

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ISAIAH 63-66

Isaiah is often called a “Mini-Bible.”

It has 66 chapters while the Bible has 66 books. It's first 39 chapters speak of law and judgment. Isaiah's last 27 chapters describe God's grace and salvation.

And that's how the Bible is constructed. The 39 OT books are about God's law and the failure to obey. While the 27 NT books speak of God's plan to pardon.

And since we're comparing the Bible with Isaiah don't be surprised that the last four chapters in Isaiah run parallel to the last four chapters of Revelation...

Revelation 19 and Isaiah 63 both speak of Jesus' second coming. His role as *“The Avenger of Blood.”*

Then Revelation 20-22 and Isaiah 64-66 describe the Kingdom Age when Jesus reigns - as well as the New Heaven and New Earth that follows afterward.

Remember, Isaiah 62 ended with the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem. God lifts a banner, and raises up an army to protect His city. He calls out, “Salvation is coming.” And that salvation is a person, King Jesus!

And it’s battle-hardened Jesus that we find in Isaiah 63:1, “Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? - “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” The word “Edom” means “red.” It’s possible the first phrase is a play on words. He comes from “Red” wearing “red.”

Later we’ll see that His garments are blood-stained.

And there's no question who this Warrior happens to be once He speaks... Only Jesus is *"mighty to save."*

He speaks what's right. He's glorious in appearance. He walks or travels with a greatness and strength.

Yes, this can only be Jesus, and every reporter is vying for an interview. Imagine the Nielsen ratings you'd get with an up-close exclusive with Jesus Christ.

Here Jesus gets asked... *"Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?"* In the first century, grapes were crushed between your toes. Play some music and folks danced in the winepress. Juice would splash on your clothes.

Well, Jesus answers the question, *"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me."* This

is strange. People crushed grapes in a crowd. It was an community effort. Jesus was alone.

*Because He wasn't crushing grapes...* He explains, “For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.” The stains on His garments weren't grape juice, but human blood. In His anger and fury Jesus trampled His enemies.

John in Revelation 19 draws from this exact imagery.

In verse 13, “He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God... He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and thigh a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Revelation 19 also pictures an army coming with Jesus. I believe that army will consist of you and me.

And don't worry, our role will be minimal. For Isaiah 63 Jesus says, *"I have trodden the winepress alone."*

When Jesus died on the cross to forgive us, He did it alone. And when He returns to judge the world and make war with the rebels, He'll also do it alone.

Revelation 19 refers to this battle by the name "Armageddon," but "the mountain of Meggido" is merely the staging ground. It's where the enemy camps as they plan their siege of the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus will defend the holy city, and drive away the enemy. Probably as far south as Bozrah or Edom. The land south and east of the Dead Sea. This is why He's coming up from Bozrah with blood-stained garments.

The next time you hear the Battle Hymn of the Republic realize Isaiah 63 is where this vision of Jesus originates. It ultimately, speaks of His second coming.

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored. He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.”

Verse 4, “For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.” Understand, this is Jesus - the same Jesus who said to the woman caught in adultery - “Neither do I condemn you...”

Now He’s saying, “*vengeance is in my heart.*”

This is still Jesus. It’s the same heart. It’s just big enough to be concerned about both mercy and justice.

In the OT a person's near-kin had two duties. He was **redeemer** and **avenger**... If a person got into debt and lost his land, his kinsmen could redeem what he had lost. This is the background for the story of Ruth.

Another role was laid out in Numbers 35. If a brother was murdered, it was his near kinsman's job to take vengeance on the perpetrator. The Law of Moses required an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth - tit for tat.

Numbers 35:19 it reads, "the avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death." It's interesting, the kinsmen played two diverse roles. At times he was the "Kinsmen Redeemer." At times he was the "Avenger of Blood."

And this was the case with Jesus. In becoming a man He became our brother, our near kinsmen.

And He's a **kinsmen-redeemer**. On the cross He bought back what we had forfeited and lost to Satan.

But He's also an **Avenger of Blood**. Those who spilt the innocent blood of God's people, the Avenger will spill their blood. Thus, Jesus is **Savior** and **Slayer**.

