



Isaiah 64-66

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Isaiah 64-66
By Chuck Smith

The whole nation of Israel today, is seeking to relate to God on the basis of their righteousness. The day of atonement in which the sins of the nation were forgiven. It was a very solemn and awesome day. It was that one day of the year that the priest would take the blood of the sacrifice into the holy of holies, to offer it there before God for the sins of the nation. It was that day that they would cast lots, which goat would be, the goat that would be released, the sins placed upon it, and it'd be released in the wilderness, and which one would be sacrificed for the sin. It was a very solemn day as the high priest would go into the holy of holies, and there offer the blood of the sacrifice for the nation, and for the sins of the people. As time has gone, and traditions have substituted the law of God, as Jesus in His day said, "You do teach for doctrines, the traditions of man."

Now Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, has become to the Jew a day of reflection. They sit and reflect upon the past year. They reflect upon their sins, and upon their good works. They seek in that reflection, to balance their sin against the good works, and ideally your good works will overbalance your evil. So you will offer yourself to God on the basis of the good works that you have done. You will present to God, your righteousness, your good works. "Lord I gave so much to this charity, and I donated so much to the synagogue. You know, oh, I ripped that guy off, but Lord I gave part of it to you, you know." Ha, ha! So it is a, it's a balancing of the good against the evil.

Then they present to God their righteousness, for their covering or the atoning of their sins. They're hoping by their good works, that they can receive the atonement for their sin. But here, their scriptures declare that...

Our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. There's none that calls upon the name of the Lord, that stirs up himself to take hold of God: for you have hid your face from us, and you've consumed us because of our iniquities (64:6-7).

So, a nation turned against their Lord. All they had was a form of religion, but it is empty.

But now, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand (64:8).

So the prophet acknowledges here, "Lord, you're sovereign! You're the potter, we're the clay! We are the work of your hand!" Thus the plea...

Don't be [angry, actually] sorely angry, O Lord, neither remember the iniquity for ever: behold, we beseech you, we are all thy people. [They were the nation that God had chosen.] Thy holy cities though are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem is a desolation. Our holy and our beautiful house, [That is, the temple] where our fathers praised thee, is burned with fire: and all of our pleasant things are laid waste. [This had not happened yet, but the prophet is speaking prophetically of that which is going to happen to the temple.] Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O Lord? will you hold your peace, and afflict us sorely (64:9-12).

Chapter 65

So God responds to this prayer in chapter sixty five. Basically in His response, God is saying that He has rejected the people because they had rejected Him. Thus, He is going to do a work amongst the Gentiles. So He said...

I am sought by them that asked not for me; I am found by them that sought me not: I said, Behold ["Here I am! Behold!"] me, unto a nation that was not called by my name (65:1).

Paul in Romans takes this as the indication that God was offering His salvation to the Gentiles. Concerning Israel He said...

I have spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, which walked in a way that was not good, who are walking after their own thoughts (65:2).

All day long God's arms outstretched for these people. But they were rebellious, they walked in their own way.

A people that provoked me to anger continually to my face; [And He talks about] how they were sacrificing in their gardens, [It was a cultish practice of those days, these planting special plants in their gardens that were supposed to have certain kind of good effect and so forth, a lot of superstition and cultish practices.] they burnt incense upon the altars of brick; [Which was another cultish practice.] Which remain among the graves, [They would go in the tombs and have these seances and all.] and lodge in the monuments, they eat swine's flesh, and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels (65:3-4);

So they, they forsook the law of God. They were doing those things, eating those things that the Bible had declared to be unclean.

And yet they say, Stand over there, don't come near me; for I am holier than you. [Just this self-righteous kind of attitude, and yet they were so full of sin, so full of sin!] These [God said] are a smoke in my nose, [They are irritating, smoke in your nose is very irritating, and God said, "these are irritating!"] a fire that burneth all the day. [Nauseous smoke!] Behold it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but I will repay, I will repay [unto their bosom] into their bosom. For your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord, which have burned the incense on the mountains, and blasphemed me on the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, Don't destroy it; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all (65:5-8).

