

A Trek Through Isaiah 92 - 66:10-24

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<u>The New Heavens and New Earth: Prayers and Promises 63:7 - 66:24</u>
The watcher praying 63:7 - 64:12
The Lord responding 65:1 - 66:24

- In the book of the Conqueror (56 - 66)
 - Question: How will God's people fulfill their promise?
 - Three areas of emphasis
 - The contrast between the ideal community and the actual community
 - God's glorious promises for the faithful.
 - A Conqueror: the third messianic figure who accomplishes God's purpose and fulfills His promises.
- This section: The New Heavens and New Earth: Prayers and Promises 63:7 - 66:24
 - The work is completed. Now what?
 - The watcher praying 63:7 - 64:12
 - The Lord responding 65:1 - 66:24
- Today:
 - The Lord responding (part 4) 66:10-24

Recap of the Lord's response

- 65:1-12 Reaching out to the peoples and to the people
- 65:13-15 Contrasting ends
- 65:16 Blessings of the redeemed
- 65:17-25 All things made new
- 66:1-24 Judgment and hope
 - Structure
 - V1-4 Judgment for false worship
 - V5-24 Comfort for true worship
 - V1-2 False and true houses
 - V1-2a The false house

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"

- V2b The true house

2 ...But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

- V3-4 False worship and its end
 - V3a Worthless sacrifices

3 "He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man;

- V3b Diagnosis 1

3 ...These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations;

- V4a God's response

4 I also will choose harsh treatment for them and bring their fears upon them,

- V4b Diagnosis 2

because when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not listen; but they did what was evil in my eyes and chose that in which I did not delight."

- V5-6 Comfort for the redeemed
 - From here on God speaks to the redeemed, and mentions unbelievers in the third person.
 - V5 Certain justification

5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word:

- V6 The sound of judgment

6 "The sound of an uproar from the city! A sound from the temple! The sound of the LORD, rendering recompense to his enemies!

- V7-9 The LORD's faithfulness
 - V7-8 Sudden birth of a new people

7 "Before she was in labor she gave birth;

- V9 God's faithfulness to accomplish His word

9 Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the LORD;

- V10-14 The coming **joy** of Jerusalem

- V10 command to rejoice

10 “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;

- Rejoice...rejoice...in joy
 - 3x for emphasis
- with Jerusalem.
 - The city of Jerusalem
 - The Jerusalem of God (all tongues, all tribes, all nations)
- all you who love her...all you who mourn over her;
 - Those who love her
 - Delight in her
 - Want the best for her
 - Devote themselves to her welfare
 - Those who mourn over her
 - Broken over the difference between the actual and the ideal.
 - Broken over the devastations she must endure
 - Who is this?
 - Believing remnant
 - The church

- V11 Reasons for rejoicing

11 that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.”

- Picture of a child nursing at his mother’s breast.
- that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
 - Satisfaction of every need
- that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.
 - Delight beyond measure
- As Heb 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

- V12a Who supplies the abundance

12 For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream...

- For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend
 - All this from the LORD
 - Depends on the guarantee of His word
- Two aspects of comfort
 - peace to her
 - Peace with God and peace with men
 - The glory of the nations
 - Revelation 7:9 (ESV): from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
 - Every nation brought to the fullness of what God intended it to be.
 - True diversity
 - As Ro 5:1-2: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 - Peace with God
 - Rejoicing in hope of the glory of God
- like a river...like an overflowing stream
 - As a river at flood, overflowing its banks, inundating everything
 - Metaphor used to describe the Assyrian invasion in Is 8:7-8:
...therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, 8 and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”
 - Here used to describe the flood of blessing coming to Jerusalem
- Contrast the present situation

- V12b-13 Total comfort

12 ...and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

- In Is 49:22 the nations willingly cared for Jerusalem's children: Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.
- Here they are comforted for by Jerusalem
- Two pictures of comfort
- V12 As a child is cared for
 - Picture of a mother totally loving her child
 - Feeding, carrying, playing with.
- V13 As a man is comforted
 - One. Heb ish: a man.
 - Picture of a grown man being comforted by his mother.
- In Jerusalem
 - As Ph 2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy...

