vision of the prophets and apostles. What should we do? We must choose to accept the inconvenient, disturbing, question-provoking, ego-humbling, prayer-stimulating, church-changing, prophetic burden that the glory of God would come down upon us today.”* Ray Ortlund, Isaiah, p. 433

- This is a cry for revival;
reinvigorating, renewing, restoring,
refreshing, recovery
- The Lord calls us into ever new
regions of His fulness, His immensity,
His all-sufficiency

- The Lord calls us into ever new regions of His fulness, His immensity, His all-sufficiency
- Revival is an invasion from heaven

- *“To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul’s paradox of love, ... St. Bernard stated this holy paradox in a musical quatrain that will be instantly understood by every worshipping soul:*

*We taste Thee, O Thou Living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still:*

*We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill*

A.W. Tozer, Pursuit of God, p. 15







I SEE TELEVANGELISTS

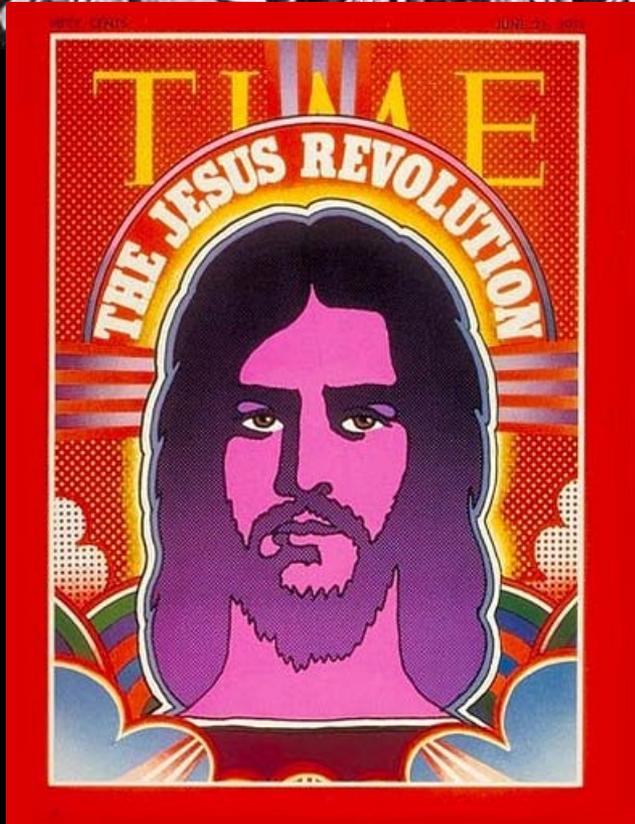
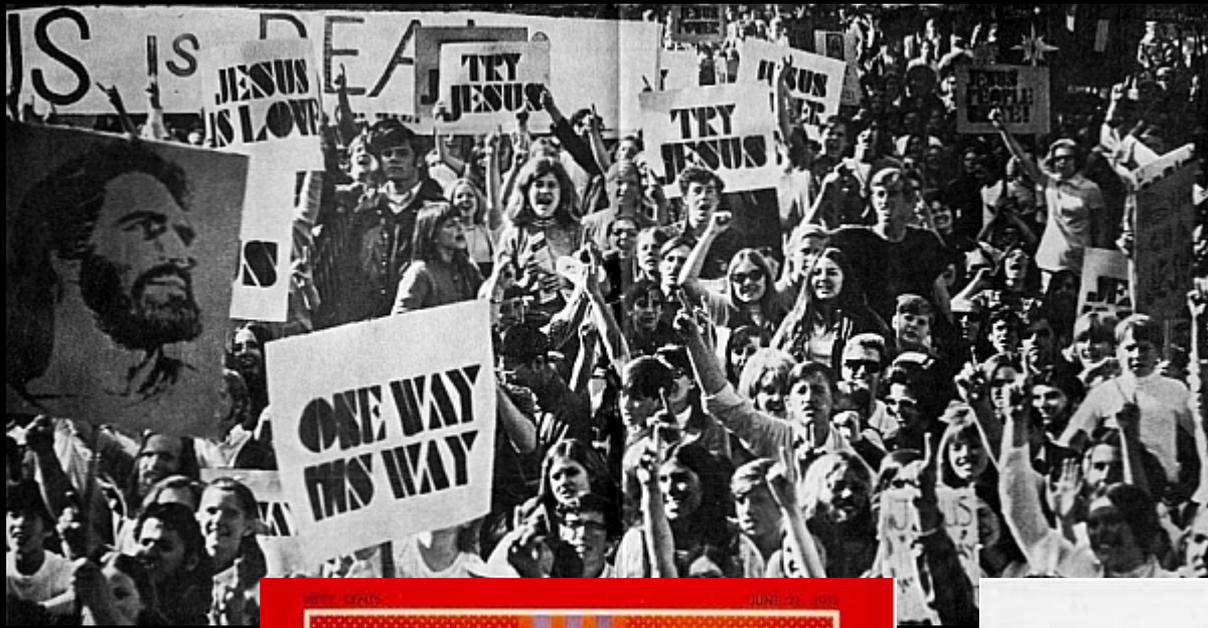
They're everywhere. But I don't give them my money.

