

## Isaiah - Part 2 - Chapters 40-66

Isaiah chapters 40-66 contain amazing **prophetic material** that is highly relevant both to the **exilic audience** and to **Isaiah's own day**. It certainly demonstrates the Lord's rule over history; but even more that He **decrees history** from **eternity past**. This is God's **signature statement** against the **false gods** of His people and their surrounding nations.

**Isaiah 41:21-23** - 21 "Present your case," the Lord says. "Bring forward your strong arguments," The King of Jacob says. **22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods;** Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. NASU

Here the Lord says if they can predict the future we may know that they **"are gods."** But **God mocks** them for their **inability** to do it, or **do anything, "good or evil."** The **prediction** about the **Persian monarch Cyrus** is one example of a **predictive prophecy** of **pinpoint accuracy** made some **150 years** before it happened.

**Isaiah 44:28-45:3** - **28 "It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' And of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"** 45:1 Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: 2 "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. 3 "I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that **it is I, The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.** NASU

Astounding here that **God** through the **mouth** of **Isaiah**, calls **Cyrus** by **name**, a **ruler** who came to power **long after Babylon** had been **conquered**, who wouldn't even be **born** for another **110 years**, considering **Babylon** was the **ruling empire** at the time of **Isaiah's writing**.

**Josephus** (*Jewish Antiquities* 11.5–7) records a story of the **impression** of the specific **prediction** of **Cyrus** ([Isa. 44:28](#)) made on the **Persian monarch** when he learned of it (a prediction made about 150 years in advance). *"This was known to*

*Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision: "My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple." This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the Divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written; so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem, <sup>1</sup> and the temple of God, for that he would be their assistant, and that he would write to the rulers and governors that were in the neighborhood of their country of Judea, that they should contribute to them gold and silver for the building of the temple, and besides that, beasts for their sacrifices." End quote.* The Lord refers to this as His own decree and proof positive that He is God and there is no other.

**Isaiah 45:4-7** - 4 "For the sake of Jacob My servant, And Israel My chosen one, **I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor Though you have not known Me.** 5 "I am the Lord, and there is no other; **Besides Me there is no God.** I will gird you, though you have not known Me; 6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. **I am the Lord, and there is no other,** 7 **The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.** NASU

You'll remember that Isaiah has **3 main sections** in the book. **Chapters 1-39** we have already covered where **Isaiah reproves** Judah's **rulers** for their **rebellion against God** and pronouncing **judgment** upon them. But mingled in his **oracles of judgment** are also **oracles of salvation** and hope for **redeemed remnant** that God will have in the **last days**, who have the **great hope** of **forgiveness** and **reconciliation to God**. This will be **accomplished by God** when He sets up His **Anointed King**, who will usher in a **world** where **God's people** are **restored**, and **death** and **suffering** are **banished forever**. Yet God would **visit** His people **Judah** with **purifying judgment** unless they **heed His calls to repentance**, which of course they **did not**. That section ends with a **prophecy** that **Judah** would be **conquered** by **Babylon** and **taken into captivity** and **exiled** from the **land**. That of course **happened** as **Isaiah said** it would a **century** later in **586 BC**.

The **second major** section of the book, **chapters 40-55**, picks up these **themes** and **intensifies** them, but this time from the **perspective** of the **Exiles** in **Babylon**.

Isaiah writes from the **perspective** of one who is **alive** in that **day** and **time (Exile)**, some **150 years** after his **death**. This is an **astonishing feature** in **Isaiah's prophetic work**. Even though [chapters 40–55](#) assume the **Jewish exiles** in **Babylon** in the sixth century as their **audience**; yet it speaks to those of his own day **calling** them to **repent** and fulfill their **destiny** as God's servants and **redeemed remnant**. While he addresses **God's defeated** people under **worldly domination**, **Isaiah's tone** changes from **confrontation** to **assurance**, as he **consoles** God's **discouraged people** who have been **exiled** from the **land**. This section announces the arrival of the Messianic King and in Him **"The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed"** (40:5). Thus, it is a section filled with **rich promises** and **prophecies, hope** and **consolation**. It also contains the four Servant Songs of Isaiah (Isaiah 42:1–4, 49:1–6, 50:4–9, and 52:13–53:12) which highlight the service, suffering, and exaltation of the Servant of the Lord, the Messiah. This section also contains the most rich **Messianic Prophecy** in the entire **Old Testament** concerning the **Servant of the Lord**. In **chapter 53** it prophesies that **God's Servant** will **die** as a **sacrifice of atonement** for His people to **reconcile** them to **God**, and thereby be the **victor** who brings an **astonishing display** of the **glory** of the **Lord** and fulfills God's **promise of deliverance** and **redemption** for His people. This section ends with **rich promises of consolation** and **blessings**, with an **invitation** for all peoples to **turn to the Lord** and enter into His **blessed covenant**.