- V14 Final reckoning

14 You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.

- You shall see.
 - To the believing remnant
 - The LORD's reply to the scoffing in v5: Your brothers who hate you and cast you out for my name's sake have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy
 - Seen in this age by faith
 - Finally seen physically in the Millennium and the Eternal State
 - As John 8:56 (ESV): Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."
 - Joy as he looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.
 - Joy when he saw the Messiah
- Three blessings for the redeemed
 - your heart shall rejoice. Joy.
 - your bones shall flourish like the grass. Health.
 - the hand of the LORD shall be known. Knowing God. Life.
- For the wicked, the wrath of God

- V15-18a The **end** of the wicked

15 “For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many. 17 “Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig’s flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares the LORD. 18 “For I know their works and their thoughts...

- V15-16 Judgment

- For behold.
 - Elaborating the twin themes of judgment on the wicked and comfort for the remnant.
- by fire will the LORD enter into judgment
 - Not a coming of grace
 - Exercise of judicial right: enforcement of perfect righteousness
 - His second coming
- Elements of judgment
 - Fire. Wrath against sin
 - Chariots...whirlwind. Fast moving and irresistible. No escape
 - Sword. Individual application..

- V17-18a The wicked and their end

- Using pre-exilic pagan practices to describe apostates.
- They shall come to an end
- V18a is difficult. May refer back to the previous: the LORD knows both the works and the thoughts of the apostates.

- Note that the active agent of judgement is God

- Christ saves us from His wrath

- V18-21 the world **gathering**

- V18-19a Vision of glory

18... and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19 and I will set a sign among them.

- the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues
 - True believers will be gathered from all nations
- they shall come and shall see my glory,
 - As Is 6:1-6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."
 - Isaiah's vision
 - God: sovereign, holy, full of wrath
 - Himself: a lost sinner
 - From God for him: atonement, forgiveness
 - What Isaiah saw, so shall the nations see
 - I will set a sign among them
 - The cross.

■ V19b-20 Mission to the world

19 ...And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. 20 And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

- I will send survivors.
 - Those who escaped the judgment just described.
- to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory.
 - No suggestion that the coastlands had a religion good enough for them.
- And they shall declare my glory among the nations.
 - The gospel
- And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD
 - The fruit of missions is seen as an offering to the Lord.
- to my holy mountain Jerusalem
 - Where God dwells among His people
 - Emphasizing holiness
- just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD
 - The offering is accepted

■ V21 Jews and Gentiles on equal footing

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

- Gentiles are made ministers of the gospel.
- As Luke, Timothy

- V22-23 A **permanent** people

22 “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. 23 From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

■ V22 Permanent

- For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.
 - Of the believing remnant: descendants, reputation
 - The old heavens and earth pass away; the new come forever. Likewise, God’s people will remain forever

■ V23 Lawful

- From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.
 - Isaiah referring to Mosaic practices
 - Feasts rather than fasting. Mourning is past; emphasis is on joy.
 - Acceptable worship
 - Consistent worship

- V24 **Reminder** of the wicked

24 “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

- A cemetery outside the city.
- And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me.
 - The redeemed purposefully go outside the city.
 - To look on unbelievers
- For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.
 - In eternal torment
 - A reminder of what the redeemed were and what was accomplished at the cross
- Isaiah closes with the same reminder as previous sections
 - Is 48:22, Is 57:21 There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Rejoice with Jerusalem 66:10-11**
 - a. Those who love her and mourn over her**
 - b. Drink deeply and be satisfied**
- 2. True diversity 66:12**
 - a. Peace**
 - b. The glory of the nations**
- 3. They shall see My glory 66:18-21**
 - a. All nations and tongues**
 - b. A sign among them**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: Review 56 - 66

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