

WEEK #25

Isaiah 66 A High View of God



Isaiah by Mail

A Bible Study Born in the Midst of Covid
Tuesday, December 1, 2020



Hi Everyone!

This mailing will be our last lesson in Isaiah!

Twenty-five lessons... 6-months in Isaiah...has changed me.

- I know better Whom I have believed in.
- I trust Him more than ever.
- I don't take Him for granted as often as I used to.
- I am not afraid of what is ahead, because I know it's all been planned by my God since before the world began.

I pray Isaiah has done the same, or much more...for you.

Our next Bible Study will be in 2021!!! I am hoping and praying that we will be able to gather together again in person once the worst of our winter weather is over – perhaps in late February or early March.

But, if for some reason that still is not possible, we will decide then which book of the Bible we again want to study by mail. ☺ I know that won't be our first choice, but I am willing to trust that our God has it all planned out, and I want His plan more than ours.

Come to church services when you can. I will keep you in touch with what is going on at church and by email. If I don't have your email address, send it to me...I'll put you on the list. I will be here – reach out to me anytime you want to!!! I would love to have a cup of coffee or lunch with you sometime!!!

Kathleen



Isaiah Chapter 66 A High View of God

Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:1

“Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne, and earth is My footstool.”

1. :1 What point is the LORD making in verse 1?
2. :2 If a temple building, constructed by men who do not love the LORD, is not so important to God, what is?
3. :2 Why is it a good thing to tremble at God’s word?
4. :3 God is the One who told men to sacrifice animals, burn incense and give grain offerings, right? So why is He having Isaiah tell people He doesn’t have any use for their sacrifices, offerings and incense?
5. :4 When God called to these people, did they answer? When He spoke, did they hear? What did they do instead of hearing and answering Him?
6. :5 Have there been some who did listen to God? What have their lives been like all this time?
7. :6 We hear the distant drum of that coming “Day of the LORD” in this verse. What does the LORD God do, ultimately, to His enemies?
8. :7-9 What illustration is the LORD using here to describe the time when Israel finally comes to faith in the Messiah?

9. The LORD describes this time of “labor” in 2 ways:
- a. :7 A Child that is born even before _____ begins.
(what Child is that?)
 - b. :8 & 9 A Child that is born quickly after _____ begins.
(what Child is that?)
- 10.:10-13 The LORD is speaking these verses to the whole world, not just to Israel. What is He saying to the whole world?
- 11.:14-17 Two kinds of people will see the ultimate return of the LORD to the earth. Those who rejoice and those who are judged. Who will be rejoicing? Who will be judged?
- 12.:18 When the LORD returns, what does He want all the nations to see?
- 13.:19 & 21 When the LORD returns, 2 huge things will happen:
- a. God’s Glory will be declared among the _____
 - b. The _____ will be brought from all over the world to Jerusalem.
14. :22 What does the LORD promise He will make?
- 15.:22 What does the LORD promise will happen to the Jewish people?
- 16.:23 What does the LORD promise all people will do once He returns?
- 17.:24 Why would the LORD have Isaiah end his awesome book of prophecy with these negative words?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

18. Do you have a higher view of God now that you have studied the book of Isaiah?
19. What is the first thing you want to say to God when you get to heaven?

Isaiah Chapter 66 A High View of God

Kathleen's Answers and Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:1

"Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne, and earth is My footstool."

This closing chapter of Isaiah wraps up everything we have seen in the whole book. It has all been about the LORD. The people the LORD loves have been important in this book, but the LORD Himself is the focus. His Magnificence. His Power. His Throne. His Servant. His Plan for His World. It's all about Him. It always was. It always will be.

1. :1 What point is the LORD making in verse 1?

I think God is saying, "Yes, I told you to build me a temple...but do you actually think the building is the important part?...Don't you remember Who I Am?"

2. :2 If a temple building, constructed by men who do not love the LORD, is not so important to God, what is?

Everything man can see was designed by and made by God. A beautiful building is not what God desires. It's a broken heart God wants to see. A person who is heartbroken over their own sinfulness is the "building" God wants to see. *1st Corinthians 6:19*

3. :2 Why is it a good thing to tremble at God's Word?

God's Word explains Who God is. When I tremble at God's Word I acknowledge the perfectness of God and the un-perfectness of me. That's the starting point for a relationship with Almighty God. Look at *Matthew 5:3*. Isn't this exactly what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount?.

4. :3 God is the One who told men to sacrifice animals, burn incense and give grain offerings, right? So why is He having Isaiah tell people He doesn't have any use for their sacrifices, offerings and incense?

Because they are doing all these things without a broken heart. They are being "religious", but they are proud in front of the Lord, just like Cain was, in *Genesis 4*. They are doing things their way, but not concerned at all about having a heart right before Him.