**Chapters 56-66**, the **third major section** speak to the **returned exiles**, and in them address all of **God's faithful** people of **all times**. It speaks to **all** who **hold fast to His covenant** and therefore prepares **all** of His **true people** for His promised salvation, calling them to **live faithfully**, as **56:1**, **"Keep justice and do righteousness."** While doing this it still **challenges** the **people of Judah** in **Isaiah's time** to accept their **role** in a **story** that is **headed to a glorious future** and to live **faithfully** in that **light**. This section reaches the **expected intensity** of the **whole book** with **grand promises** and **warnings** of the **culmination of God's eternal plan**, and the end of **world history**, such as **God's vengeance** on the **nations** and His **creation of the New Heavens and Earth**. The **future glory** of the **Lord's Kingdom** is **featured** as His **promised redemption** is **realized**. And so the **entire book**, as canonical Scripture, addresses **all the people of God** until Christ returns, to usher in the final and permanent glory of His Kingdom.

## **40-48 – Comfort – Redemption Promised**

This section opens with the **marvelous 40<sup>th</sup> chapter** is Isaiah with its **awe-inspiring revelation of God and His coming**, and His **Divine character and power**.

**Isaiah 40:1-5 - 1 "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. 2 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem And; call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." 3 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."** NASU

Not only does He **announce** the **forgiveness** of His people in **Jerusalem's sins**, but it will happen when **He comes** and **reveals** His **glory!** This of course is **quoted** by **John the Baptist** when He came to **"clear the way for the Lord,"** by calling His people to **repentance** (Matt 3:1-12), at the time when **Christ's ministry began**. The Lord **proceeds** to **instruct** them concerning the **folly** of **idolatry** and cause them to **consider** what they may **compare** to **God**. This begins a **series of self-revelation statements** from God designed to reveal His **glorious person** to them.

**Isaiah 40:12-15 - 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.**

In **light of God's exclusive** amazing **power** and **transcendence**, He asks them to consider the **idea of idols** which are **made by men's hands** from earthly materials.

**Isaiah 40:18-20 - 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? 19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. 20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.** NASU

How **absurd** and **ridiculous idolatry** is when you **know** who the **true God is**. It is an **unfathomably stupid enterprise** to craft an **idol** with your **hands** and then bow

down and **worship** it as your **God**. All the while the **true God** is **truly there** to be **freely worshipped**, and who **rewards** those who **seek Him** and **worship Him** in **truth!**

**Isaiah 40:25-26 - 5 "To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?"** says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see **who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.** NASU

Here in Israel's great **weakness of faith**, they can **hardly see** the **Lord**. They make an **accusation** of Him which **He takes** the next **7 chapters** to answer.

**Isaiah 40:27 - 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?** NASU

In His **great mercy**, God gives them **astounding revelation** of **His person** and **His work**, calling them to **take notice** of **His mercy** toward those who **wait for Him**.

**Isaiah 40:28-31 - 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.** 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, **31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.** NASU

**Chapters 41-47** are set up like a **trial scene** where **God** is **responding** to their **doubts** about **His care** for them and **their accusations** of His **neglect** with strong **arguments**. The **Babylonian Invasion** was **God's judgment** upon them for their continual **rejection** of **His Word** and their **idolatrous** and **sinful lifestyles** and **unfaithful worship**. God most certainly was **caring** for **them** as well, as He raised up **Persia** to **conquer Babylon**, so they could come **back** to **Judea** and **Jerusalem**, fulfilling **Isaiah's words**. The Lord wants them to see that **He** is **ruling history** and the **nations** with **meticulous Providence**. He raised up the **Persian King Cyrus** to release them from **captivity** and **provide** for them to **return** and **rebuild**, which is **exactly** what they did under **Cyrus' funding**, and **Ezra** and **Nehemiah's leadership**. Israel should see **God's hand at work** and so become his **servant** telling the **nations** about Him, but rather Israel still remains as **hard hearted** as their ancestors. Nevertheless, God will still **redeem them** and offer **His salvation** and