Though it's strange to us, biblically the two roles go together. That's why the same man who forgave the adulteress, comes out of Bozrah covered in blood.

Verse 5, "I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me." Jesus' fury sustained Him. What a interesting comment for the Son of God to make.

Obviously, a fire burns in His heart. He not only loves people,



but fears God, and cares for truth, and upholds justice. Grace is only one dimension of His character.

“I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.”

This is what He'll do to the proud.

“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.” Jesus returns to Earth to vent God's wrath on evil men, and show His lovingkindness toward Israel. And He does both at the same time.

As Jesus celebrates the vengeance He's exacted in His anger, He sings praise for God's lovingkindness.

And there's no contradiction. God cares equally about *mercy* and *justice* - His *fury* and *great goodness*.

“For He said, “Surely they are My people, children who will not lie.” So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted...” Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25:45, “Inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.”

Throughout the long centuries and all the Antisemitic deeds done to Israel, Jesus took it all personally.

“And the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.” Throughout the OT, an Angel, the Angel of the Lord, or the Angel of His Presence, came to Israel's defense. Not always, but often this was a pre-incarnate visitation of Jesus.

Verse 10, “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.” The Lord judged His own people in hopes of bringing them to repentance.

“Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: “Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them, Who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, Who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?” He remembered the exodus from Egypt. God redeemed His people from slavery for a reason.

“As a beast goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of the Lord causes him to rest, so You lead Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name.” And the reason He had led His people to rest

was to make a name for Himself among the nations - *a glorious name.*

In verse 15 the Prophet Isaiah cries out to Israel's Deliverer, "Look down from heaven, and see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are Your zeal and Your strength, the yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? Are they restrained?"

Doubtless You are our Father, though Abraham was ignorant of us, and Israel does not acknowledge us.

You, O Lord, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name. O Lord, why have You made us stray from Your ways, and hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, the tribes of Your inheritance." Isaiah is crying for God to return. And He will when Jesus comes to Earth a second time.

“Your holy people have possessed it but a little while; our adversaries have trodden down Your sanctuary. We have become like those of old, over whom You never ruled, those who were never called by Your name.” He moans the loss of the God’s “sanctuary,” or His holy Temple. The Israelis only had it “*a little while.*”

Over last 1945 years the Jews have possessed their land just 67 of those years. For the last 19 centuries they’ve never had a Temple. What sits on the Temple Mount today are two muslim mosques. Thus, the Jews are unable to offer a legitimate, legal sacrifice to God.

As a result, Judaism has been an obsolete religion!

The Jewish religion has been impossible to obey. As Isaiah says it’s as if the Hebrew people have never had a relationship with God, or been “called by His name.”

This is cry of an honest Jew today. He is tormented by the realization of both *God's holiness*, but *his religion's hollowness*. Jesus will return to deliver Israel, but right now He waits until she's ready to repent.

Chapter 64 seems to be the prayer of a surviving Jew living toward in the midst of the Great Tribulation.

Jerusalem is under siege. He cries to God for help...

**“Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence - as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil - to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence!”** What a prayer to pray. What a day to come!

One day God will tear the heavens and shake the mountains. He'll burn our governments like a pile of debris. The nations will tremble before God's Son.

Matthew 24:21 describes it as an intense time.

“There will be Great Tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake (or Israel’s sake) those days will be shortened.”

Revelation 6-16 speaks of cataclysmic, catastrophic plagues that will come upon the planet in the last days.

Nature goes berserk. The wobbles like a drunk. God stones the Earth for its blasphemy with 100 pound hail.

Revelation 6 says kings and commanders will hide in the caves from “the wrath of the Lamb.” What an ironic term - *a Lamb known for His wrath!* This is Jesus!

But instead of repenting, man becomes more brazen. Mighty men hide from the Lord. Vance Havner puts it, “The day is coming when the most expensive piece of Real Estate will be a hole in the ground!”

It ends when God’s Son returns. Jesus will make a name. He’ll show the world who its been trifling with.

Isaiah says, Jesus will cause *“nations to tremble.”*

Verse 3, *When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, the mountains shook at Your presence.*” The writer recalls how Mount Sinai shook before God - and mountains will shake again.