Now, God is speaking, and judgment is gonna come upon the nation, but yet, there are those that belong to God in the midst of this wickedness. God always has those who are faithful to Him, those that remain faithful and true to Him. Here's a nation that is turned its back on God. Here's a nation that is turning to all kinds of cultish practices. Yet, within that nation there are those that are like the good grapes, among the rotten. It's like finding a good grape amongst a lot of rotten grapes, and they say, "No don't destroy that! Save that, there's good juice in that!"

So that work now of separation. So God is gonna begin to speak now of the separation that He'll make between those that are truly seeking Him, those that are righteous, and those that are evil. "Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, Don't destroy it; for the blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all."

And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, [There are, there is that remnant, there are those who remain true to the Lord.] and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there (65:9).

There will be that faithful remnant that God will provide for, and take through. They shall inherit, the others will be cut off.

Sharon will be a fold for the flocks, [The beautiful valley of Sharon towards the west of Jerusalem.] and the valley of Achor [Towards the east of Jerusalem] will be a place for herds to lie in, for my people that have sought me (65:10).

The distinction between those that would not seek the Lord. God held His arms out all day long, but they would not respond. But yet, here are those that did seek the Lord, that did respond.

But [The Lord says] ye are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop (65:11),

Now the word "troop" there is the Hebrew word "Gad". Gad was one of the gods that was worshiped in those days. He was the god of good luck. So they were worshiping this god of good luck, Gad. "You prepared a table", they would prepare these little altars and tables for their gods, and so, "you prepare the table for Gad".

and you furnish the drink offering unto that number (65:11).

The word "number" there in Hebrew, is "meniy", which is "destiny", and he was one of the lesser false gods. The god of destiny. That, they prepared the drink offerings for this god "destiny", "meniy".

Therefore will I number you to the sword, [The judgment that will come.] you will all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear; but you did evil before my eyes, and you [did not choose that wherein that I delighted, you] did choose that wherein I delighted not (65:12).

“You chose the evil path.” Now the distinction...

Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold my servants shall eat, but you will be hungry: my servants will drink, but you will be thirsty: my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed: My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you will cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for the vexation of spirit. And you will leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servant by another name. [God will call His people by another name, and of course the name that had been given to God’s people is, “Christian”.] That he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, because they are hid from mine eyes (65:13-16).

During the time that Jeremiah was prophesying, which basically followed after Isaiah, Jeremiah was called to prophesy during the time that the nation of Israel, or actually the nation of Judah, the southern tribe, was to cease to exist as a nation. It was to go into captivity to Babylon. Jeremiah lived through the sieges of, of the Babylonian army.

From the time that Jeremiah’s describing, to the time of Jeremiah, things continued pretty much on the down hill road. This latter part of Jeremiah was probably written during the reign of Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah. Manasseh was an extremely wicked king. In fact, he was one of the most wicked of all of the kings who ever reigned in Judah. He brought in all kinds of, of horrible blasphemies. He was a horrible king. Really sort of sounded the death warrant for the nation, because of his wickedness.

Now there came times between now, and the end, where there was sort of a surface revival. Where they had a good king who would call the people to serve the Lord, and the people started going back to temple, and again the temple was filled with people, you know. It had been forsaken, it had been really cast out.

Got one thank you! I’ll take that one too! We had a Pastor’s conference this past week, and I spoke so many times I wrecked my voice. So your prayers are helping, I’m on my way out, and I feel great! It’s just the voice is gone.

But during these times where the people were going back to the temple it was just a, a surface kind of a movement. It wasn’t really touching the heart. So God said to Jeremiah, “Go down to the house of the Lord where the people are going in and cry to the people that are going into the temple, “Trust not in lying vanities saying, The temple of the Lord! The temple of the Lord! The temple of the Lord are these!”

