

*For Zion's Sake, Part Three*  
*Isaiah 55-66*

**Grace, Judgment, and Glory – Isaiah 65-66**

**I. *God's Grace – God "found" by those who did not seek him – Isaiah 65***

- A. God's own "Here am I" (note Isaiah 6)
- B. God's Judgment – v. 2-7
  - 1. But a remnant – wine from the crushed grapes
  - 2. But desolation – the wine of wrath (v. 11-16)
- C. God's New Creation – v. 17
  - 1. No more curse
  - 2. No more exile
  - 3. No more conflict/enmity

**II. *God's Glorious House – Isaiah 66***

- A. The Heights of Holiness – v. 1-2a
- B. The Depths of Humility – v. 2b
- C. The House Judged – v. 3-6
- D. The Birth of Children to the Barren – v. 7-14
  - Mother Jerusalem – note also, Galatians 4, our "Mother" above and below, free and as slave
  - The full breasts that nourish and comfort the children who had known deprivation
  - Don't miss this very feminine picture of the Kingdom of God; we are familiar with "Bridal" theology, but often miss "Mother Theology". But birth is a crucial image for Isaiah (and indeed in much of the OT, showing God's care for his children and supply for their need). Because we are somewhat cautious about "Maryolatry," we are often blinded to the picture of Mary nursing Jesus – the Church then nurturing her children with the pure milk of the word.
- E. The House Cleansed by Fire – v. 15-17
  - Remember that the "house" is not only the Temple, but the whole of what the Temple represents – the cosmos. Note: 2 Peter 3.
- F. Messengers to the Nations – v. 18-21
  - Gentiles become part of the priestly people
- G. New Creation
  - 1. Heaven and Earth
  - 2. Glory and Comfort in the Presence of Divine Wrath
    - As in Revelation – rejoicing at the lake of fire

## *Lessons Learned in Isaiah*

### **A. The Big Picture**

1. God charges Judah with Covenant Infidelity (Idolatry)
2. Judah, like her King, has leprosy and must repent to be cleansed
3. Judah will receive a fire judgment that both cleanses and purifies as it destroys
4. The fire is in the form of capture, demolition, and exile
5. After the fire a righteous remnant will be gathered and restored, receiving a new exodus and making the land a new creation
6. Judah's salvation is brought about by God's Spirit-Anointed Servant
7. The mission of this Servant however is larger than Judah, and results in the salvation of the Gentiles as well.
8. The Servant's mission culminates in his suffering and subsequent exaltation
9. This "intercession" by the Servant – bearing the sins of the people – is prefigured by righteous King Hezekiah as he falls down before God to intercede for Jerusalem, God by this rescuing his people from the Assyrians.
10. The promise of God to restore and glorify Jerusalem must be taken up by other intercessors who give God no rest and take no rest for themselves until the word of the Lord comes to pass.
11. When it does, the marriage of Judah and Yahweh will be renewed and she who was barren will give birth to countless children.
12. This saving of Judah means that God's house transcends Jerusalem and fills the whole world, the Gentiles themselves becoming part of the Priestly people of the Lord.

### **B. Biblical Lessons to Take Home –**

1. The place of Isaiah in the life and ministry of Jesus
2. The place of Isaiah in the witness of the Apostles, especially in Paul and his mission to the Gentiles.
3. The narrative unity of the book of Isaiah
4. The use of Biblical imagery in Isaiah that informs the rest of Scripture
5. The place of Isaiah in the Bible – pointing back to the Law and forward to the Messiah and world-wide salvation – reminds us of the flow of the covenant of Grace in Scripture.

### **C. Personal Lessons to Take Home**

1. Deal with sin early on rather than later: like leprosy, it spreads!
2. God's discipline exists to purify us as his people.
3. Woe-Lo-Go!
4. Signs and Wonders *can be* judgments of God
5. God is Sovereign, using even those who don't know him to accomplish his will
6. God will not forget you and will never forsake you
7. God delights to take the barren and make them fruitful
8. At the heart of God's will being done is the task of intercession
9. Being an Eagle is a lot better than being a Fish
10. Isaiah is all about Jesus – what is out life about?