Hebrews 12 tells us that one day all that can be shaken will be shaken. A final shaking awaits the Earth.



“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.” This is a familiar verse. It’s quoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:9, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard...”

But in 1 Corinthians 2 Paul applies it to God’s blessings. Here it’s in the context of His judgment.

Yet both extremities - the abundance of His blessing and the severity of His judgment - will blow our minds.

Verse 5, “You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways.

You are indeed angry, for we have sinned - in these ways we continue; and we need to be saved.

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags (The Hebrew is quite vulgar. It speaks of *used*

*menstrual cloths*, literally *tampons*. God is not impressed with our attempts at self-righteousness.); **we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**” As Isaiah puts it at the end of verse 5, **“we need to be saved.”**

Verse 7, **“And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us because of our iniquities.”** Man's situation is desperate. We have no desire for God. We're consumed by sin. **But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.**” Our hope is in God. We're made by the hands of the potter. We pray He works again with the clay.

“Do not be furious, O Lord, nor remember iniquity forever; indeed, please look - we all are Your people!” Isaiah isn’t speaking of *redemption*, but of *creation*.

We hear a lot today about the brotherhood of man - that God is the father of us all. It’s true that God is our common creator, but that doesn't make us brothers.

In fact, Jesus told the Pharisees in John 8:42, “You are of your father the devil.” He wasn’t related to them!

John 1:12 tells us, “As many as received Him (that is, Jesus) to them (God) gave the right to become children of God...” God’s true children are those who receive Jesus. Our brothers and my sisters are not those who’ve been born, but who’ve been born again.

Verse 10, “Your holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful

temple, where our fathers praised You, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste.” Here it seems Isaiah is foreseeing the Temple’s destruction at the hands of the Babylonians. In 586 BC the invaders torched the Temple built by Solomon.

The Jews who saw it, couldn’t believe it. They didn’t take God’s warning seriously. They didn’t think He’d destroy His Temple. Now they’re asking again, “Will You restrain Yourself because of these things, O Lord? Will You hold Your peace, and afflict us very severely?”

Chapter 65, “I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ to a nation that was not called by My name.” I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts...”

In Romans 10 Paul quotes these verses to explain the relationship between the Church and Israel.

When the Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah, God turned His attention to Gentiles. *“I was found by those who did not seek Me...”* For the last 1983 years the Gospel has gone to a nation *“not called by His name.”*

In Romans 11:25 Paul tells us *“that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”* It's then that *“All Israel will be saved.”*

When the last Gentile is forgiven, and the fullness of the Gentiles has come in - God will return His attention to Israel and bring about the salvation of the Jews.

At the end of the Tribulation, *“all Israel will be saved.”*

In verse 3 God continues to describe the rebellion of Israel, “A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick...” These were idolatrous practices. The only legitimate sacrifices were in the Temple.

“Who sit among the graves, and spend the night in the tombs; who eat swine’s flesh, and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels...” Pork was off limits to the Jews. Yet they were pigging out on bacon.

“Who say, ‘Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!’” They had a “*holier than thou*” attitude. They looked down their nose at other people.

“These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.” In other words, He can’t avoid their stench.

Verse 6, “Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, but will repay - even repay into their bosom - your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,” says the Lord, “who have burned incense on the mountains and blasphemed Me on the hills; therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom.” In that culture, people had folds in their robes where they carried what their hands couldn’t manage.

Here God is saying because of Israel’s idolatry He’ll pour out on them more judgment than they can handle.

“Thus says the Lord: “As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, ‘Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it,’ so will I do for My servants’ sake, that I may not destroy them all.” Israel will be judged, but a remnant will survive. Revelation 12 tells us when Jerusalem is attacked many of the Jews will flee to the wilderness.

Isaiah 16 gets more specific. God's outcasts will find refuge in Moab, in the rock fortress of "Sela" or Petra.

In His Olivet Discourse, Matthew 24, Jesus said when the Jews see the Antichrist's abomination, "those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." This all points to the future Jewish hide-out - the Jews will escape to the area around the Dead Sea - Bozrah, that is, Edom.