There are many people today who are trusting in lying vanities. They think because they go to church, because they sing songs of worship, because they have certain good feelings, good vibes, that things are cool between them and God. That God accepts them, though they are living lives of open sin. They are doing those things that are an abomination unto God. They are living in adulterous relationships, or homosexual, or lesbian type of relationships, but yet they go to church, they sing the songs, and, and thus they are trusting in a lying vanity.

Here was Israel, many of their activities were religious kind of activities. But yet, their hearts were turned towards evil. God saw their hearts and their righteousness was as filthy rags in the sight of God! He wanted nothing to do with them!

So the Bible says, “Be not deceived. God is not mocked!” Yet it is mocking God to think that because you attend worship, or you lift your hands, and sing songs of praise, that God is going to accept your iniquitous lifestyle. That is a lie from the pit! Many people are being destroyed today in this kind of deception. “Oh I can still feel the Spirit of God, and I feel so close to God, and God speaks to me!” That’s a lying spirit. Satan has come as an angel of light to deceive. You’re guilty of, of the same sin of Israel. God said, “When you pray, I will not hear your prayers, for your hands are filled with blood.” Holding up bloody hands to God in prayer, and wanting God to hear it. So here God is saying that they have refused to listen to Him, and God is rejecting them.

But now with verse seventeen, we open a new thought. As God is talking about His servants who will

eat, who will rejoice, who will sing for joy of heart, He is saying...

For, behold, I am going to create [Heavens] new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy (65:17-18).

There's coming a new day. There's coming a new age, a true new age! Satan is offering his counterfeit today, and it is Satanic, this whole new age movement is cultish, and Satanic. But God's gonna bring a true new age! He's gonna create new heavens and a new earth. "The former will not be remembered, nor even brought into mind! Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create."

For [God said] I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying (65:19).

God shall wipe away all tears! God Himself will dwell with His people. A glorious new age!

Now this is a reference to the kingdom age that shall be established when Jesus returns to the earth. The earth will go through a real renovation process. God's gonna restore the earth. The earth has suffered as a result of sin. The earth has suffered more as the result of sinful man. I get very vexed when the ecologists and all try to blame the Judeo Christian ethic for all of our ecological problems! Like we Christians are out cutting down the forests, and we're building bonfires to pollute the air, you know, and it's all the Christian's fault, it's all the fault of the Judeo Christian ethic that says that, "God gave us dominion over the earth, we can do with the earth whatever we please!" God gave to us the earth to dress it, and to keep it, and to take care of it! Not to destroy it!

It is the greed of man that is destroying the earth. It's greedy commercialism that is cutting down the rain forests in Brazil. It's not, the church is not down there in Brazil cutting down the rain forests, and destroying all those trees! It's greedy commercialism! It vexes me when they try to lay the blame on the church, and upon the Christian ethic. We have respect for God's creation, and, and because we know the Creator, we have a respect of life. It isn't the Christians that are doing the polluting. It's not the non-Christian that's polluting this world. Sin pollutes. So the earth is suffering as the result of sin.

Before the time of the flood, living conditions were much better upon the earth, than they are today. Before the flood, there was a blanket surrounding the earth that was protecting it from much of the radiation that comes to the earth, from space. Because of this blanket of protection around the earth, men lived to be almost a thousand years old. If you'd die when you were eight hundred years old, they'd say, "Oh my what an untimely death! What a shame! He was only eight hundred and seventy five!" But trees grew much bigger. We, we have fossils of, of asparagus firs that are sixty feet high! Fossils of butterflies with wing spans of five feet! The, the living conditions were much better prior to the flood. But the flood came as a judgment of God against the sin of man, and with that deluge was the destruction of this vapor blanket that surrounded the earth, that did protect it from much of the cosmic bombardment. The neutrinos, and the other types of rays, the ultraviolet, and so forth that bombard the earth.

Even today, we are finding a further breakdown of some of the protection, the ozone blanket. We are experiencing even a greater bombardment of the ultraviolet rays and so forth on the earth, which are having their negative effect, skin cancers and all.

