

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 7, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 66:1–9

Memory Passage: Isaiah 66:1–2

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 63:7–65:25.** Because we have been away from Isaiah for a couple of weeks, re-read Isaiah's prayer (63:7–64:12) and the first part of Yahweh's answer (65:1–25) to remind yourself of our context. After studying these verses, how have you applied what you learned over the last several weeks?
- (b) **Read Is 66:1–24.** Identify the main units of thought in this chapter. Remember: new units of thought occur when the subject changes or a thought develops. Recognize these units by identifying repetitions, progressions, contrasts and comparisons, transitions or summary statements, new commands, speaker changes, etc.
- (c) **Read Is 1:1–31.** What similarities in vocabulary and themes do you see between the first and last chapter of Isaiah?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 66:1–9.** "What" should be translated as "where" (v. 1:d, e), and the idea is "there could not ever be such a house!" Is Yahweh speaking against rebuilding the temple? Explain your answer and the meaning of v. 1 (see 2 Sam 7:5–17; 1 Kgs 8:27–30; Jer 7:8–15; Acts 7:44–50 [in which Stephen quotes Is 66:1]).
- (b) What do you learn about Yahweh in vs. 1–2b, and why is this important at this point in his answer to Isaiah's prayer?
- (c) Explain what internal and external characteristics a "humble" person exhibits.
- (d) Explain what internal and external characteristics a person "contrite in spirit" exhibits (v. 2d).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 66:1–9.** What does "tremble at my word" convey about the person "to whom (Yahweh) will look," and why is it necessary (see, for example, Ezra 9:4 and 10:3)?
- (b) What does the adversative "But" (v. 2c) tell you about the relationship between Yahweh's temple (both heavenly and earthly, v. 1) and Yahweh's people? How does this adversative prepare you for what follows in vs. 3–4?
- (c) Explain vs. 3–4 in their context. What contrast is made?

- (d) Explain Yahweh's response (v. 4; notice the connection between "These have chosen" and "I also will choose") and the way he summarized the disobedience that brings about his response (cf. 65:12).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 66:1–9.** Verse 5 begins a new but related idea (notice the repetition of Yahweh's word [vs. 1, 6] and the one who "trembles" at his word [vs. 2, 5]). Explain what vs. 5–6 teach, including: (1) Who are the enemies of the one who trembles at Yahweh's word? (2) What happens to Yahweh's people? (3) How does Yahweh respond? (4) From where does his response come?
- (b) Verses 7–9 use another birth/child metaphor, which has been common in Isaiah (see, for example, 49:19–21 and 54:1–3). Explain what these verses convey to Yahweh's faithful people in the context of Isaiah 66:1–9.
- (c) Extra credit 😊: Why did I choose to end this section, this unit of thought, at v. 9 rather than v. 6 or v. 14?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 66:1–9, 57:14–21, Ps 51:1–19, and Luke 18:9–14.** As you meditate on these passages, ask God to reveal to you all the ways you struggle with arrogance, pride, self-centeredness, and self-justification. Write down everything he reveals.
- (b) Draw near to God in repentance for all the ways you lack humility and a contrite spirit (Jas 4:7–10).
- (c) **Read Phil 2:1–8.** Though it is necessary to put off all pride and arrogance, we must also put on humility and a contrite spirit (Eph 4:17–24). Write down at least five ways you will replace your heart of pride and arrogance with a heart of humility.
- (d) Review your answer in Day 3 (a). Does this describe you? Do you tremble before God's word, passionate to repent of ways you ignore or disobey it, and equally passionate to repent and obey it? Do you tremble before your triune God as you grow in your understanding of his character? Do you tremble with thanksgiving as you receive his promises? In what ways must you repent and reorient your attitude and handling of Scripture?

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Tremble at His Word