

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## A Supernatural Birth Bringing Peace and Comfort!

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** Is 66:7-14; Is. 66:1-6; Gen. 3:16; Is. 40:1-2; Is. 48:17-18; Is. 49:15-21; Is. 52:7; Is. 53:5; Is. 54:5-13; Is. 55:6-8; 2 Pet. 3:3-13

Isaiah 66 continues the Lord's appeal to His people. He has been calling all along, stretching out His hands to a rebellious people, urging them to choose life rather than death, blessing rather than cursing. The Lord is not silent, distant, or uninterested. He is still calling, inviting, warning—still making clear that there is no true shalom for the wicked. The only place to walk and find real peace is in His way, according to His word.

This passage comes after the Lord has spoken to those who tremble at His word. They have been mocked, excluded, and treated as though their hope in God's promises was foolish. But the Lord tells them to listen. The God who speaks will fulfill what He has said. Those who refuse to tremble at His word will one day tremble at His wrath, but those who wait on Him will see His hand. Isaiah 66:7-14 gives us a picture of supernatural birth, restored comfort, and peace like a river.

### 1. GOD WILL BRING FORTH NEW LIFE WITHOUT THE PAIN OF THE CURSE

Isaiah says, *"Before she was in labor, she gave birth. Before her pain came, she delivered a male child"* (Is. 66:7). The picture is striking: motherhood without labor, birth without pain, new life without effort. That imagery immediately points us back to Eden, where pain entered human experience because of sin. In Genesis 3:16, the Lord said to the woman, *"I will greatly increase your pain from conception to labor. In pain will you give birth to children."* All the pain, the *atsav*, that came with sin would mark human fruitfulness from that point forward.

But Isaiah is showing us that the day is coming when the effects of sin will be undone. The Lord could have simply said that joy, blessing, and peace are coming to the New Jerusalem, but instead He uses this metaphor of painless birth to show us something deeper. God is bringing about a newness that humanity cannot produce. If birth is to be without pain, if sin is to lose its impact, if the curse is to be overcome, then this cannot be the work of human strength. It must be the supernatural work of God alone.

### 2. GOD WILL FINISH WHAT HE STARTED

The Lord continues with four rhetorical questions: *"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children"* (Is. 66:8). No one has ever heard of anything like this. No one has seen anything like this. A land born in a day, a nation brought forth in a moment — this is outside the whole of human experience. It is not normal. It is not natural. It is not something man can engineer, accomplish, or explain.

Then the Lord asks, *“Will I bring the moment of birth, and not give delivery?”* and *“Will I who cause delivery shut up the womb?”* (Is. 66:9). In other words, “Do you think I will bring this all the way to the point of birth and then not bring it forth? Do you think I will begin what I do not intend to finish?” The skeptic may point to the realities of life and say, “This cannot happen.” But the Lord’s promises do not depend on human power or normal circumstances. It may look for a season like Zion is barren, or too weak to give birth, but Zion is not saving the world. God is. And He will do what He says He will do.

### **3. GOD WILL RESTORE COMFORT AND PEACE LIKE A RIVER**

The Lord then calls those who love Jerusalem and have mourned over her to rejoice: *“Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad with her, all you who love her. Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourned over her”* (Is. 66:10). Why rejoice? Because the day is coming when there will be full supply for every need. Isaiah says, *“For you will nurse and be satisfied from her comforting breast. You will drink deeply and delight from her glorious abundance”* (Is. 66:11). The picture reverses famine, siege, lack, and anguish. Where sin brought continual need without supply, God brings comfort, satisfaction, and abundance.

Then the Lord says, *“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream”* (Is. 66:12). This is the peace God always desired for His people. Earlier in Isaiah, the Lord said, *“If only you had listened to My commandments! then your peace would be like a river”* (Is. 48:18). But now, all that was lost through disobedience will be restored by His mercy. The comfort promised in Isaiah 40 — *“Comfort, comfort My people”* — reaches its fullness here. *“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you, so you will be comforted in Jerusalem”* (Is. 66:13). Comfort in its quality, like a mother’s comfort. Comfort in its source, from the Lord Himself. Comfort in its location, in Jerusalem.

### **CONCLUSION**

Isaiah 66:14 says, *“You will see, your heart will rejoice, and your bones will flourish like grass. So the hand of ADONAI will be known to His servants, and His indignation to His enemies.”* The promise begins with, “You will see.” Those who tremble at His word, those who wait on Him, those who trust His promises even when mocked by others, will see His hand. Their hearts will rejoice, and their bones will flourish. The whole person — inner life and outer life — will know the restoring power of God.

But the passage also leaves us with a choice. Do we want to know the hand of the Lord as His servants, or His indignation as His enemies? The call is still the same: choose life. *“Seek ADONAI while He may be found, call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous one his thoughts, let him return to ADONAI, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon”* (Is. 55:6–7). The Lord has brought forth supernatural birth in our own lives through His mercy, but the fullness of His promise is still coming. In a moment, in a day, He will do what He said. So we cling to His word, tremble before it, and trust that His peace and comfort will come in fullness.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think Isaiah uses the picture of painless birth to describe the newness God is bringing?
2. How does Isaiah 66:9 encourage us when it feels like God has started something but has not yet brought it to completion?
3. In what areas of your life are you tempted to believe the “realities” around you more than the promises of God?
4. Isaiah contrasts those who tremble at God’s word with those who mock His promises. What does it look like today to genuinely tremble at His word?
5. Where do you need the Lord’s comfort — not just as an idea, but as a deeply personal, restoring comfort like the comfort described in Isaiah 66:13?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu*, Our Father, Our King, thank You that You are the God who finishes what You start. Thank You that Your promises do not depend on human strength, normal circumstances, or what seems possible to us. You bring forth life where there was barrenness, comfort where there was grief, and peace where sin had brought unrest.

Teach us to tremble at Your word. Help us to forsake our own ways and return fully to You. Let Your comfort reach the places in us that are weary, wounded, and waiting. Extend Your shalom like a river over our lives, and help us live as Your servants who trust Your hand and rejoice in Your promises.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.