**forgiveness to the nations, which is the message in chapters 49-57. Some key texts in chapters 40-48 reveal the amazing trial discourse between God and Israel.**

Some **amazing promises** are couched in these **lengthy admonitions** from God to Israel.

**Isaiah 41:8-10 - 8 "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend, 9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. 10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'** NASU

Even as the **Lord** continues to **console them** with such **rich promises**, yet He calls them to **account** and **consider** their ways. It doesn't want them to be **demoralized** by the **impressive but empty culture of idolatry** in which they live.

**Isaiah 41:21-23 - 21 "Present your case," the Lord says. "Bring forward your strong arguments," The King of Jacob says. 22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.** NASU

There are several **Messianic Prophecies** in this section such as **42:1-4**. They must realize that their **future redemption** will **only come** from the **Servant of the Lord**, the **One God will send** to deliver them.

**Isaiah 42:1-4 - 42 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 "He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. 3 "A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 "He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; **And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."** NASU**

As He continues **His trial** with them, He makes **crystal clear** that they know that their **capture** and **exile** was a **judgment from Him** because of their **wickedness**.

**Isaiah 42:24-25 - 24 Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned, And in whose ways they were not willing to walk, And whose law they did not obey?** 25 So He poured out on him the heat of His anger And the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, Yet he did not recognize it; And it burned him, but he paid no attention. NASU

Here also is **rich promise of Divine love for Israel and reassurance of their regathering, deliverance, and future salvation.**

**Isaiah 43:1-7 - 43 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!** 2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. 3 "For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. 4 "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life. 5 "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west. 6 "I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth, 7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made." NASU

Here in the **trial God** calls them **His witnesses** to the fact that **He is God** and there is no other. Consider how the **Hebrew Bible**, which they have **Providentially and carefully transcribed** through the **ages**, bears **witness** to the **Special Revelation of God to all the world**, even now some **3000 years later**.

**Isaiah 43:10-14 - 10 "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. 11 "I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. 12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God. 13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?" NASU**

God has **chosen Israel exclusively** for this **purpose**, and **His calling and choosing them** to be His **witness servants** defines their **identity** as His own people. As Paul writes, this cannot be revoked.

**Romans 11:28-29** - 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, **but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.** NASB

Now here see the **great unassailable purpose** of **God** in **Israel's salvation**, He does it for His **own sake** and **His own glory**. As badly as they **have sinned** and **rejected Him** for **many millennia**, yet He will **finally save** them and **forgive their sins**. Israel will be **regathered** and **saved**, and **no one will reverse it!**

**Isaiah 43:25-27** - **25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.** 26 "Put Me in remembrance, let us argue our case together; State your cause, that you may be proved right. 27 "Your first forefather sinned, And your spokesmen have transgressed against Me. NASU

After declaring that He will **save Israel** with an **everlasting salvation**, He **invites all people** of the **earth** to come to **Him** and **be saved**.

**Isaiah 45:17-18** - **17 Israel has been saved by the Lord With an everlasting salvation; You will not be put to shame or humiliated To all eternity.** 18 For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), **"I am the Lord, and there is none else.** NASU  
**Isaiah 45:22-24** - **22 "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. 23 "I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. 24 "They will say of Me, 'Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.'**

After announcing the **fall and exile** of **Babylon** in **chapters 46-47** the **Lord** gives additional **consolation** to **Israel**. But the **greatest reason** for their **assurance** of His **Divine favor** and **salvation** is the fact that **He does it** for the **sake** of His **own glory**, and not for **anything in them**, but **in spite of** their **great sin** and **idolatry**. Although He has **patiently endured** their **rebellion**, yet He has sent upon them **purifying judgment**, even **captivity** and **exile** in **Babylon**, but **He has done it** for the **sake** of His **own glory**, for **He is God** and there is **no other**.

