

# Isaiah 66 - The Rebirth of Israel

III. Prophecies of comfort (Is 40:1—66:24)

(3) Israel as the delivered (Is 58:1—66:24)

(B) Second round (Is 63:7—66:24)

(c) Kingdom (Is 65:17—66:24)

(ii) Judgment (66:1-6)

(a) False worshipers (66:1-4)

(b) Remnant's tormentors (66:5-6)

(iii) Israel's supernatural re-birth (66:7-17)

(iv) Universal influence (66:18-21)

(v) Fate of the righteous and wicked (66:22-24)

## Isaiah 66

(ii) Judgment (66:1-6)

(a) False worshipers (66:1-4)

1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is My throne and the earth is the footstool for My feet. **Where then is a house** you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house1 that you would build for me, and where will my resting place be?"

1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

— "...Where then is a house" - this is not a condemnation of the Tribulation Temple (Cf. Rev 11), although God made it clear that He will not dwell in the Tribulation Temple (as He did the Tabernacle, Solomon's Temple and Zerubbabel's temple)

— v1-2 show that salvation is not based on the existence of a temple building. God will look with favor on worshipers who have an attitude of humility, contriteness, and deep respect for God's words and His temple.

2 "For My hand made all these things, So all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But I will look to this one, At one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at My word.

2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who

trembles at My word.

2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But this is the one to whom I will look favorably: to the one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at my message.

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

- What God wants is not a new Temple, but His people to return to Him in faith (Cf. 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chr 2:6)

**3** "But the one who slaughters an ox is *like* one who kills a person; The one who sacrifices a lamb is *like* one who breaks a dog's neck; One who offers a grain offering is *like* one who offers pig's blood; One who burns incense is *like* one who blesses an idol. As they have chosen their *own* ways, And their souls delight in their abominations,

**3** "But he who kills an ox is *like* one who slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb is *like* the one who breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering is *like* one who offers swine's blood; He who burns incense is *like* the one who blesses an idol. As they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations,

**3** "Whoever slaughters an ox is just like one who kills a human being; whoever sacrifices a lamb is just like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is just like one who offers pig's blood; and whoever makes a memorial offering of frankincense is just like one who blesses an idol. Yes, these have chosen their own ways, and they take delight in their contaminated actions.

**3** He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

- God will no more accept Israel's reinstated Levitical sacrifices any more than He would accept human sacrifices, swine or idolatry

**4** So I will choose their punishments And bring on them what they dread. Because I called, but no one answered; I spoke, but they did not listen. Instead, they did evil in My sight And chose that in which I did not delight."

**4** So I will choose their punishments And will bring on them what they dread. Because I called, but no one answered; I spoke, but they did not listen. And they did evil in My sight And chose that in which I did not delight."

**4** Therefore I, too, will choose harsh treatment for them, and will bring upon them what they dread. For when I called, no one answered; when I spoke, they didn't listen; but they

did what I consider to be evil, and chose what doesn't please me."

4 I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

- The very fact that Israel will build Him this temple shows their failure to listen to God's Word and come to God in faith in the Messiah

### **The Lord Vindicates Zion**

This section develops themes of Zion's birth pangs and the coming of many sons to Zion (v7-9 draws on similar descriptions in Is 49:18-26; 54:1-8; 60:4; 65:23), the great joy and unending rejoicing of the people of Zion because of God's provisions (v10-11), and the idea that the nations will provide for and give comfort to God's people (v11-14).

### **The Message to the Faithful Remnant**

5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word: "Your brothers who hate you, who exclude you on account of My name, Have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, so that we may see your joy.' But they will be put to shame.

5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word: "Your brothers who hate you, who exclude you for My name's sake, Have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy.' But they will be put to shame.

5 "Hear this message from the LORD, you who tremble at his words: "Your own brothers who hate you and exclude you because of my name have said: 'Let the LORD be glorified; he will see your joy,' yet it is they who will be put to shame.

