



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

**Reading:** Isaiah 63:1-7

“Who is this coming from the city of Bozrah in Edom? Who is this so splendidly dressed in red, marching along in power and strength? It is the Lord, powerful to save, coming to announce his victory.” “Why is his clothing so red, like that of a man who tramples grapes to make wine?”

The Lord answers “ I have trampled the nations like grapes, and no one came to help me. I trampled them in my anger, and their blood has stained all my clothing. I decided that the time to save my people has come: it was time to punish their enemies.....My anger made me strong, and I won the victory myself. In my anger I trampled whole nations, and shattered them. I poured out their life-blood on the ground.”

**Reflection:**

Some read their Bible like people who go shopping in a vast supermarket, like ASDA WALMART, to choose what they fancy. But all the great Christians insist we should read the whole Bible, not just the best bits.

I have been reading the whole of the Book of Isaiah and was shocked to read the above passage. Does God want us to see him in terms of a blood thirsty horror movie? Certainly not in the eyes of Jesus who told stories like the Good Samaritan. Jesus will have heard such passages read in his local synagogue. It was Holy Scripture.

Christians, it seems to me, ought to read the whole Bible because it does not hide some uncomfortable truths. There was a time when the prophets fed the appetites and vengeful hopes of poor, hungry, and downtrodden Hebrews. Prophets told people what they yearned to hear.

Sadly Scripture tells us that our impatient angry visions of God and of the future are a dangerous part of our humanity when we listen to and feed off the wrong voices: anti-Semitic voices, voices that say 'America will be great again', or voices that promise 'We will take back control.'

Jesus knew the Scriptures and therefore he knew the good and the bad in us. He knew how easily people could be manipulated, but he just told his parables and stories. He trusted the Holy Spirit to help us hear the voice of his Heavenly Father.

**Prayer:** Lord God, you loved the world so much at you gave your Son. By your grace help us to share your loved for our world and everyone in it.