

"I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' They say, The enemy has oppressed us, why ~~don't you do~~ do ~~something~~ you do anything for them? Do for us, we are your people. God says, "To a nation that ~~was not called~~ did not call on my name, I said, Here am I, Here am I." I have mercy and blessing for those people you think are outside and are not called by my name. In contrast, All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people who walk in ways not good . . ."

God does not deny He has done wonderful things for His people in the past or that they are His people. He does not even say He won't do wonderful things in the future, but he ~~says~~ says they are a people who are walking after their own thoughts in a way that is not good. This is a rebuke for Israel; not for those people outside of Israel. He calls them "a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat;" Eating pig's flesh was against God's law given to Israel so He is definitely speaking of Israel. They say, "Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you! "For I am holier than thou"(KJV). God is rebuking their spiritual pride. He is rebuking their Pharisaical attitude. He is rebuking the attitude that says, "I am better than the other fellow"--an attitude that Christians have to be careful they don't fall into also. It is easy to fall into if we forget the fact that it is only by the grace of God that we have anything and there is no goodness in us. Our righteousness is indeed filthy rags (64:6) and it is only God's mercy that makes us worth anything and able to be His instruments to bring the knowledge of Him to others. God rebukes spiritual pride. He says, "Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day" (65:5).

You can imagine a Pharisee in Christ's day reading these verses in Isaiah.

God's answer to the prayer of the Pharisee is that He is going to bring suffering and misery to them because of their sin and idolatry and spiritual pride. But although the bulk of the people turn their backs on God, He will not permanently turn his back on them. He says, "I will not destroy them all.