And that's why the Avenger of Blood is seen coming up from Bozrah. The final battle for Jerusalem will cover all the Promised Land, *from Megiddo to Edom.*

Verse 9, "I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah an heir of My mountains; My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there." In the aftermath of Armageddon He gives the land He's conquered to His heirs - *"the descendants of Judah."*



“Sharon (the coastal plain) shall be a fold of flocks, and the Valley of Achor (the Jordan Valley) a place for herds to lie down, for My people who have sought Me.”

Israel will dwell from the coast to the Jordan.

Verse 11, “But you are those who forsake the Lord, who forget My holy mountain, who prepare a table for Gad, and who furnish a drink offering for Meni.”

Gad and Meni were idols. The word “*Meni*” means “number.” And God tells them that their number is up.

“Therefore I will number you for the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter; because, when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear, but did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight.” The idolaters will be judged.

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed; behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and wail for grief of spirit.

You shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen; for the Lord God will slay you, and call His servants by another name...” The Jews who escaped Jerusalem and sought refuge in the rocks will be saved, but those who buy into the idolatry of the Antichrist will be slain.

Verse 16, “So that he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My eyes.”

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.” Today Jerusalem does not rejoice! The city center of city is a **"WAILING wall."**

But a new day will dawn for the city of Jerusalem.

Verse 17 parallels Revelation 21:1 - *the vision of a new heaven and new earth!* Revelation teaches us that after the Great Tribulation and God’s judgments, Jesus will establish His Kingdom on earth, sit upon the throne of David, and rule the world for a thousand years.

God made promises to Abraham, David, and all Israel that have not been fulfilled. There is a time of blessing and prosperity that Israel has yet to enjoy.

During the Kingdom Age God will roll back most of the curse. He will restore the Earth to its pre-fall glory.

The polluted planet will become a paradise again.

Romans 8:22 tells us that today, “The whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs... eagerly awaiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” Today, Mother Nature is out of sync with our Father God.

But Jesus will redeem and restore all that sin has touched... from our *puny bodies* to the *polluted sky*.

All the damage done during the Great Tribulation will be repaired. The waters and oceans will be healed.

And there's a strange mix of people populating the planet during this thousand years. The survivors of the Tribulation will be joined by the saved from ages past who ascended at the rapture. They'll return with Jesus, to reign and rule with Him. *And we'll be among them.*

Satan will be chained for this period. This allows mankind to thrive in his perfect utopia. With the Prince of Peace on the throne, world peace becomes a reality.

Sadly, at the end of this thousand years, Satan is allowed a *swan song*. He's let loose for a season. It's a final test. Will those who've known only the rule of Jesus succumb to temptation and rebel against Him?

And they do. Forever proving that it's not our environment that's the problem, it's our sinful nature. Even after a millennium of perfection, man still rebels.

God ends the uprising with a restructuring of the heavens and earth. The present order ends in a giant conflagration. The physical universe is no more. And in its place, God creates a new heaven and a new earth.

Back in Isaiah 61 we noticed how Jesus saw 2000 years of history in a single comma. From one verse He sorted out events that were to occur at *His first coming*, from events that are reserved for *His second coming*.

In other words, we learn from Luke 4 that Jesus saw Isaiah 61 as a sweeping prophecy that included events separated by 2000 years. And here again, this is what we have in Isaiah 65-66. The prophet sees the future.

But it's like he's looking at a mountain range - he see peaks, but not the valleys that separate the peaks. He lacks depth

perception. Some of what he'll see belongs in the Kingdom Age. Other visions are of life in eternity.

Verse 20, “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old...”

Notice this is not the eternal state - the new heaven and new earth - for there is still **death** and **sin**.

Revelation 21:4 and 27 says of eternity, or the New Jerusalem, “There shall be no more death... (or) anything that defiles...” This isn't the case in verse 20.

Here Isaiah is describing the Kingdom Age, and life will be very different. A person 100 years old will still be considered a child. Implied is that the long lifespans, common before the flood, will resume in the Kingdom.

The mysteries of aging are still largely unknown to us. But for some reason around the age of 25 we stop rejuvenating and start dying. Some experts have supposed that our aging is triggered by solar radiation.