**Isaiah 48:9-11** - **9 "For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And for My praise I restrain it for you, In order not to cut you off.** 10 "Behold, I have



refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.  
**11 "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.** NASU

Although **chapter 45** clearly spoke of their **return to Jerusalem** under **Cyrus**, this section ends with an yet another announcement of their **freedom** and **deliverance** from **Babylonian captivity**.

**Isaiah 48:20 - 20** Go forth from Babylon! **Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, Send it out to the end of the earth; Say, "The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob."** NASU

### **49-55 Servant of the Lord – Redemption Provided**

Here in this section the **main character** is the **Servant of the Lord**, the One who **bring about** the **salvation** of **God's people** and **deliverance** from their sins, resulting in **reconciliation** with **God**. The **salvation** and **blessing** of God's people, is tied directly to the **results** of this Servant's work. Isaiah's **message of hope** is **fixated** on the coming **Messianic figure**, who will **by Himself** usher in the **Age of Glory** and is **Himself** the Glory of the Lord. God's people must **look to Him** by **faith** to find the **great Deliverer** and **realize** their **hope**. And so this section announces the arrival of the Messianic King and in Him **"The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed"** (40:5). But this **revealing** of **Glory** will come in a **way** that **no one** can fathom or **understand**, until it has taken place and God's salvation is accomplished. **Chapter 53** reveals that **God's Servant** will **die** as a **sacrifice** of **atonement** for His people to **reconcile** them to **God**, and thereby be the **victor** who brings an **astonishing display** of the **glory** of the **Lord** and fulfills God's **promise** of **deliverance** and **redemption** for His people. This section ends with **rich promises** of **consolation** and **blessings**, with an **invitation** for all peoples to **turn** to the **Lord** and enter into His **blessed covenant**. Chapter 49 introduces this **Servant** as the **chosen** of the **Lord**.

**Isaiah 49:1-3 - 49** Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. **The Lord called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. 2 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword,** In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. **3 He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory."** NASU

The **servant** of the **Lord** will not only **restore Israel** but will **save the nations** and take **God's salvation** to the **ends** of the **earth**.

**Isaiah 49:5-7** - 5 And now says the Lord, **who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him** (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, And My God is My strength), 6 He says, **"It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."** NASU

This section has many **rich promises** that are made to **God's people** of His favor and **blessing**. The **tone** is **thick** with **consolation** and **vivid images** of **Divine grace**. Although the people are in captivity in Babylon and feeling forgotten by God, yet the day of salvation will come.

**Isaiah 49:14-16** - **14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, And the Lord has forgotten me."** 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. **16 "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.** NASU

**God's Servant** is one who **knows Him intimately** and **listens to His Word**. God has given Him **ears to hear**. More, He is **willing to suffer reproach** and **pain to fulfill God's will**, and he will be **determined to fulfill it**. **God will help him** even as he **trusts in God** while **men reproach him**, yet he will **not be disgraced in the end**. These verses are full of **prophecies** that will come to **fulfilment in Jesus the Servant of the Lord**.

**Isaiah 50:4-7** - 4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, **That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word**. He awakens Me morning by morning, **He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.** 5 **The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back.** 6 **I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.** 7 **For the Lord God helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.** NASU

**Isaiah** swings back and forth from a **focus on the Servant** to the **results of His saving work**. It will **result in an everlasting salvation** (51:6, 8), with much **gladness** and **joy** that will **last forever**.

**Isaiah 51:11** - **11 So the ransomed of the Lord will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, And everlasting joy will be on their heads.** They will **obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.** NASU

There are **nuggets of glory** tucked away in **here**, many which are **quoted** in the **New Testament**, like this one quoted by **Paul** in Romans 10:15. The announcement of **salvation** for **God's people** in **repeated** several times here. Here the **"holy arm of God" v-10**, is a reference to the **Servant** who will be seen by all and bring **salvation** to all, **"That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our God."**

**Isaiah 52:7-10 - 7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"**

**8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes When the Lord restores Zion. 9 Break forth, shout joyfully together, You waste places of Jerusalem; For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our God.** NASU

Here see a **repeated theme** in Isaiah's **entire prophecy**, that God will **not only save and redeem Israel and Jerusalem (Zion)**, but will **bring His salvation** through the **Servant**, to **islands, coastlands**, and to the **ends of the earth**. This **salvation** is directly **tied** to the **work** of the **Suffering Servant** which is **specifically highlighted** in **52:13-53:12**. The number of **parallels** with the **Person and Work** of **Jesus** is **astonishing**, as these **specific details** of **His life and death** were **written 700 years** before He was **born**. The **plan of God** for this **Servant** will be **astonishing and abhorrent**, as He will be **despised and rejected by men**, yet **highly exalted by God** and seen by **all the nations**.

