



Isaiah 66

We have come to the final page of this amazing prophetic book. Isaiah has been writing this for decades, looking at the present, looking about 150 years into the future and then looking about 700 years into the days of the Messiah. The final chapter is like a summary of the book. For those who ignore God, trouble will come. For those who obey the Lord, blessings and salvation.

Chapter 66

This Chapter is a reminder of the rebuke and blessings in the Lord.

1. The greatness of God is shown (1-2)
 - God is much more interested in the spirit that dwells within us than a house of worship
2. God has no delight in a heart that is not sincere (3-4)
 - there is a sense of good worship (grain offering, incense, sacrifices)
 - these are ruined by a spirit that is selfish, ignores God and does what it pleases
 - these "right" practices are ruined by a wrong spirit
3. Those that harm God's people will receive punishment (5-6)
4. The blessings in the new Zion (7-14)
 - a unique beginning (7-9)
 - great rejoicing (10-11)
 - peace will spread like a river (12)
 - God's people will be watched over like a mother watches her child (12-13)
 - These times will flourish (14)
5. God's wrath will be extended towards those who dishonor Him (15-17)
6. The glory of the Lord will be displayed to all the world (18-24)
 - the priesthood of believers is extended (21; remember 1 Pet 2:9)
7. The chapter and the book of Isaiah ends with a warning towards those who transgressed God (24)
 - the image is used by the Lord in the book of Mark to describe Hell (9:48)
 - in many ways the book ends as it began (see 1:2)

The book of Isaiah illustrates the glorious holiness of God. For those who choose to follow Him, He blesses. For those who ignore or transgress Him, He punishes. Even in the darkest of moments, such as Assyrian and Babylonian invasions, God can be trusted, followed and believed.

The Blessed Messiah, Jesus Christ, is shown as the suffering servant that carried the sins of the world to bring salvation for us.

The glorious city of Zion is the N.T. church today. We are experiencing what Isaiah longed to see.