Text: Isaiah 66:10-17 Date: 8-13-23 10:30 AM

I. God's blessings upon His people (Isa. 66:10-14)

**Mourning turned to Joy

It is then the faithful believers, "Those who truly love Jerusalem, love the Lord, have repented of their own sins, and strive daily to be obedient to His gracious commands" (Young 525), who are rejoicing.

**Long Deprived to Great Provision

Where once the child was severely disappointed and not provided for, now the mother feeds him with pity, compassion, and comfort knowing he will be completely provided for through her breasts. This pictures Jehovah and the Lord Jesus Christ who will now provide so many blessings that Israel will drink deeply and joyfully from her overflowing abundance of His glory (pictured by the mother's full breasts).

**Peace

The word *peace* (Hebrew: *shalom*) means *completeness*, *contented state of welfare*, *prosperity*, *success* and *fulfillment*. That peace will inundate like an onrushing stream that never dries, spreading out over the whole nation. Additionally, the *glory of the Gentiles* or *nations* will flow like a rushing torrent that will flood its banks. All the Gentile's prosperity, wealth, and riches will come to Jerusalem like a flood.

The nation will enjoy God's fullest peace and glory of the nations that will be bestowed upon His people. God will love His redeemed children like a mother her children.

**Comfort

Gone is the just anger that was against the people's disobedience. Gone is the desolation that was left upon the city and the nation. Gone are the nation's enemies. Gone is the destruction. God Himself will compassionately and divinely comfort His people, their land, and the spiritual Jerusalem.

The response will be one of the greatest earthly times of praise that will no doubt last the entirety of the Millennial Kingdom age.

- Rejoicing Hearts will leap with joy
- Physical revival Their bones will *flourish* (word meaning to *bud* or *sprout*) like a *new growth of green grass*. The people will "grow and be made strong with freshness, vigor, and a new life . . ." (Hailey 525).
- Jehovah's hand will be revealed in power to His servants He will personally bless them and all will know it is the Lord's power and doing.
- Jehovah's fury will be known to His servant's enemies

II. God's anger against Idolaters (Isa. 66:15-17)

"Fire symbolizes the all-consuming judgment, and the sword is a symbol of the divine vengeance" (Young 530).

Application: God judges false worship harshly. God hates any worship that is not singly towards Him. This is idolatry, rebellion, and spiritual ungodliness of the worst proportion. Those who choose idolatry, to worship vainly, to desecrate God's altar, Isaiah says, will be consumed. The Lord declares that they will be destroyed and meet their end. The prophecy here may well describe Israel's rebellion throughout Isaiah's day until the Coming of Christ. "The condition is the result of the people's conduct throughout their entire history. Because they have acted like heathen, they must suffer the consequences of heathenism" (Hailey 526).

Conclusion

Joy, Provision, Peace and Comfort for the believing remnant who remained faithful – what promises of hope and encouragement issued by our promise-keeping God!

Contrast that with the judgment and anger from the same God toward those who turn their backs on Him.

I choose the path of faithfulness to my Savior. Do you?