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - 13 Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men. 15 Thus He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, And what they had not heard they will understand.**

The **mystifying nature** of the **Servant's life** is **astonishing** and can hardly be believed. He is the **great King** of all the **earth** and **provides salvation** to the **ends of the earth**, yet He comes as a **humble baby**, and an **unimpressive** regular Jewish man from a **peasant** family. He was **rejected and despised** by people, a man of **sorrows**, who was **forsaken** by His **own people** and even those **closest to Him**.

**Isaiah 53:1-3 - 1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He grew up before Him like a tender**

**shoot,** And like a root out of parched ground; **He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.** NASU

Isaiah describes the **vicarious** (for us) and **substitutionary** (in our place) **nature** of the Servants death. **He bore our griefs, but He Himself was innocent.** The contrasts of our/He, He/we, He/our, Him/all, all show the **personal nature** of His **suffering for us, and in our place.** This Isaiah says was a **chastening from God** by whom He was **smitten**, but which **brings us well-being and healing.** **We** who **transgressed, and sinned and went astray,** turning from God, are **healed** by His being **stricken, smitten and afflicted by God.** All of **His suffering to atone** for our **transgressions and iniquity.**

**Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** NASU

The **Suffering Servant**, out of His **great devotion to God** and love for **His people,** takes the **weight and guilt of God's holy justice and wrath in place of His people.** How does the **great Servant King** display **His love for His people?** By dying in their place with a **vicarious substitutionary atonement.** **Christ** died for **our sins.** As Paul says so clearly in Romans.

**Romans 5:8 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** NASB

This is a **fulfillment** of the **Passover** and the **entire sacrificial system** and **Day of Atonement** in the **Mosaic Law,** with all of its **types** and **shadows** that **point to Christ.** The **unblemished lamb** (with bitter herbs), the **guilt offering,** the **scapegoat,** the **sprinkling of the blood** on the **atonement cover** (Mercy Seat), and so many other **types** and **shadows,** all point to this **One great sacrifice.** This Isaiah **highlights** with **pinpoint clarity.** And the **Servant** goes to **His death willingly,** and with **ardent intentionality,** without any **resistance.** NASU

**Isaiah 53:7-8 - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. 8** By oppression

and judgment He was taken away; **And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?** NASU

All of this **“For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due.”** Again **emphasizing** the vicarious nature of it all. Isaiah presents more **prophetic details** that are fulfilled in the **life, death, and burial** of Jesus Christ. His innocence as again stated, and yet this **qualified Him to satisfy God’s justice for sin**. This **“pleased”** the Lord because it **quenched** God’s fierce **wrath** entirely, to **expiate** the **guilt** of His people, to **set them free** because the **redemption price was paid**.

**Isaiah 53:9-10 - 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. 10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,** He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. NASU

Here also is a **promise of honor** for the **Servant**, **“He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.”**

This of course will **result** in His **everlasting Monarchy** to be **enjoyed** with His **own people**, for **whom He died**, in and **eternal world** of **beauty, joy and bliss**.

**Isaiah 53:11-12 - 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied;** By His knowledge the Righteous One, **My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.** NASU

Isaiah again repeats the **substitutionary nature** of the **Servant’s work**, which will **“11 justify the many,”** as **“12 He Himself bore the sin of many.”** Here also His suffering to **satisfy God’s justice** and **“justify the many,”** is given as the **reason** He will be **greatly rewarded** by God, **“12 Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.”** He therefore will receive **great honor, exaltation and reward**, **“11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied.”** As a **result and because of His work**, the **Servant** will be **exalted and rewarded**. **“12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong.”** This shows the **triumphant victory** that

the **Servant achieves** by His **suffering**. His **exaltation** is best described by **Paul** in **Philippians**, which also gives **His suffering** as the **reason** for His **exaltation**.