But things are gonna be changed. The result of sin, and the curse of sin will be removed. Once again the earth will be a beautiful verdant place. It used to be that at the poles there were beautiful forests. Up in the frozen tundra of Siberia they found mammoths with tropical vegetation in their digestive tracts. Frozen solid there in that tundra, preserved for years and years! Under the south pole, the two hundred feet of ice there in the south pole region, they discovered huge beds of charcoal. There were once forests down there.

But God's going to restore the earth, it'll again be just a beautiful, beautiful verdant place without sin. Thus God said, "I'm gonna create the new heavens and the new earth. Heavens without the pollution that we have today. A new earth without the pollution that it experiences. It'll be so glorious we won't even remember the former. "It won't be remembered, or come into mind. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and in my people. There'll be no more weeping, no more sorrow, nor more tears." God says...

There shall no more thence be an infant that has not fulfilled his days: [There won't be any small children dying.] nor an old man that has not fulfilled his days: for a child will die being a hundred years old;

[So again that longevity like was at the time before the flood, where you're, you're just, you know you were still a child, you hadn't really grown up yet, you're at a hundred years old.] *but the sinner being a hundred years old will be accursed (65:20).*

Now when Christ returns to the earth to establish His kingdom upon the earth, and we, His people, return with Him, He will gather together the nations for judgment. He will determine at that point, which people will be able to go into this ideal time, and which will not. He'll separate them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. To those on His right hand, He'll say, "Come ye blessed of the Father, inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you from the foundations of the earth." To the others, He'll say, "Depart from me into the fires that were prepared for Satan and his angels."

But there will be some people who will be allowed to live on into the kingdom age, who will still be in their natural bodies. We will have our new bodies by then. But there will be people who will live into that new age, who have survived the great tribulation, who have not worshiped the beast or his image, and they will be allowed to come on into this kingdom age. However, they will be forced to be righteous. We will rule with a rod of iron. It'll be an iron clad type of rule that Jesus will have over the earth. People will be forced to be righteous. So a person who is a sinner, they will die untimely deaths. Being a hundred years, the sinner being a hundred years old will be a curse. Now in this period...

They will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them (65:21).

During the period of Isaiah, the period of the wars and all, with people invading other places. You build a house and they come in and drive you out of it, and move in. You would plant your vineyard, and they would drive you out, and they would take over your vineyard.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they will not plant and another eat: for as the days of the tree are the days of my people, [Like the old redwood that's a hundred, or nine hundred thousand years old, General Grant up there in Sequoia, and so...] mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. For they shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. [God's immediate response to the prayers.] The wolf and the lamb will feed together, the lion will eat straw like the bullock: and the dust shall be the serpent's meat. [The, the snake will no longer be a dangerous kind of a reptile.] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord (65:22-25).

Chapter 66

Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool (66:1):

Now this is again what the call the anthropomorphic concept of God. Sitting on the throne, heaven is His throne, and His feet are upon the earth, the earth is His footstool.

where is the house that you build unto me? and where is the place of my rest (66:1)?

Now when Solomon built the temple, Solomon said, "We know Lord that the heavens of heaven cannot contain thee. How much less this house that we have built?"

We talk about the house of the Lord, "Oh let's build a house of the Lord". Well, the heaven is His throne, the earth is His footstool, what kind of a place can you build for God to rest in? Is basically what God is saying. So we build a place where we can come and worship God, where we can come and, and study the word of God. But God surely can't be confined within this building!

For all of those things hath my hand made, [So if we made this out of, out of wood, but who created the trees from which we got the wood? You know so, God said, "It was all mine to begin with!" You say, "Well look God we're gonna give this to you." "It's mine to begin with you know! You took it from me, and now giving it back in a new form." So, "It was all mine, I made it."

all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word (66:2).