Which could explain why men lived 900 years before the flood. Some of the water that fueled the flood was suspended in a canopy that shrouded the Earth. That canopy blocked out a lot of the solar rays we get today.

Whatever the mechanisms is that causes it, in the Kingdom a centenarian will still be considered a kid.

Verse 20 continues, “the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.” Note, sin will occur in the Kingdom, but it won’t be tolerated. Psalm 2 tells us Jesus will rule with a rod of iron. Rebellions will be put down quickly.



“They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat...” There’ll be no more inequities. Someone falling on hard times and another man taking advantage.

“For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” As the days of a tree... in the Garden of Gethsemane you can see some 2000 year old olive trees. There are redwoods in California 4000 years old.

People in the Kingdom will *live long and enjoy life*. King Jesus will prove to be a benevolent dictator!

“They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”

When man sinned, his work was cursed. Today, we labor in vain. We encounter obstacles (*thorns and thistles*) and work by the sweat of our brow. We never get out of our work all we put into it. And this never dawns on some people. They bounce from job to job looking for a perfect job. You won't find it in this world.

But one day this curse will be removed, and we'll no longer labor in vain. Once again *work will be no sweat*.

Notice too, in this thousand years, parents will no longer bring children into a troubled world. Today, this is so scary - parents know they're bringing their child into a world fraught with temptation and danger.

It makes a parent leery and causes a dad many sleepless nights. But this will no longer be a problem when Jesus reigns. *Imagine, worry-free parenting!*

“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

In that day, God will answer our prayers before we're finished praying them. There'll be no faith-testing waits.

“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,” says the Lord.”

Before the flood man and animal enjoyed a peaceful relationship. This is how Noah could collect the animals and board the Ark.

But after the flood God added meat to man's diet.

Thus, to even the score and help the animals survive God put a natural hostility between animals and man.

He told Noah, “the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast.” Animals can *get our goose*.

But all this gets rolled back in the Kingdom Age.

Today, the wolf and lamb are natural predators, but in the Kingdom they'll cozy up together. Man-eating lions will become vegetarians - like domesticated oxen.

Notice though the one part of the curse that remains... the snake will still crawl on his belly and eat our dust. It'll be a reminder of our fall and the Tempter.

Chapter 66, "Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," says the Lord." Whenever man has built God a Temple He's had to use the Lord's supplies.

Who made stones and mortar, but God? When you use His stuff, you're not really building Him anything.

“But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” Here is how to build God a Temple in which He really wants to dwell. Give Him a humble heart that fears His Word.

God love making our heart His home!

“He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; he who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog’s neck; he who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine’s blood; he who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol.”

Isaiah is condemning the man who uses religion as a substitute for sincerity. Sacrificing a lamb is nothing more than breaking a dog’s neck if it’s not accompanied by sincere repentance and love for God.

“Just as they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations, so will I choose their delusions, and bring their fears on them; because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke they did not hear; but they did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight.” These men chose to do evil, and now God will choose to punish their evil.

“Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word: “Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name’s sake, said, ‘Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.’ But they shall be ashamed.”

The sound of noise from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, Who fully repays His enemies!” Notice, the Lord **fully** repays His enemies.

Verse 7 marks an incredible prophecy that speaks of the nation Israel. “Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child.

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.”

Here’s a modern day miracle more amazing than sending a man to the moon, or creating a vaccine, or sending wireless information. A nation is born in a single day - with no labor pains - without the normal travail and political upheaval that usually births nations.

When the United States was born it was preceded by eight brutal, costly years of struggle and sacrifice.

But on November 29, 1947, at British insistence the United Nations voted to partition Palestine and make room for a Jewish state. Just five months later, at 12:01 AM on May 15, 1948 Israel declared its statehood.

Without the normal travail that creates nations - a battle, or coup, or revolt - a nation was born in a day.

Notice Isaiah doesn't prophesied that pain won't follow. It did. The miracle was that the fighting didn't start until after the nation was born. For immediately, the Arab states launched a military attack on Israel.

