

IT'S TIME TO BRING FORTH

I'm using this phrase "bring forth" in two ways: 1) to *give birth* to something, and 2) to bring something *forward* into view.

Isaiah 66:8

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.

Here we have a picture of a woman who *gives birth* to a nation. This woman represents Zion (Jerusalem) who would, in just a few years, be destroyed and its inhabitants exiled to Babylon. However, Isaiah prophesies of a time when Zion would be rebuilt. Therefore, in one sense, this "birth" represents a time when Zion will be restored (resurrected) to prominence again.

But, there's a *deeper* meaning that is hidden in this prophecy, a meaning that concerns us today!

Isaiah 66:7

⁷ Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she was delivered of A MAN CHILD.

Here we are told that before this "woman"(Zion) brings forth a nation, she shall bring forth a "man child." This is the key phrase, because it points to a prophecy given by Jesus!

John 16:21

²¹ A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the CHILD, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that A MAN IS BORN into the world.

Notice, this prophecy is *very* similar to the one given by Isaiah. The difference is Isaiah is prophesying of the return of a nation, while Jesus is prophesying of His *own* return!

John 16:21–22 *New International Version*

²¹ A WOMAN giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come...

²² SO WITH YOU: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice...

Jesus tells His disciples, “I will see you again.” Moreover, He compares this return to a “man child” being born to “woman.” Also, He tells His disciples that THEY are that woman, and HE is that “man child.” Again, He is speaking here about His return, but He’s not talking His return after the resurrection. (That would be equivalent to Him returning TO them.) Instead, Jesus is talking about being born in His disciples. (This is equivalent to Jesus returning IN them!)

If this were to happen, what might it take for “His disciples” to *bring forth* Christ?

IT TAKES SORROW

John 16:22

22 And ye now therefore have SORROW: but I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN,

Jesus points out that “seeing Him again” requires SORROW. In other words, you cannot bring forth (give birth) unless there is sorrow (unhappiness).

Hebrews 12:11

11 Now no CHASTENING for the present seemeth to be joyous, but GRIEVOUS: nevertheless AFTERWARD IT YIELDETH the peaceable FRUIT of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Here we are told that sorrow (grief) can come from “chastisement” (correction). Moreover, this *grief* is necessary in order to “yield” or BRING FORTH fruit!

1 Peter 1:6, 7

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in HEAVINESS through MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS: 7 That the TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the APPEARING of Jesus Christ:

Remember we said to you that the phrase “bring forth” can mean to give birth, OR to bring forward into view. Here we are told that Christ will be brought into view (appear) after we have experienced sorrow (heaviness) through temptations. In other words, at the END of our temptations (trial) we will bring forth Christ!

This brings me to the *next* important thing it takes in order to *bring forth* Christ...

IT TAKES TIME

Galatians 1:13–16

¹³ For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: ¹⁴ And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who **SEPARATED ME FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB**, and called *me* by his grace, ¹⁶ **TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME**,

Here we have a *birth*, AND something being “revealed” or *brought into view*. This time it's *Paul* who is being born or “separated from his mother's womb,” which he describes as *his former religion*. However, the thing I want us to see is *WHEN* did this deliverance (or birth) take place?

Galatians 1:15a

¹⁵ **But WHEN IT PLEASSED GOD**, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,

We must understand that God controls *when* we are delivered or called forth from the “womb”. He *also* controls when this “appearing” takes place.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ **WHEN he shall come to be GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) IN THAT DAY.**

We have yet *another* reference to Christ “appearing” *in* the saints. And when will this event take place? According to Paul, it is reserved for “that day” (or the last days)!

There's one *final* thing that it takes in order to *bring forth* Christ...

IT TAKES GOD (GRACE)

You may experience sorrow and be in God's timing, but if you do not have His grace, you will never *bring forth* the promise!

2 Thessalonians 1:11

¹¹ **Wherefore also WE PRAY ALWAYS FOR YOU**, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and **FULFIL ALL THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS GOODNESS**, and the work of faith with power:

Again, Paul has already revealed what this *calling* is (i.e. Christ glorified “in” them). Here, he tells them this calling will require the good pleasure of God's grace. Thus, this is his constant prayer for them!

We know that Paul pray for them, but what exactly did he pray? Paul prayed that they would both KNOW this calling, and that they might receive God's POWER to bring it to pass.

Ephesians 1:16–19

¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my PRAYERS; ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what *is* THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO US-WARD WHO BELIEVE,

Now, many people might consider the things I have share with you far-fetched. If this is true, I'm not surprised. God said this would be man's response!

Isaiah 66:8

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.

The idea of Zion (Jerusalem) returning to its former glory seemed far-fetched and an impossibility in Isaiah's day. Yet, God said that not only was such a notion POSSIBLE, it was SIMPLE. Meaning, it can be done "*at once*"! Besides...

Isaiah 66:9

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.

This means, God never starts what He doesn't plan to finish! He wouldn't bring us all the way to this point if He wasn't going to finish the job. But, it won't be by our *strength*, according to our *timing*, or without *trouble*!