5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

- Isaiah gives a word of encouragement to those faithful Jews who will not participate in the rebuilding of the Temple, but are seeking to do God's will

— So, there will be a faithful Remnant who will not participate in the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple for the Tribulation

6 "A sound of uproar from the city, a voice from the temple, The voice of the LORD who is dealing retribution to His enemies.

6 "A voice of uproar from the city, a voice from the temple, The voice of the LORD who is rendering recompense to His enemies.

6 "Listen to that uproar in the city! Listen to that noise from the Temple! It is the sound of the LORD paying back retribution to his enemies!

6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies.

- Isaiah states that this new Temple will only end in judgment and not in forgiveness of sin or acceptable worship; it will result only in judgment from God

(iii) Israel's supernatural re-birth (66:7-17)

7 "Before she was in labor, she delivered; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

7 "Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

7 "Before she goes into labor she gives birth; before her pains come upon her she has delivered a son.

7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

8 "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? **Can a nation be given birth all at once?** As soon as Zion was in labor, she also delivered her sons.

8 "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

8 Who has ever heard of such a thing? And who ever sees such things? Can a country be born in a single day, or can a nation be brought forth in a single moment? Yet no sooner was Zion in labor than she delivered her children.

8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

- "...Can a nation be given birth all at once?" - Israel will be (re)born in a day...the final day of the Great Tribulation, they will finally plead with the Messiah to return and rescue them from the impending destruction of the Antichrist and his allies (Cf. Hosea 6:1-3).

9 "Shall I bring to the point of birth but not give delivery?" says the LORD. "Or shall I who gives delivery shut *the womb?*" says your God.

9 "Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD. "Or shall I who gives delivery shut *the womb?*" says your God.

9 Am I to open the womb and not deliver?" asks the LORD. "And when I bring to delivery, am I to close the womb?" asks your God.

9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.

### **The Consolation of Jerusalem**

10 "Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; Be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her,

10 "Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; Be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her,

10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be happy for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in gladness, all you who mourn over her,

10 Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:

11 So that you may nurse and be satisfied with her comforting breasts, So that you may drink fully and be delighted with her bountiful breasts."

11 That you may nurse and be satisfied with her comforting breasts, That you may suck and be delighted with her bountiful bosom."

11 so that you may nurse and be satisfied at her consoling breasts, and so that you may drink deeply and take delight from her glorious bosom."

11 That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

12 For this is what the LORD says: "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and rocked back and forth on the knees.

12 For thus says the LORD, "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.

12 This is what the LORD says: "See, I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; and you will nurse, and you will be carried on her hip, and bounced upon her knees.

**12** For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.

13 "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem."

13 "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem."

13 Like a child whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

14 Then you will see *this*, and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass; And the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, But He will be indignant toward His enemies.

14 Then you will see *this*, and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass; And the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, But He will be indignant toward His enemies.

14 And when you look, your hearts will rejoice and your bodies will flourish like grass; and it will be made known that the LORD's hand is with his servants, but his fury is with his enemies.

14 And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Is 66 ends with one of the more powerful descriptive contrasts between the fate of the wicked and the destiny of the humble and contrite, who will inherit God's new creation (v15-24).

### **The Destruction of Idolatry and Idolaters**

15 For behold, the LORD will come in fire, And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.

15 For behold, the LORD will come in fire And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.

15 "Take notice! The LORD will come with fire, and his chariot will be like a whirlwind, to pay back his anger—yes, his anger!—in fury, and his menacing rebukes in flames of fire.

15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

16 For the LORD will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on humanity, And those put to death by the LORD will be many.

16 For the LORD will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the LORD will be many.

16 For with fire and with his sword the LORD will proceed to judgment on all humanity, and those slain by the LORD will be many."

16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

17 "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go to the gardens, Following one in the center, Who eat pig's flesh, detestable things, and mice, Will come to an end altogether," declares the LORD.

17 "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go to the gardens, Following one in the center, Who eat swine's flesh, detestable things and mice, Will come to an end altogether," declares the LORD.

17 "Those who consecrate and purify themselves to enter the groves, following the one at the center of those who eat the meat of pigs, disgusting things, and rats, are all alike," says the LORD.