That's the man God is looking for, poor in spirit, contrite in heart. A man who trembles at the word of God, doesn't argue with the word of God, doesn't try to twist the word of God, doesn't try to accommodate the word of God to his style of life. I'm amazed what people can prove from the Greek language about the

scriptures! Whenever they want it to read something opposite, they'll always refer to the Greek. But that isn't the Greek that I studied! It's all Greek to me! But I mean it's just sad. People should tremble at the word of God, not try to change and twist it, bend it.

So those people who are living in sin, those people who are flaunting themselves, and their lives against the word of God, are like...

One that kills an ox [But God sees it] as though he killed a man; [I mean here I killed this ox for a sacrifice to God, and God said,] you'd just as well have killed a man, [Here I'm sacrificing this lamb to God. God said,] just as well cut off a dog's neck; he that offers the oblation, [upon the altar] is as though he is offering swine's blood; [God will not receive it, God does not receive your worship if your heart is fowled with evil, it's an insult unto God.] and he that burneth incense, as though he blessed an idol. They have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations (66:3).

They haven't chosen God's way. They've gone their own ways, and yet they want God to approve it. They want some sanction from God for it. God refuses to do so.

I also will choose their delusions (66:4),

They are deluded when they think that God will tolerate, and "God really doesn't care", and, "God really approves of what they're doing. They're deluded. "I will choose their delusions. The Bible says, "Because they did not have the love of the truth, God will bring them a strong delusion, and they'll believe a lie rather than the truth."

and I will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, they did not answer; when I spoke, they did not hear: [They would not hear to the word of God, heed to the word of God.] but they did evil before my eyes, and they chose that which I did not delight. Hear the word of the Lord, you that tremble at his word; Your brothers that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, [Now God turns to the others, those that were true to the word, those who loved the word, and trembled at the word, "hated, your brothers hated you, they cast you out for my name's sake".] they said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that renders recompense to his enemies (66:4-6).

Now talking about the rebirth of the nation of Israel.

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. And who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such a thing? 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 (66:7-8).

The nation of Israel born in a day. God is doing a work, regathering them into the land. The Lord said, "I will say to the north, Let my people go!", and Russia has released the Jews, two hundred thousand have already returned to Israel. The Lord said, "I will say to the king of the south, Let them go!"

We know just this past month from Ethiopia, fourteen thousand Jews were taken to Israel in these jumbo 747's. They took out all the seats, and let the people just sit on the floor. They set some kind of a record. They had over one thousand people in that jumbo 747, flying from Ethiopia! Israel brought back fourteen thousand people in twenty four hours in this air lift from Ethiopia! Jeremiah when he speaks about to the south letting them go said, "They shall come pregnant and bearing children". During the flights, five children were born. I mean, that was pretty literal that God fulfilled that prophecy! *Shall I bring to birth, and not cause her to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That you may nurse, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that you may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: [This is, this is the new Jerusalem, the new Israel that God will establish when Jesus returns, "peace like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream".] then you will nurse, and you have borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees (66:9-12).*

The custom is to carry the children on their, on their hip. They'd stand sort of sideways, and make sort of a seizure for the kid and hold them up against their side. So, "borne on her sides, and dandled on her

knees”.

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when you shall see this, your heart shall rejoice (66:13-14),

I can hardly wait really for God’s kingdom. You know, I am so sick of this world. I’m so sick of what’s going on in this world! I can hardly wait for this, this prophecy to be fulfilled! For the Lord to establish His righteous kingdom. For that day to come when we will journey together to Jerusalem, to worship the Lord. The Lord will be there, dwelling there, ruling the earth from there! The world, God’s peace like a river, filling the world, comforted by the Lord. Rejoicing!

your bones will flourish like a vegetable: and the hand of the Lord will be known toward his servants, and his indignation towards his enemies (66:14).

The judgment of God upon the enemies. Now before the Lord sets up His kingdom, and this is what we’re gonna get into now, before the Lord sets up His kingdom He is going to judge the earth, and the wicked that are in the earth. It’s going to be fierce, it’s going to be awesome. It’s going to be a time of trouble such as the world has never seen before, or will ever see again. The greatest days of judgment that the world has ever seen, are right around the corner. So, indignation, and that is a word that is used in the Old Testament, for the great tribulation. “Indignation towards His enemies.”

