Isaiah 63-65

This section opens with a couple of questions that are answered by the Lord. The lovingkindness of God is what is expressed in these chapters.

Chapter 63 This chapter emphasizes the Lovingkindness of the Lord

1. A reminder of God's vengeance (1-6)
    - the words in this section are of judgment: trodden, anger, wrath
    - Edom is representative of those who oppose God
2. God's lovingkindness is remembered (7-14)
    - God has remained true and faithful to His covenant and promises. The nation has not.
    - God has been good to the people
3. The beginning of a prayer (15-19)
    - You are our Father (16)
     Calling God "Father" is only used 6x in the O.T.
    - the "hardening of their hearts" (17) similar to Pharaoh hardening his heart was caused by their indifference to God

> How do we balance the "lovingkindness of God" with His vengeance?

Chapter 64 **This chapter is a continuation of the prayer that was begin in 63:15.**
1. Plea for God to come to the people (1-4)
2. Confession and acknowledgment of their sin (5-7)
    - we have sinned (5); we are unclean (6); we are like a blown leaf (6); no one calls upon you (7)
3. A plea for mercy (8-12)

Chapter 65 **This chapter shows the Lord's response and answer to their prayer**

1. God will accept those who obey Him (1-7)
    - God has patiently held His arms out all day long for these people (2)
    - However, they walked according to their own thoughts (2); sacrificed to idols (3); sit among tombs (4); eat forbidden food (4); they were arrogant (5)

2. God will spare a faithful remnant (8-16)
    - this section is Messianic and looks to the days of salvation and the church
    - a contrast is made between those who follow God and those who reject Him (13-16)

3. The promise of a new order (17-25)
    - the expression new Heaven and new earth is not literal, but a new order, a change of things
    - the focus is upon the wonderful work in the Lord (22-23)
        Notice how similar 65:23 is to 1 Cor 15:58
    - 65:25 is first found in Isa 11:6
    - under the Messiah, peace, rejoicing and salvation will be the new order of things