- God is never at a loss for new ways to break through
- When Israel was stuck between the Egyptian army, the large Red Sea, and the larger Arabian Desert:
 - The Lord opened the sea
 - Drowned the army
 - Then fed and guided Israel through the desert
- Nobody was expecting that!

- When the whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, condemned by our inexcusable guilt:
 - God lit up the sky
 - Called wise men to witness His spectacle
 - The Savior of the world was:
 - Born of a virgin
 - Born in an animal stall
- Nobody was expecting that!

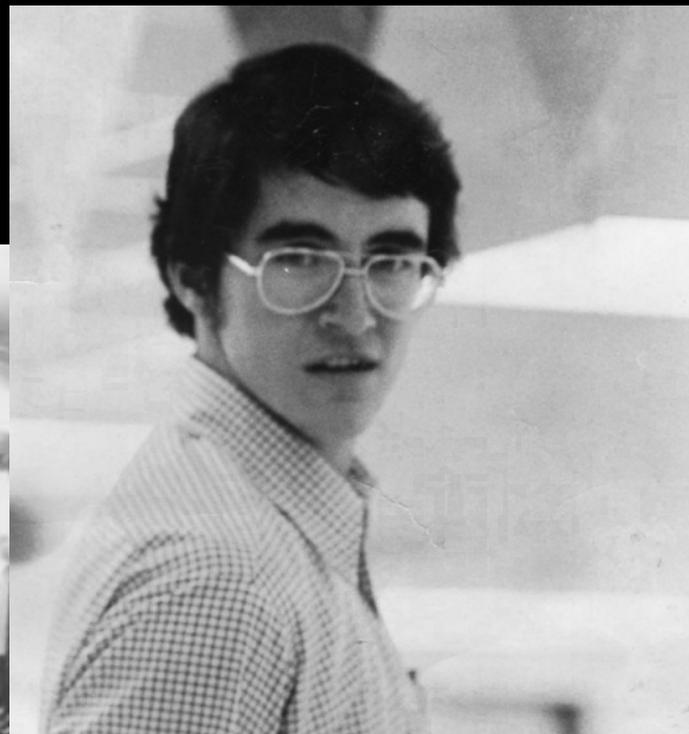
- When our Savior became our Judge
 - He died
 - He was buried
 - He rose from the dead
 - He ascended to the Father
 - He poured out His Spirit on us
- Nobody was expecting that!

- The Lord is still full of surprises
- Illustration – the American Church in the 50's and 60's was in a rut (*'a grave with the ends knocked out'*)
 - The nation started to tear itself apart
 - Viet Nam
 - Race riots
 - Assassinations
 - Heaven opened and God came down
 - Hippies flocked to Jesus









- In v. 4 we learn that God acts. No one has ever trusted God in vain
- **Read** Ephesians 3:20,21

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, 21 to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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 - We're *temporary, impermanent* – wind blown



- We don't need to be delivered from our enemies – we, primarily need to be delivered from ourselves

- In vv. 8,9 we return to a godly longing
 - we ask for His touch
 - Father
 - Potter



- This imagery encourages prayer

- The Father and Potter imagery suggests He designs, shapes, forms us
 - God has many methods of touch – discipline, chastisement, correction
 - Or healing, helping, loving kindness
- In v. 9 Isaiah asks that the Lord wouldn't discipline us to the extent we deserve

- vv. 10-12 ends this chapter with an appeal
 - When the Jews returned from the Babylonian Captivity they came back to ruins – everything leveled, burned, depressing
 - They appealed to the Lord – “*Look at this mess, Lord. Look what we’ve been reduced to. We deserve this but Your name is on us. Will you restrain Yourself now?*”

- The greatest prayer we can pray is for God to do His will, for His glory, in His way, by His gospel, in our day, **WITHOUT RESTRAINT!**
- “Just let us be a part of Your movement today”