

# Isaiah 64:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

## Analysis

'But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.' The Hebrew 'tame' (unclean) indicates ritual defilement. Even 'righteousnesses' (plural - best efforts) are 'filthy rags' ('ed' - menstrual cloths, ceremonially defiling). Sin's effects are universal ('all') and comprehensive.

## Historical Context

This profound confession demolishes self-righteousness. If the best human efforts are defiling, salvation must come from outside humanity entirely - pointing to Christ's righteousness.

## Related Passages

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse address any residual self-righteousness?
2. What does it mean that even our righteousnesses are 'filthy rags'?

## Interlinear Text

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תְּנַהָּ

H1961

כַּפְרָמָא  
But we are all as an unclean

H2931

כָּל כָּל

H3605

עַד יְמֵ

H899

רָגָב גָּד

H5708

כָּל עַד יְמֵ

H3605

רָגָב גָּד

H5708

צְדָקָת יְכוֹן

thing and all our righteousnesses

H6666

כָּל יְכוֹן

and we all do fade

H5034

כָּל כָּל

H3605

כָּל כָּל

H5929

תְּנַהָּ

and our iniquities

H5771

כָּר יְמֵ

H7307

וְשָׁאָנוֹ

H5375

like the wind have taken us away

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 7:18** (Parallel theme): For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

**Romans 7:24** (Parallel theme): O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

**Zechariah 3:3** (Parallel theme): Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

**Isaiah 53:6** (Parallel theme): All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Titus 3:3** (Parallel theme): For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

**Job 14:4** (Parallel theme): Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

**Job 25:4** (Righteousness): How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

**Philippians 3:9** (Righteousness): And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

**Isaiah 46:12** (Righteousness): Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness:

**Psalms 51:5** (Parallel theme): Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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