**Philippians 2:8-11** - 8 Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** 9 **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,** 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NASU

This section, **52:13-53:12** is the **fourth** and **last Servant Song** of **Isaiah** which highlights the **Condescension**, **Humiliation**, and **Exaltation** of the **Servant** of the **Lord**. It is one of the **most prophetically rich** and **profound passages** in the **entire Old Testament**. We would do well to **review it often**.

**Chapters 54-55** offer **compassion** for **God's people** with **rich promises** and **blessing** as a **result** of the **salvation** that the **Servant** has **worked** for them. It highlights not only the **salvation** of **Israel**, but also contains a **Gospel invitation** to all the **ends** of the **earth**. Here **God** calls Himself the **husband** of His **people**, and likens them to **wife** in whom **He will redeem** and have **everlasting compassion** on.

**Isaiah 54:4-8** - 4 **"Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced;** But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. 5 **"For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,** Who is called the God of all the earth. 6 **"For the Lord has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected,"** Says your God. 7 **"For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you.** 8 **"In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,"** Says the Lord your Redeemer. NASU

God speaks of the **certain assurance** of His **everlasting favor**, **compassion** and **peace** that they will have.

**Isaiah 54:10** - 10 **"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,"** Says the Lord who has compassion on you. NASU

God will be the **vindicator** of His **people**, and **no one** will be able to **accuse them**.

**Isaiah 54:17 - 17 "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.**

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And **their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.** NASU

So **great** is the **salvation** that the **Servant** has **worked**, and so **great** is the **favor** that **God** offers those **He saves**, that **Isaiah** must **announce** it to the **world**. **God** provides this **salvation** as a **free gift**, and **invites** the **nations** to come and **enjoy** it **freely**. **Pardon** for **sin** is available for **free**, but one must **come to God** and **seek His face** in **repentance** from **sin** to have it.

**Isaiah 55:1, 6-7 - 1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.... 6 Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.**

**"7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts,"** and **exchange** them for the **ways** and **thoughts** of **God!** These are so much **higher, better** and **wiser**.

**Isaiah 55:8-9 - 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.** NASU

In fact **God's ways** and **thoughts** are so **much higher**, we cannot even comprehend them often times. The **ESV Study Bible** comments' *"God, the incomparable Creator, is far above his finite creatures and beyond their ability to describe him or comprehend him fully; though they may know him truly, such knowledge is always partial and imperfect. But because God is perfectly wise in all his thoughts and ways, his people can take great comfort amid hardship and when inevitably they are unable to understand the mysteries and tragedies of life."* **end quote.** So **certain** and **sure**, so **powerful** and **effective**, **God's Word** always **accomplishes** the **thing** for which **He sends it**. It cannot fail, but will in fact accomplish all **God's good pleasure**, even the **salvation** of **His people**.

**Isaiah 55:8-9 - 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me**

**empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.** NASU

Here in this **section of Isaiah**, God has made so many **rich promises** of **eternal salvation** and **blessing**, and **His Word cannot fail** to **bring His people** into the full **possession** and **abundance** of it. The **Word of God's promise** is the very **means** which **brings it about**. He **sent the Word** to **accomplish salvation**, even **Jesus**, the **Living Word** Himself. The **Word of God** not only **describes a glorious future**, it is God's appointed means to **create that future**. And **certain** will be the **joy, peace** and **flourishing** of His **people**, and the **creation itself** will **rejoice** in that **Day**.

**Isaiah 55:12-13 - 12 "For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the Lord, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."** NASU

## **56-66 Future Glory – Redemption Realized**

**Chapters 56-66**, the **third major section**, contains much practical instruction and exhortations to **keep faith** and live **uprightly** before the **Lord**. It speaks to **all** who **hold fast** to **His covenant** and therefore prepares **all** of His **true people** for His promised salvation, calling them to **live faithfully**, as **56:1**, "**Keep justice and do righteousness.**" It exhorts the **faithful** to **genuine worship** and it **warns** the **wicked** of God's **impending judgment** for **wickedness** and **iniquity**. It surely is an **instruction book** for the **returned exiles**, explaining what **faithful worship** is like, and therefore **speaks** to all of **God's faithful people** of **all times**. Many of the **grand features** of Isaiah's earlier **allusions** find their **apex** here. With vivid images show **culmination of God's eternal plan** for the ages, and the end of **world history**, including **God's vengeance** on the **nations** and His **creation** of the **New Heavens and Earth**. The **future glory** of the **Lord's Kingdom** is **featured** as His promised **redemption** is **realized**. It begins with a **call to repentance** and **upright living**.

