

# ISAIAH 66 vs 15

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



In the first part of this chapter, we learn who really gets the Lord's attention; and who doesn't. We learn that the lowly, broken hearted who tremble at His word... **get His attention**. Those who yawn at His word, who mock His word, who casually perform their religious duties going through the motions without any sweat on their palms without taking anything to heart... they do not. The LORD said: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God, more than burnt offerings -- Hosea 4; 6.

The LORD like a concerned mother... lovingly assures His vulnerable people, once again Jerusalem would rejoice greatly... until then, patiently wait for Him; when that time comes, it will be sudden. But first they had a lesson to learn about trusting their God who made heaven and earth, and who chose them... the least among the nations... to declare His great Name to those nations.

**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** / He will come to turn up the heat; to burn away the chaff and all impurities; and when He comes, it will be swift; this Day of wrath Moses and the prophets told us all about; it is **the 6<sup>th</sup> Day belonging to the Lord**. Paul informs the Thessalonians so they are not ignorant: God has not appointed us to wrath, but to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**16 For the LORD will execute judgment by fire and by His sword with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD will be many** / the LORD will pass judgment on the whole world.

**17 Those who sanctify and purify themselves in the gardens,**

**behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, detestable things and mice** / Jesus prayed the last night He lived among us: Father, sanctify them in Your Word; Your word is truth -- **John 17**. We are made whole when we stay close to God; we stay close to Him when we ingest what He told His people.

This verse is best understood after re-reading what Isaiah previously spoke: **Isaiah 65:2-7**,

**They who sanctify and purify themselves in the gardens**

**and the abomination, and the mouse** / these words describe those playing games with every creepy thing that is offensive to God,

**From Isaiah 1**: The ox knows its owner... but Israel does not know. The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint, there is nothing sound. Unless the Lord had left us a remnant – a few survivors... we would be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

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They will be ashamed of the oaks they have desired, and you will be confounded for the gardens – the secret places you have chosen. And the strong will be as tinder and his work as a spark... and they will both burn together, and none will quench them – **Isaiah 1:3,5**.

Isaiah wrote 2,700 years ago... and this still goes on today. God knows the heart; and the games, first played in the Garden of Eden, now alluring our generation; we are no match for the adversary of our soul.

**They who sanctify and purify themselves in the gardens... will be consumed altogether, says the LORD.**

**<sup>18</sup> For I know their works and their thoughts: the time is coming, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they will come, and see My glory I will send to the nations, to Tarshish** / He knows their actions and vain imaginations; He knows what is going on; but do they know when Messiah comes in great glory.

**<sup>19</sup> And I will set a sign among them and those that escape from them** / the Son of man, the Messiah will point the nations to God; those who survive the time leading up to His coming; it will be a terrifying time here: Daniel writes: many will be whitened, and brightened and assayed; Ezekiel says, the whole house will wake up like an army... for the terrible testing that will come on all who dwell on the earth.

**to Tarshish** / Gibraltar of the house and commonwealth of Ephraim,

**to Pul, Lydians who draw the bow** /in Asia Minor = Turkey known for archery and military expertise,

**to Lud, Libyans** / north Africa currently destabilized,

**to Tubal and Javan** / some say Asia minor and Greece; others say those associated with Meshech and Rosh = modern day Russia / modern day Greece,

**to the isles far away, that have not heard My fame, and not seen My glory; and they will declare My glory among the Gentiles.** / the prophet told us, **the islands of the East will be singing praise to our God** – **Isaiah 24**; Well, for 100 years they have been practicing. Check out our Brothers and Sisters in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia and the other islands; **Wiles Memorial Singers Vanuatu Gospel Praise** **Solomon Island ScriptureVibes** **JESUS IT IS YOU**: Check out our growing links to God's people singing around the world: **The Songlist**

**<sup>20</sup> And they will bring all your brothers from all nations... to My holy mountain Jerusalem, for an offering to the LORD... on horses, and in chariots, and on stretchers, and on mules, and on swift beasts, says the LORD,**

**as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.**

**<sup>21</sup> And I will also take of them for Levitical priests, says the LORD** / apparently, some from all the nations will become teachers after the priesthood of Melchizedek... in the millennial kingdom.

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<sup>22</sup> For as the new heavens and the new earth, that I will make, will endure before Me, says the LORD, your offspring and your name will endure.

<sup>23</sup> And it will be from new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to worship before Me, says the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> And they will go forth, and look on the carcasses of those who rebelled against Me: for their worm will not die, / what putrefying scum generated in their death will not die, some people just can't imagine God condemning people to hell forever. But this sobering verse seems to suggest differently. I have no interest in pondering the thought that God will say to some, Depart from Me you lawless ones. I never knew you. When He says depart from Me, I have wondered, where will they go? Into utter darkness? Will they go voluntarily? Or will they be forced? God, who is pretty smart, seems to know lots of things that we don't; so when He says, I never knew you, what they became was the furthest thing from His mind.

nor will their fire be quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all flesh.

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