



Tremble at His Word So You Don't Have to Tremble at His Wrath

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): *Is 66:5-6; Is. 66:1-4; Z Is. 65:11-14; Ps. 73:1-17, 21-24; Is. 5:18-21; Is. 8:11-17; Is. 28:7-16; Is. 30:1, 9-11, 15-18; 2 Pet. 3:3-9*

"Hear the word of ADONAI, you who tremble at His word: 'Your brothers who hated you, excluding you for My Name's sake, have said, "Let ADONAI be glorified, that we may see your joy"—but they will be put to shame.' A sound of uproar from the city, a sound from the Temple—the sound of ADONAI, who fully repays His enemies." — Is. 66:5-6. The LORD now announces to His own—to the ones who tremble at His Word—what all of this means for them. These are the humble and contrite ones from the previous verses, the ones moved by what God speaks, the ones who do not simply hear His Word but respond to it. They tremble because they recognize His wisdom, His holiness, His authority, and His goodness. They know that His way leads to life, even when the immediate circumstances seem to suggest otherwise.

But Isaiah shows us that there are two groups standing in sharp contrast. There are the servants of the LORD, those who tremble at His Word, and there are those who forsake ADONAI while still trying to use His Name. They pursue their own ends, their own will, their own delight, and they use religion in a self-centered way—as a tool to control fate and fortune rather than entrusting their destiny to the LORD. In the short term, it can seem like those who pursue their own way are succeeding. It can even feel like there is no reward for the righteous. But the LORD speaks assurance to His servants: He sees, He knows, and He will bring everything to its full and righteous end.

1. HEAR THE WORD OF ADONAI

The verse begins, *"Hear the word of ADONAI, you who tremble at His word."* This is not merely an invitation to listen with the ears. It is a call to hear and respond—to receive the Word of ADONAI as weighty, true, and worthy of obedience. The ones who tremble at His Word are not casual toward what God says. They do not toss His words behind them while maintaining an outward appearance of religion. They are moved by His voice because they know that the One who speaks is the One who made all things, sustains all things, and will judge all things.

This is the heart of the contrast already seen in Isaiah 65. The LORD says, *"For I called, but you did not answer, I spoke, but you did not hear. So you did what was evil in My sight, and chose what I did not delight in." — Is. 65:12* The issue is not that God was silent. The issue is that they would not answer when He called. They would not *shema* when He spoke. The invitation still stands: abandon your own way, forsake your own thoughts, and return to ADONAI. Tremble at His Word now so that you do not have to tremble at His wrath later.

2. DO NOT BE SHAKEN WHEN THE SCOFFERS EXCLUDE YOU

Isaiah says, *"Your brothers who hated you, excluding you for My Name's sake..."* These are not distant enemies. These are brothers—people who claim to be acting in the Name of the LORD. They exclude the Word-tremblers while persuading themselves that *they* themselves are honoring God. They say, *"Let ADONAI be glorified, that we may see your joy,"* but it is not sincere

worship. It is mockery. They are saying, in effect, “Let’s see if your hope is real. Let’s see if your waiting on the LORD actually leads to joy.”

That kind of mockery has appeared throughout Isaiah. There are those who trust in ADONAI, wait on Him, and seek His way, and there are those who say, “Yes, we should trust God, but this is the real world.” They take matters into their own hands, make alliances not of His *Ruach*, and call their compromises wisdom. Yet the LORD says, “*By repentance and rest you are saved, in quietness and trust is your strength—but you were not willing.*” — *Is. 30:15* The ones who tremble at His Word may be hated, excluded, and misunderstood, but they are not forgotten. The LORD Himself says of the mockers, “*They will be put to shame.*” Their false refuge will be exposed, but those who rely on the Cornerstone will not flee in panic when the flood comes.

3. LISTEN FOR THE VOICE FROM THE TEMPLE

Verse 6 repeats the word *qol*—voice or sound—three times. “*A sound of uproar from the city, a sound from the Temple—the sound of ADONAI...*” It is as though the sound begins in the distance, and we are drawn closer. First, there is a roar from the city. Then we discover that the voice is coming from the Temple. Finally, we learn whose voice it is: the Voice of ADONAI, the One who fully repays His enemies. The God who speaks is not ignored forever. His Word is power. The One who spoke creation into existence will also speak final justice.

For those who already tremble at His Word, His voice is not terror but comfort. His roar from the Temple means that He has seen the hatred, the exclusion, the mockery, and the falsehood done in His Name. He will repay in full. But even here, because this judgment has not yet fallen, there is still mercy in the warning. The LORD is slow to anger. He is patient, “*not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance.*” — *2 Pet. 3:9* You do not have to remain hardened to His voice. You do not have to stay an enemy of the LORD. While it is still called today, hear His voice and respond.

CONCLUSION

The question Isaiah places before us is not merely, “Which group do you recognize?” but, “Which group are you in?” Are you among those who tremble at His Word, who allow His voice to correct, comfort, confront, and lead you? Or are you among those who use religious language while choosing your own way, your own delight, your own version of wisdom? The frightening thing about the second group is that they still speak in the Name of the LORD. They still say, “Let ADONAI be glorified.” But their hearts are not surrendered to His voice.

So today, the invitation remains: tremble at His Word so you do not have to tremble at His wrath. If the LORD has been calling, do not keep refusing to answer. If He has been speaking, do not keep refusing to hear. Lay down the false refuge, the self-centered pursuit, the pride that calls compromise wisdom, and return to the One who abundantly pardons. Ask Him for a humble and contrite spirit. Ask Him to make you one who trembles at His Word, waits on His timing, trusts His foundation, and finds refuge in Him when every other hiding place is washed away.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In Is. 66:5, the LORD specifically speaks to “you who tremble at His word.” What does it practically look like to tremble at God’s Word rather than merely agree with it?
2. Isaiah describes people who exclude others “for My Name’s sake.” How can religious language sometimes be used to justify pride, control, compromise, or self-centered ambition?
3. Ps. 73 describes the struggle of watching the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer. Where have you personally felt the temptation to wonder whether obedience to God is “worth it”?
4. Is. 30:15 says, “*By repentance and rest you are saved, in quietness and trust is your strength—but you were not willing.*” In modern life, what pressures make it difficult to choose repentance, rest, quietness, and trust?
5. Is. 66:6 speaks of the Voice of ADONAI bringing full repayment. How does this both comfort those who have been mistreated and warn those who have hardened themselves against His Word?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King, give us hearts that tremble at Your Word. Forgive us for the times we have heard Your voice but did not answer, when You spoke and we did not *shema*. Forgive us for choosing our own ways, pursuing our own desires, and dressing up self-centered ambition in religious language. Make us humble and contrite before You.

Teach us to wait on You when others mock, to trust You when compromise looks successful, and to rest in You when fear and pressure tell us to take matters into our own hands. Let Your voice be our refuge, not our terror. Align us with the Cornerstone You have laid in Zion, and let us respond today while it is still called today.

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