17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

(iv) Universal influence (66:18-21)

**18** "For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all the nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.

**18** "For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.

**18** "But as for me, I know their actions and their thoughts. Come and gather all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

**18** For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

- The Shechinah Glory, which will be especially manifested in the Kingdom, will be seen by many of the Gentiles.

19 And I will put a sign among them and send survivors from them to the nations:

**Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal, and Javan**, to the **distant coastlands** that have neither heard of My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.

19 I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.

19 "I will put up signs among them, and from them I will send survivors to the nations—to Tarshish, Libya, and Lydia, (who draw the bow), to Tubal and Greece, to the far off coastlands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. Then they will proclaim my glory among the nations.

19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

- Those Gentiles who have seen the Shechinah will travel among other Gentile nations who have not seen it to tell them about it.
- "...Tarshish" - to the West.
- "...Put" - southward (North Africa) (Gen 10:6; Jer 46:9; Ezek 27:10; 30:5)
- "...Lud" - (Lydia?) - Jer 46:9; Ex 27:10; 30:5; (Africa?) - Gen 10:13 = subdivision of Egyptians
- "...Tubal" - Russia
- "...Javan"- Greeks
- "...distant coastlands" - northward (Gen 10:2; Ex 27:13)

20 Then they shall bring all your countrymen from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

20 Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord.

20 They will bring all—yes, all!—of your kindred from all the nations to my holy mountain Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots, in wagons, and on mules—yes, even on mules!—and on camels," says the LORD, "just as the Israelites bring a grain offering in a clean vessel to the LORD's house.

20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

- Gentiles will conduct the Jews back into the Land, and they will be brought to the Mountain of Jehovah's House to worship.

21 I will also take some of them as priests and Levites," says the LORD.

21 I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites," says the LORD.

21 Then I will also select some of them for myself as priests and as Levites," says the LORD.

21 And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.

- God will choose some of the Gentiles to serve as priests in the Temple

(v) Fate of the righteous and wicked (66:22-24)

22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth, Which I make, will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So will your descendants and your name endure.

22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure.

22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I am about to make will endure before me," says the LORD, "so will your descendants and your name endure.

22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

- Not only is Israel an eternal nation, but the faithful among the Gentiles will also be eternal

23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from Sabbath to Sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

23 And from New Moon to New Moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all humanity will come to worship before me," says the LORD.

23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

- The Gentiles will have a place of worship in the Temple for the Sabbath and new moon offerings

24 "Then they will go out and look At the corpses of the people Who have rebelled against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be extinguished; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."

24 "Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."

24 "Then they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of the people who rebelled against me. For their worm will not die, nor will their fire be extinguished, and they will remain an object of revulsion to all humanity."

24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

- As for unfaithful Gentiles, their dead bodies and the suffering of their souls will be visible throughout the Kingdom, illustrating God's grace to the faithful and severity to the lost

- The people of the earth will be able to look upon the dead in their torment during the Millennium

### **Sequel**

- Review: Rev 20-22.

The picture drawn in Is 65-66 is incomplete in many respects. One must recall the many other things said in earlier chapters about the new world that God will create: Jerusalem will be called "the city of righteousness, a faithful city" (1:26), where God will teach the Torah to people from many nations (2:3), where the Prince of Peace will reign forever on the throne of David (9:6-7), and where the remnant of God's people will gather (11:10-11). Believers from Egypt and Assyria and many other nations will be there with all the faithful and humble Israelites (19:19-25; 66:18-22), enjoying God's lavish banquet (25:6). Death will have vanished from the new earth (25:8; 30:19). In the heavens the light from the sun will change (30:26; 60:19), God's Spirit will be poured out on His people (32:15), and Zion will be filled with gladness and joyful shouting (35:10). People will shout the good news that God is reigning (40:5; 52:7; 60:1-2), the Suffering Servant will have forgiven the sins of many (52:13—53:12), and Zion will be so full of people that there will be no room for them all (54:1-17; 60:3-17).