**Isaiah 56:1-2 - 1** Thus says the Lord, "**Preserve justice and do righteousness,** For My salvation is about to come And My righteousness to be revealed. **2 "How blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who takes hold of it; Who keeps from profaning the sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil."** NASU



Now the **nations** (foreigners) have **realized salvation** and **God instructs** them in **holy living** and gives **rich promises** of **blessing** and **favor** for the **faithful**.

**Isaiah 56:6-8** - 6 "Also **the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant;** 7 **Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; **For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."** 8 The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel,

declares, "Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered." NASU

**Chapter 57:1-13** is a **serious rebuke** to the **apostate Israelites** and the **wicked** of the **land**. It contains a list of **specific sins** and **idolatrous actions** with serious **condemnation** for it. It is a rebuke for those who **love their sin** more than **God** and do not **remember** or **fear Him**. What follows in **57:14-21** is an announcement for the **faithful** and **humble**, with **promises** of **peace** and God's **presence**.

**Isaiah 57:15** - 15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, **"I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.** NASU

**Chapters 58-59** are an exhortation to faithfulness in the ritual worship of the Lord. They contain **reproof** for **false piety** and **ingenuine worship** that is accompanied by **sinful lifestyles**. They contrast this with **promises** of **blessing** for **genuine worship** that is accompanied with **obedience** to **God's Word**. This whole section is full of contrasts between the **faithful** and the **wicked**. **Reproofs** and **warnings** for the **wicked**, and instructions and **promises** for the **faithful**. **59:9-15** is a **prayer** of **confession** and **repentance**. **Chapter 59** ends with a promise of **salvation** for those who **repent**.

**Isaiah 59:19-20** - **19 So they will fear the name of the Lord from the west And His glory from the rising of the sun,** For He will come like a rushing stream Which the wind of the Lord drives. **20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,"** declares the Lord. NASU

**Chapters 60-62** are announcement that **God's Kingdom** has **arrived** in the coming of His **anointed One**, the **Preacher** of His **salvation** and **faithful Word**.

**Isaiah 60:1-3 - 60 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. 3 "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. NASU**

God makes **astounding promises** to Israel and a **New Jerusalem**. There Israel will be **vindicated** in the **presence** of those who **afflicted** them.

**Isaiah 60:10-14 - 10 "Foreigners will build up your walls, And their kings will minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, And in My favor I have had compassion on you. 11 "Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession. 12 "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined. 13 "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious. 14 "The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. NASU**

**60:14-61:9** is prophecy concerning the **future glory** of Jerusalem. It will be **rebuilt** and **glorified** in a **day** when its people will be **revered above** all the **nations** of the world. The **nations** will stream to it and **enrich** the **people** of **Jerusalem** and they will be **honored** by all the people of the **earth**. Here in the midst of this section is a **familiar refrain** that **Jesus** quoted in **Luke 4:18**, on the day he **began** His ministry in Nazareth.

**Isaiah 61:1-3 - 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. NASU**

The **day** will arrive when **Isaiah's prophecy** will be **fulfilled**, and **Jesus** will bring that **very salvation** that **God promised** through His **mouth**. In days of the

Messiah, Jerusalem will be restored and its people redeemed. It will be the holy city of the Lord, and precious in His sight.

**Isaiah 62:1-3 - 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. 2 The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory;** And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the Lord will designate. **3 You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God.** NASU

Chapters 63-64 contain prayers for mercy and repentance. It begins with a terrifying scene of the Day of God's vengeance upon the nations.

**Isaiah 63:1-6 - 3** Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." **2** Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? **3** "I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. **I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. 4 "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. 5** "I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. **6 "I trod down the peoples in My anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."**

Chapter 64 ends with a plea for God's restoring mercy.