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. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many (66:15-16).

Now I’ve heard slain of the, in the Spirit, and this is the closest scriptural thing I can find to that “slain in the Spirit”. It’s the slain of the Lord. But it’s talking about the great tribulation and the judgment of God. They that, they don’t get up after that one!

They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree, and in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, the abomination, eating mice, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord. [All of these abominable practices and people that have been doing these things will be consumed.] For I know their works and their thoughts: and it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and they shall see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations to Tarshish, and Pul, and Lud, and draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, and to the isles that are afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles (66:17-19).

This kingdom age that will come. We will be sent out from the Lord to rule over the earth. We will declare the glory of the Lord among all nations.

And they shall bring all your bretheren [This moves back now after the great judgment when the Lord has established His kingdom, “they shall bring all your bretheren”.] for an offering unto the Lord out of the nations upon horses, in chariots, in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And I will also take of them for priests and Levites, saith the Lord (66:20-21).

In Revelation the first chapter, as it talks about Jesus, it speaks, “who hath made us unto our God, kings and priests, and we shall reign with Him upon the earth”. So the Lord is going to take out of the Gentiles, those who will represent Him. A priest is one who represents the people to God, and represents God to the people. So we will be a kingdom of priests. We will reign with Him upon the earth. We will be in various parts of the earth, ruling over the earth, and representing the Lord’s righteous reign among the people. So, “He will take of them”, that is of the Gentiles, “for priest and for Levites, saith the Lord.”

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I make, will remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. [God’s eternal blessing!] And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord (66:22-23).

There you have the glorious kingdom age, the reign of Christ, and His reigning from Jerusalem!

Now the final thing is negative.

They shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their

worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh (66:24).

Those that are being punished of God. Now when Jesus, in the New Testament, in the gospel of Mark, chapter nine, as Jesus was talking to the Pharisees really, and rebuking the Pharisees, verse forty two He said, “Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me”, and that, this is a, this is a solemn warning for those who would seek to destroy the faith of a child. Those who would seek to pollute the minds of those who believe in the Lord. “Whosoever will offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone”.

Now millstones are huge rocks, I’ve seen them as big as this pulpit, but out of rocks. They must weigh a ton! “It was better for him that they put a millstone about his neck, and throw him in the sea.” “For if your hand offends you, cut it off, it’s better for you to enter into life maimed, than having two hands, going to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Those are the words of Jesus.

Now I don’t care what the Jehovah Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists or whatever say about hell. I think Jesus has the best authority. He speaks pretty severely. I think that this watered down concept of the judgment of the wicked, takes away an urgency for preaching the gospel to everybody. It takes away the urgency of witnessing. If we really knew the punishment that was going to come upon the sinner, we would be far more industrious in our witness for Jesus Christ. Far more fervent in seeking to turn them to the gospel!

So Jesus is, is quoting here from Isaiah, “as they go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me”, the Lord said, “their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched. They will be an abhorrence to all flesh.” What is meant by that? Plain and obvious, meaning is usually the correct interpretation of a scripture. I’m not gonna mess with it! I’m gonna let it stand. I’m not gonna try to modify it, I’m not gonna try to gloss it, it’s there. It’s God’s word, and we do well to take heed to the word of God. we may not approve of it, it may be abhorrent to us, but this is what God has declared, and God’s word shall stand.

Father we thank You for Your word, but we thank You for Your promises that You’ve made for those who will live godly lives, in accordance to Your Word, and Your will. So Father help us. We can definitely see there are two categories here, those that followed, and received Your salvation, and those who closed their ears to the truth, did their own abominable practices, defying Your Word. Lord we want to be those that obey Your Word, and follow after truth. Lead us Lord into Your truth. Guide us by Your Spirit. Lord our hearts long, and we pray, Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done, in this earth Lord, even as it is in heaven. And Lord, come quickly! In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.