Author John Philips writes of what this new nation faced, "The situation seemed hopeless for the Jews. The Arabs enjoyed vast superiority in men, arms, and equipment. The Jews had no air force. A major world power was giving help to their enemy. The



invasion was on three fronts. The Jewish armed forces were untrained and untried and had no room to maneuver.

But the world watched with astonishment as the Jews first stemmed the rush of the Arab tide and then flung the armies of their foes back across the borders."

And over the last 67 years the Israelis have fought six more conflicts with their Arab neighbors. The latest was in Gaza. Today, Israel is in more danger than ever.

Realize, Israel and its territories contain 6 million Jews in little over 10K square miles. Whereas, the Arab League consists of 22 nations, 422 million people, and occupies a land mass of over 5 million square miles.

A vast area - all of North Africa and the Middle East - from the Atlantic to the Euphrates. And all I'm counting are the Arabs - there are non-Arab muslim countries.

*And yet, the Arabs can't find room for a Palestinian state? They want Israel to give up their land to do so?*

Today, the Arabs, who have vowed to drive Israel into the sea, continue to arm themselves to the teeth.

Iran, who is **not** a member of the Arab League, but hates Israel, may already have nuclear capabilities.

When you see the odds that are stacked against Israel, you wonder, *"How can they possibly survive?"*

Verse 9 provides us the confidence, **"Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?"** says the Lord. **"Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?"** says your God." In other words, God did not conceive this country to abandon her. He pledges to defend this tiny nation of Israel against her many enemies.

And amazingly, every time the Arabs launch a Jihad, Israel enlarges her borders and gains more territory.

To me, there's only one explanation! **The God in heaven fights for Israel.** And this is what will prompt the Lord's return to Earth - an invasion of Israel.

Here's how I think it unfolds...

Antichrist leads his army into the valley of Megiddo. Then lays siege to Jerusalem. The Jews flee to the wilderness in Edom. *Jesus returns.* As 2 Thessalonians 2:8 tells us, Jesus destroys the enemy with **“the breath of His mouth and the brightness of His coming...”**

His defense of the Jews takes Him to Bozrah where He slaughters the enemy and stains His garments.

Then He returns to Jerusalem and enters the Temple by the eastern gate... and reigns for a thousand years.

“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her...” Though we are the Church and Israel is Israel, our destinies are tied together. We are trusting in the covenants and promises made to Israel.

Psalm 122:6 commands the Church to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” Well, when her victory finally comes those who *prayed for her, will rejoice with her.*

“That you may feed and be satisfied with the consolation of her bosom, that you may drink deeply and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.”

“For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river...” The name “*Jerusalem*” means “city of peace.” Finally, this city will live up to its name.

“And the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.

Then you shall feed; on her sides shall you be carried, and be dandled on her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” We Gentiles will benefit from God’s blessing on Jerusalem. We’ll flow to her and enjoy her prosperity. God promised Abraham, “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

When you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like grass; the hand of the Lord shall be known to His servants, and His indignation to 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 the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many.” What ominous words... “*The slain of the Lord shall be many.*”

“Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves (that is, prepare themselves to worship idols), to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine’s flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together,” says the Lord.

“For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.” He puts His justice on display.

“I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish (or Spain, perhaps Britian) and Pul and Lud (Africa), who draw the bow, and Tubal (Russia) and Javan (Greece), to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in

chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the Lord, “as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord.” God will send retrievers to the nations to bring Jews to Jerusalem.

The final ingathering of Jews will take place.

“And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites,” says the Lord.” Ezekiel 40-47 describes a Temple that will sit on Mount Zion during the Kingdom Age. Rather than for sacrifice, it’ll be a teaching tool.

But priests and Levities will be needed. They’ll be recruited from this vast, final homecoming of Jews.

Verse 22, “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “so shall your

descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.”

Zechariah 14 foresees this same practice. In the Kingdom Age, every year, once year, at the fall Feast of Tabernacles, everyone from all over world will make a visit to Israel. They'll to Jerusalem to worship Jesus!

“And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.” Here's an eery picture! I've never seen it on an Israel travel brochure.



But it'll be a regular stop for Israel tours in the Kingdom Age. The pilgrims will drop by to see the burning bodies of those who had rebelled against God.

They'll serve as memorial to God's righteousness.