

Isaiah 66

Jesus

I. Rejected

1 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the Lord. "But on **this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit**, And who trembles at My word.

When we Repent/Humble ourselves God might say... "Oh, there you are"

Humility: Key to our relation with God/Man

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven..."

Luke 18:10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me a sinner!**' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- **Be Real:** God desires us to worship Him in Spirit/Truth

3 "**He who** kills a bull is as if he slays a man; **He who** sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; **He who** offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; **He who** [4x] burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have **chosen their own ways**, And their soul delights in their **abominations...**

- **Abomination:** heb. *šāqāṣ* [shaw-kats'] Detest, count as filthy, abhor
- **Hey "he who's":** Your passive/unenthusiastic sacrifices are akin to Pagan practices

No investment/No heart/No love/No respect/No fear of God...**Rejected**

Genesis 4:3 [Sons of Adam/Eve] "...Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but **He did not respect Cain** and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Cain said I'll do it my way and God will accept me

- **One way:** In humility and by Blood.

John 14:6b... "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

"God will just have to accept the scraps I have left over"?

Accept what is False, Polluted, Compromised...Make-believe Religiosity?

4 So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, **when I called, no one answered**, When I spoke they did not hear; But they **did evil before My eyes**, And chose that in which I do not delight."

**Treated the Living God as a Burden
Responded to His love with Contempt: He called them they ghosted Him**

- **God will choose their delusions?**
 1. Give them up/over to own desires. Rom. 1
 2. **Result?** Fear. Judgments of vv 14-24 beginning w/abandonment
- **Near:** Isaiah/Jeremiah's call to Judah...Repent Nebuchadnezzar is coming
- **Distant:** Jesus' call to mid trib Jews... Leave Jerusalem AC is coming

God rejects half-hearted worship. He is worthy of all our heart

SUMMARY Rejected

II. Vindication of Zion

5 **Hear the word of the Lord, You who tremble at His word:** "Your brethren who hated you, Who cast you out for My name's sake, said, 'Let the Lord be glorified, That we may see your joy.' But **they shall be ashamed.**"

**We are those who Tremble at the Word of God
We are wise because we Fear the Lord. We will be hated/mocked for believing
God's Word...**

- **Near:** Babylonia's will taunt the Jews in captivity...

Psalm 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "**Sing us one of the songs of Zion!**"

- **Distant:** Those waiting for Jesus even today...

2 Peter 3:3b ... scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?... **10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up... **13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Those that fear the Lord: Temporarily mocked
Those who mock: Eternally ashamed...

Daniel 12:2 ...many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, **Some to shame and everlasting contempt.** 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

- Jesus will come for our enemies **like a thief in the night...**

6 The sound of noise from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, **Who fully repays His enemies!** 7 "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or **shall a nation be born at once?** For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

- **Isaiah's Prophecy:** Israel's Amazing Transformation

1. Nation of Israel will cease to be a nation Fulfilled 70
2. After ceasing to exist Israel will be reborn Fulfilled 1948

Should cause an unrepented world take pause today?

Chances of God coming to Judge? Same as Israel ever becoming a Nation again 1:1

9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the Lord. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God. 10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; 11 That you may feed and be satisfied With the consolation of her bosom, That you may drink deeply and be delighted With the abundance of her glory." 12 For thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will extend **peace to her like a river, And the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.**

- I will finish what I started w/my people. Apple of My eye
- **Worlds treatment of Israel during trib:** Litmus test of their eternal destiny

Matthew 25:37 [Written to Jews] "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the **least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**'

- **Doom** to those who mistreat Jesus by mistreating His brethren
- **Peace like a river to those who embrace Israel**

12b... Then you shall feed; On her sides shall you be carried, And be dandled on her knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be **comforted in Jerusalem.**"

Galatians 4:25b ... Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is...**26** but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the **mother of us all.**

- Comfort of our Eternal Dwelling like a mom

SUMMARY Vindication of Zion

III. Sheep and Goats

14 When you see this, your heart shall rejoice, And your bones shall flourish

like grass; The hand of the Lord shall be known to His servants, And His indignation to His enemies. 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**.

2 Thessalonians 1:6 [Vindication]...it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our **testimony among you was believed**.

16 For **by fire** and by **His sword** The Lord will judge all flesh; And the slain of the Lord shall be many.

Matthew 3:11...He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- **Fire** The Trial
- **Sword** The Verdict...

Isaiah 27:1 [Against the AC/Devil] In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, Will **punish** Leviathan the **fleeing serpent**, Leviathan that **twisted serpent**; And He will **slay the reptile** that is in the sea.

Isaiah 63:1 [Against the Ungodly] Who *is* this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This *One who is* glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? — “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”² Why *is* Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ “I have trodden the winepress alone

17 “Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, To go to the gardens After an **idol in the midst**, **Eating swine’s flesh** and the abomination and the mouse, Shall be consumed together,” says the Lord.

- **Blatant Abomination** before the Lord masquerading as religion
- **Refused Salvation of the Lord...**

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and **did not repent of their deeds**.

18 “For I know their **works and their thoughts**.”

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the **thoughts and intents of the heart**. 3 And there is no creature hidden

from His sight, but **all things are naked** and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account...

18b... It shall be that **I will gather all nations and tongues**; and they shall come and **see My glory**. 19 I will **set a sign among them**; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And **they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles**.

- **I will set a sign:** Jesus coming to judge/Separate Sheep/Goats

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then **the sign of the Son of Man** will appear in heaven

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

[To enemies of God] ...though I cannot make you see sin, yet I can leave this truth with you. You will one day feel what sin means, unless you repent of it, for he that spared not his own Son will not spare you. If the Judge upon the throne smote Christ, who had no sin of his own, smote him so sternly for other men's sins, what will he do with you? If he spared not his beloved Son, **what will he do with his enemies?** [Spurgeon]

- Tribulation will take at least 1/3rd of population. Righteous [not perfect] remain
- **Those who remain will serve Jesus in newly established Kingdom...**

20 Then they shall bring all your brethren **for an offering to the Lord** out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, **to My holy mountain Jerusalem,**" says the Lord, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. 21 And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the Lord.

- Animals allude to diverse Nations coming to Jerusalem
- **This Heaven on Earth** will morph into the Eternal State after 1000 years

22 "For as the **new heavens and the new earth** Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, **All flesh shall come to worship before Me,**" says the Lord.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to **worship the King**, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Righteous will see the fate of the wicked/be astonished

24 "And they shall go forth and look Upon the **corpses of the men** Who have transgressed against Me. For their **worm does not die**, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Eternal Punishment

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the **everlasting** fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ...**46** And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**."

Everlasting Punishment vs Eternal Life: Same word. gr. **ahee-o'-nee-os**. Without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be

SUMMARY Sheep and Goats

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said...

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts
The whole earth is full of His glory!**