5. :4 When God called to these people, did they answer? When He spoke, did they hear? What did they do instead of hearing and answering Him?

They weren't listening to God, but instead were choosing to live in their own sinful ways and not feel a bit bad about it.

6. :5 Have there been some who did listen to God? What have their lives been like all this time?

They have been persecuted by their families and neighbors who chose to be religious, but did not want to bow the knee, in their hearts, before the Lord. When any of us chooses to humbly worship God, admitting how much we need Him, there will always be those around us who do not want to be reminded by our lives of how sinful all of us truly are.

7. :6 We hear the distant drum of that coming "Day of the LORD" in this verse. What does the LORD God do, ultimately, to His enemies?

Ultimately, in the end times, the LORD will pay back His enemies for all they have done to His Name, and to the ones He has been protecting. Pay back? Like...retribution? Yes. God is the One and Only Who has the right to give people what they are due for their sins.

Ok...but I am a sinner, too...I have believed in Him, but I still do sin...does that mean He will fully repay me, too? No, it doesn't. Why not? Because that full repayment for my sin was already heaped on Jesus. When I, with a broken heart, gave my life to Jesus, the punishment I richly deserved for every sin I ever sinned, and every sin I was ever going to sin...was gone forever. Jesus took it to His grave, and then triumphed over death, setting me free for eternity from the repayment God promises here...in Isaiah 66:6.

8. :7-9 What illustration is the LORD using here to describe the time when Israel finally comes to faith in the Messiah?

The illustration is of two births: a birth which seems to take place so quickly there's not even any labor pains, and a birth which begins with labor pains and then brings forth.

9. The LORD describes this time of "labor" in 2 ways:

- a. :7 A Child that is born even before labor begins.
(what Child is that?)
- b. :8 & 9 A Child that is born quickly after labor begins.
(what Child is that?)

What is the Lord describing? In verse 7, He is describing the arrival of Jesus the first time on this earth – the baby physically born in a manger. Most people alive on the earth at that time never even knew the birth had happened.

In verses 8&9 He's describing the spiritual birth of the nation of Israel someday in our future...the time when Israel sees Jesus as He is, the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, and falls down at His feet with a broken heart. *Zechariah 12:10 & 13:1*.

10.:10-13 The LORD is speaking these verses to the whole world, not just to Israel.

What is He saying to the whole world?

Rejoice with Israel, world!!! The first birth, Jesus, will give you life, too!!! And the second birth, Israel, will bring unbelievable blessings to all!!!

11.:14-17 Two kinds of people will see the ultimate return of the LORD to the earth.

Those who rejoice and those who are judged. Who will be rejoicing? Who will be judged?

God's servants will be rejoicing. Servants are those who have bowed the knee before God...before Jesus...and with broken hearts have given themselves to Him.

Worshippers of idols will be judged...they will see and experience the full-out anger of God Himself. Worshippers of idols are all those who never bowed the knee to Jesus...never had a broken heart before God...never gave themselves to Him...but instead chose their idols to be their Gods.

12.:18 When the LORD returns, what does He want all the nations to see? He very much wants every single person alive to see HIS GLORY.

13.:19 & 21 When the LORD returns, 2 huge things will happen:

14. God's Glory will be declared among the nations of the world.

15. The scattered Jewish people will be brought from all over the world to Jerusalem.

14. :22 What does the LORD promise He will make?
New Heavens and New Earth.

15.:22 What does the LORD promise will happen to the Jewish people?
Their descendants will live forever in the New Heaven and New Earth. And remember, look back at verses 10&11, when the Jews come to national belief in Jesus, these same blessings and more will also belong to all who have placed their lives in the hands of the Messiah of Israel.

16.:23 What does the LORD promise all people will do once He returns?
All people alive on earth at the time of Jesus' return will come to worship before Him. How can that be? Won't there be unsaved on the earth at His return? They will be there just before He returns...but those unsaved will be immediately destroyed and sent to Hell forever as He returns. They will not be there to worship, because they will be gone. They will have passed up their last chance to believe.

17.:24 Why would the LORD have Isaiah end his awesome book of prophecy with these negative words?

I realize these verses say the thing which none of us wants to face squarely.

Our God, who loves all mankind so much, has the right, and will someday exercise that right, to forever punish those who refuse to bow their knee to Him. It will not be a punishment which is for a short time and then is over. It will be a punishment, a suffering, which will last forever and ever and ever. Hell.

Isaiah has given us a high view of God. And His judgment of sin is part of that high view. We can't erase judgment from our high view of God. He provided a way for every single person who ever lived to escape His judgment. He poured out His wrath on His own Son! Anyone who decides not to accept that escape...who decides not to bow his or her knee before Jesus Christ...will be punished in Hell for eternity.

Twenty-five lessons...for me that has been 6-months in Isaiah...has changed me.

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