**Isaiah 64:8-12 - 8** But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand. **9 Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord, Nor remember iniquity forever;** Behold, look now, all of us are Your people. **10 Your holy cities have become a wilderness, Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. 11 Our holy and beautiful house, Where our fathers praised You, Has been burned by fire; And all our precious things have become a ruin. 12** Will You restrain Yourself at these things, O Lord? Will You keep silent and afflict us beyond measure? NASU

**Chapter 65 opens** with a declaration of **God's salvation** which He gave to the **Gentiles**, since His **chosen people Israel rejected His ways** and His **salvation**.

**Isaiah 65:1-3 - 1 "I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name. 2 "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, 3 A people who continually provoke Me to My face,** NASU

Yet He will **save a remnant** among them, and make their salvation a thing of glory and beauty.

**Isaiah 65:8-9 - 8 Thus says the Lord, "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, for there is benefit in it,' So I will act on behalf of My servants In order not to destroy all of them. 9 "I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, And an heir of My mountains from Judah; Even My chosen ones shall inherit it, And My servants will dwell there.** NASU

After more **reproofs** for the **wicked** and **warnings** of **judgment**, Isaiah makes one of the most **astounding prophecies** in the **Bible**, the creation of a **New Heavens and Earth**. This section contains *prophetic perspective* and looks to the **future age** in at least **two phases** which are **yet to come**. This is **clear** from the **fact** that we **know** there will be **no death** in the **New Creation** from **Revelation 21**, and yet here in this section people are **still dying**. It looks therefore into the **Millennial Age**, and beyond to the **New Heavens and Earth**, bringing **vivid images** from **both**.

**Isaiah 65:17-25 - 17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. 18 "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. 19 "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. 20 "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. 21 "They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 "They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. 23 "They will not labor in vain, Or bear children for calamity; For they are**

the offspring of those blessed by the Lord, And their descendants with them. 24 "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. 25 **"The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord.** NASU

Much **controversy** attends this **passage** and **plenty** of **fodder** for that discussion can be found in Study Bibles and commentaries. Nevertheless, it is **clear** that the **future age** will go **far beyond** anything the world has seen, and **God's people** will ultimately **realize** the **salvation** that **Servant** of the **Lord** has **wrought**, and even the **entire creation** will reach a **Day** of **transformation**. This of course was the **great hope** and **preaching** of the **Jesus** and the **Apostles**. As Paul wrote to the Romans

**Romans 8:18-25 - 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.** NASU

**Chapter 66** opens with a familiar verse where **God** reminds us that He is pleased with the **humble** and **contrite**.

**Isaiah 66:1-2 - 66** Thus says the Lord, **"Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the Lord. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.** NASU

As with much of Isaiah, **Chapter 66** concludes the **book** with **oracles of judgment** for the **wicked** and **promises of salvation** for the **faithful**, whom God has **redeemed**.

**Isaiah 66:10-17 - 10 "Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; Be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her,**  
11 **That you may nurse and be satisfied with her comforting breasts, That you may suck and be delighted with her bountiful bosom."** **12 For thus says the Lord, "Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;** And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. **13 "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem."**  
14 **Then you will see this, and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass; And the hand of the Lord will be made known to His servants, But He will be indignant toward His enemies. 15 For behold, the Lord will come in fire And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For the Lord will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the Lord will be many.** NASU

The **salvation** of the **nations** will **come** and **God's mercy** will reach the very **ends** of the **earth**. Amazing promises of **Gentile salvation** crown the **end** of the prophet Isaiah! They shall **gather together** with the **redeemed remnant** of **Israel**, in **Jerusalem**, and rejoice in an **eternal day** of **joy** in God's glorious presence.

**Isaiah 66:18-24 - 18 "For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.** 19 "I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. **And they will declare My glory among the nations. 20 "Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the Lord, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,"** says the Lord, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. **21 "I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,"** says the Lord. NASU

The last verses speak of the **eternal nature** of **God's saving work** and the **eternal life** of His people **dwelling in His presence**.

Isaiah 66:22-24 22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the Lord, "So your offspring and your name will endure. 23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the Lord. 24 "Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind." NASU

And even the **final destiny** of the **wicked** is repeated as a **final warning** to bring them to the **fear** of the **Lord**.