

ISAIAH 66 vs 1

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The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first**: chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second**: chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



In this chapter, the temple is slighted in comparison with a gracious soul. He didn't need a temple. Heaven is the throne of His glory and government. And sacrifices are slighted when they come from ungracious hands – Matthew Henry.

¹ Thus says the LORD,

Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool:

where then is a house that you could build Me? / at his martyrdom, Stephen the young Greek, resented by the faithless, envious religious leaders who preferred their artificial traditions... who lost their secure foundation built on the Word of the Lord; with the reminder of these words, [Stephen's death was sealed that day](#). For the most part, the church in the west have ignored these words... as they ignore most of what Jesus the good Pastor came to teach us. They had 700 years of fair warning we have had 2700 years; too bad most don't pay attention to His words:

and where is a place that I may rest?/ certainly, it wasn't in that brick and stone place that roman soldiers knocked down a few years later... just as Jesus prophesied, not a stone of "their house" -- no longer His Father's house... would be standing. Now days, some in the church, like homeless in the street are waiting around waiting for__ some cathedral-like building to be constructed before Messiah comes. Why? Even king David thought he had a good idea about the subject. I bet from his vantage point today, David has kicked himself in the butt over his idea. It's a classic reason: Jesus said: change your thinking!

² For My hand made all, thus all exists, says the LORD:

but to this one I will look, even to the poor / the lowly; in Hebrew: used 13 times by the prophet;

and broken hearted, who tremble at My word / those filled with crushed and destroyed hopes and dreams; Jesus the last night He lived among us, the night He was betrayed said: [If it wasn't so; I would have told you](#). What He told us can be trusted... even today in our 21st century,

³ He who kills an ox is like one who slays a man, he who sacrifices a lamb, is like he cut off a dog's neck / loveless, callous; hard hearted; we see it in our endless wars generation; as drones are flying, as saints are beheaded and millions are displaced -- of course, at tax payers' expense; while the church in the west takes a snooze; or goes on some cruise, or sporting event; while the lowly are abused;

he who offers a free-will offering, is like he offered swine's blood; he who burns incense / or lights their candles, is like he bowed his knee to evil.

As they have chosen their ways and their soul delights in their abominations / and the Lord God is in a hurry: He doesn't have time to spell out all their ways; God told us what grabbed His attention; Daniel tells us there will come a time of spreading abomination – a time of extreme disgust and hatred.

They did it their way; like the people now days, lovers of self rather than lovers of God... deceived to think their new way, was the better way as violence increases, no different than in the days of Noah; only then -- while chewing their gum, they complain: Where is God? If God is, why does all this evil to happen to meee?

And what is the LORD's response to their genius grumbling?

4 I will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them / note: God does not design some punishment... but to their secret imaginations He will say: **Your will be done!** But will He give them a push? No sense in delaying the inevitable, right? Their own thoughts drive them to their worst nightmare;

because [1] when I called, no one answered; [2] when I spoke, they did not listen: but did evil in My sight, and chose what did not delight Me / God is not obligated to jump into anybody's creative business; so those who presume It's their life! What did they do to start it? What if life is simply rented out to the tenants? Tell me, how often do you remind your lungs to breathe? Just curious.

5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word; Your brethren who hate you, who cast you out / who exclude you... for My name's sake,

who mockingly say, Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy / they are scoffing God; they think they can evaluate Him; earlier Isaiah wrote those who say: Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so we see it; Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so we may know it -- Isaiah 5:

but they will be ashamed / in Hebrew: **bos**...they thought the prophet said: they are the **boss**, but they weren't listening, he said a diminutive of **boshet**; so don't listen to what angry critics say. Once during a prison ministry, a young guy who visibly had a hard life full of endless disappointments... and was incarcerated for turning to crime, he stood up and said, **but they never respected me for who I am and for all the work I did**. Don't worry about the world, just keep walking. They put Christ on the cross; so, learn to take up your cross daily, it's healthy; it keeps us sane! Jesus said: we will have trouble.

6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD who renders recompence to his enemies / and don't you wonder: what's ALL the uproar about? Isaiah wrote: there will be a time of great joy; there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and great rejoicing for the new Jerusalem; for the new temple where God and the Lamb are the light, so it's not made with human hands. When God speaks He is not kidding; no one can imagine all God has prepared for those who wait for Him.

The Rebirth of Israel, The next 3 verses are a metaphor describing God's fulfillment to His word.

7 Before she travailed she brought forth / the city of God; like the barren woman mentioned earlier,

before her pain came, she gave birth to a man child.

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8 Who has heard such a thing? who has seen such things?

Can a nation be born in a day? / this verse drives our Jewish cousins today as they know it happened in our generation; the LORD says to Isaiah and to those listening of earlier times: watch and see;

As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

9 Will I bring it to the point of birth, and not cause its delivery? says the LORD / NO! the LORD will not terminate His pregnant words... racing toward fruition; He will not abort His promises:

Or will I who give its delivery, shut the womb? says your God. **NO!**

10 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her / for 3,000 years the people of God have sung that great song which says: **build up her walls; pray for the peace of Jerusalem; those who do will prosper** / they will find rest -- Psalm 122. Those who aren't glad with her, those who don't sing along... give evidence in the history of the world... they don't love Jerusalem;

rejoice with her, all you who mourn for her / so these words speak to all who pray for Jerusalem; who mourn for the tragic condition of the divided, fractured old City that desperately needs a makeover:

11 that you ruled by God may nurse, and be satisfied with her comforting breasts; that you may drink fully, and be delighted with her bountiful bosom / **the rebirth of Israel**, like a newborn vulnerable, helpless just needing to survive; completely unaware of every danger that is ready to destroy.

12 For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will extend peace to her / Jerusalem... like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then you ruled by God will be nursed, you will be borne upon her side, and be dandled / playfully bounced... upon her knees.

13 As one whom his mother comforts, / Martin Luther said: starting with a loving mother who changed our dirty diapers every day; who put meals on the table; who sang to us and so much more,

so I will comfort you, and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

14 And when you see this / when Israel, the nation is reborn, on May 1948, **your heart will rejoice, and your bones will flourish like the new grass: and the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, and His indignation to His enemies.**

The Poison of Subjectivism – CSLewisDoodle my feelings

3 Days are still on His Calendar

Every Praise

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.