

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
Chapters 66 – Hope, Encouragement, and Deliverance

Introduction

Beginning about this time of Isaiah's prophecy, even though most of the nation is caught up in idol worship, the overall tone of Isaiah's message shifts' focus from judgment to that of hope, encouragement, and deliverance for Israel, and for the whole Gentile world. Thus, the title of our study for this final chapter of Isaiah is "**Hope, Encouragement, and Deliverance.**" And we today know that all hope, encouragement, and deliverance came with the Lord Jesus Christ, alone; in his finish work of "sacrifice on the cross, and resurrection from the dead." Now, he is alive for evermore, Amen.

The Years of Isaiah's Prophecy

As we study the chapters of Isaiah, it is important that we try to establish in our mind the time frame of Isaiah's prophecies, because there are those that would try to discredit scripture as being written or edited after prophetic events; therefore, prophecy not really being prophecy would be their conclusion.

Over the centuries secular history has unwittingly verified the occurrences of many Biblical prophecies.

The approach being taken in our studies is that, if any prophetic events have not been recorded by secular history, the prophecies simply were not noticed, or just have not come to past as of yet.

The first chapter of Isaiah tell us that Isaiah's prophecy continued during the reign of four kings in Judah, beginning sometime during the years of the rule of Uzziah (or Azariah; 2Kings 14:21). Uzziah's reign started about 805 B.C., and lasted 52 years (2Chron 26:1-3, 26:23; 2Kings 14:21, 15:1 – 7). Hezekiah was the last king during the time of Isaiah's prophecy. Hezekiah's reign was 29 years, and ended about 698 B.C. (2Kings 18:13, 20:6; Isaiah Chapters 36 – 39).

King Jotham (2Kings 15:32-33) and Ahaz (2Chron 27:1, 2Kings 16:1) ruled between Uzziah and Hezekiah, for 16 years each. From this bit of information and references we can estimate that Isaiah's prophecy lasted a minimum of 61 years.

The Old Testament does not speak specifically of Isaiah's death, but there seems to be a consensus among some Bible teachers that says he was martyred by King Manasseh, Hezekiah's son. This may or may not be factual, but the Book of Isaiah does not mention any king of Israel beyond Hezekiah.

Even though the LORD has declared judgments upon Israel and Jerusalem for their sins/idolatry and iniquity, He shall not allow the entire nation to perish; but he has pardon the iniquity of Judah/Jerusalem for his own sake, according to his purpose, as Isaiah and other men of God describe throughout scripture. Judah is that remnant he shall keep for himself.

Chapter 66

The LORD God can not be contained. David, the great king of Israel understood this. Yet he was compelled to honor God by providing resources for his son, Solomon to build the Temple at Jerusalem (1 Chronicles Chapter 28), which we understand is called “the House of God”.

Isa 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest?

Isa 66:2 For all those (***heaven, earth, and the things thereof***) hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: but to this (***character of***) *man* will I look (***honor?***), *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at (***or pay attention to***) my word.

Idol worship, iniquity, and disobedience causes those things set aside by God to become perverted in His eyes, and have no meaning according to His intended purpose:

Isa 66:3 He (***idol worshiper, the unrepentant, and disobedient***) that killeth an ox *is as if* he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, *as if* he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, *as if he offered* swine's blood; he that burneth incense, *as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they (***the idol worshiper and disobedient***) have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

Isa 66:4 I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose *that* in which I delighted not.

Isa 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble (***honor, believe, respect***) at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he (***the LORD***) shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. (***For those of you that reverence the word of the LORD: but then they, your brethren, that cast you out thinking that they are doing the LORD a favor shall be ashamed when the LORD appear for you. Then you will have joy***)

In Verses 66:6 through 66:16 Isaiah is putting forth a final prophecy of deliverance; not just for the redeemed remnant of Judah at Jerusalem, but for redeemed Gentiles along with Israel:

Isa 66:6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies.

Isa 66:7 Before she (***Judah of Israel***) travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

Isa 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? 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. ***Judah of Israel became a nation again in 1948 A.D., having been destroyed by the Roman Empire in 70 A.D.***

The Lord is well able to finish everything he began according to his purpose. Thus, the LORD God purposed to deliver Israel, and that is just what he shall do.

Isa 66:9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut *the womb?* saith thy God.

God instructs those that care for and love Israel to rejoice with her:

Isa 66:10 Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:

Isa 66:11 That ye may suck (***be nourished***), and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

Deliverance for the saints of God, Jew and Gentile:

Isa 66:12 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her (***Jerusalem/ Judah of Israel***) like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles (***Church??***) like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon *her* sides, and be dandled upon *her* knees.

Isa 66:13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Isa 66:14 And when ye see *this*, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants (***Jew and Gentile***), and *his* indignation toward his enemies.

Isa 66:15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Isa 66:16 For by fire (***Holy Spirit??***) and by his sword (***word, Jesus??***) will the LORD plead (***make an emotional appeal***) with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many (***because they did not heed his appeal???***).

The LORD God shall even makes use of the disobedient, and idol worshipper that does not repentant according to his purpose, then they shall be consumed. Salvation for their deliverance has been provided, but they refused to accept it:

Isa 66:17 They that sanctify themselves (***notice, God did not sanctify them***), and purify themselves (***nor did God purify them***) in the gardens behind one *tree* in the midst (***which is the place they built to practice their idolatry***), eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. (***The main/ weightier matter here is "idol worship". And whether they are guilty of eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse or no, does not make the situation more, or less serious!!***).

Isa 66:18 For I *know* their (***the idol worshiper, the unrepentant, and disobedient***) works and their thoughts: it (***the time***) shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory (***this will surely take place at the judgment, but is there also a time before then, which is Revelation 19:11 through 19:21???***).

Isa 66:19 And I will set a sign (***Jesus??***) among them (***idol worshipers, the unrepentant, and disobedient***), and I will send those that escape (***survive***) of them unto the nations, *to* Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, *to* Tubal, and Javan, *to* the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Isa 66:20 And they (***the Gentiles***) shall bring all your (***Jewish***) brethren *for* an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and 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 into the house of the LORD.

Isa 66:21 And I will also take of them (*the Gentiles, Jewish brethren returning to Jerusalem, or both??*) for priests *and* for Levites, saith the LORD.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Isa 66:24 And 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 abhorring unto all flesh.