

Tanya Howze – Lesson 11

Isaiah 63:1-6

What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?

This pericope is confusing and interesting to me at the same time. It gave me the inclination that this one person destroyed individuals because of his anger and he rode around with the blood stains on his clothing. However the text tells us that the primary emphasis is on God's power to enable servants to live righteous lives (Oswalt, 661). That in itself is mind-boggling because I can't seem to wrap my mind around that no matter how many times I read the text and tried to interpret.

As the scripture tells us in Luke 18:27 "What is impossible with man is possible with God." The text lets us know that God can and will defeat every enemy of his people, including the most dangerous, which is sin (Oswalt, 661). It may be construed because of the military and physical imagery that it could be intended that God will defeat all the nations that oppress Israel in the future. That may be true however it is known that Israel's problem is that they are weak because they are sinful. God is saying that he will destroy the sinners among the people and will vindicate those among his people who allow him to make them righteous (Oswalt, 661).

This is one of the noblest and most astounding of all the prophecies in Isaiah. This passage is a prophecy of the final judgment of mankind. In verses four and five, we see that the purpose is for making redemption and salvation. This holds true in the spiritual world because we know that there is no negotiation with sin. In the end, we know that the righteous will rule the world or sin will rule the world (Oswalt, 662).