

Final Words – Part 3

Text: Isaiah 66:18-24

Date: 8-20-23 10:30 AM

I. The Lord's glory preached to the nations (Isa. 66:18-21)

Every single deed and thought of those who oppose God will be laid bare when compared to Jehovah Himself. The reason in the future to gather every nation and tongue together will be to witness the glory and majesty of the one true glorious God. Those who have sanctified and purified themselves for the purpose of idolatry will then know that Jehovah is the One who is worthy of their worship.

This glory will be the very presence of God dominated by His power and sovereignty over the idolatrous people of the world.

Some will survive the judgment of God of the prior verses. These survivors will now be sent to the nations as missionaries representing the glories of Jehovah.

The purpose was then to declare Jehovah's glory to the Gentile nations.

These missionaries then would faithfully preach the good news that the Redeemer had come for the people of the world. They had witnessed His glory, fame, power, grace, and justice. Who better to tell the lost than these witnesses?

Countrymen from all the nations will be brought back to Zion for the express purpose of worship and offering to the Lord. This must include the Jews and believing Gentiles who will come in unison brought by the missionary survivors of v. 19.

This one connected group as true believers will be characterized as an offering unto Jehovah.

Out of love, devotion, and reverence, the Gentile redeemed will bring their worship for Jehovah, the God of Israel. Just "as the children of Israel have brought their oblations to Jehovah in clean vessels, so will the redeemed of the nations be brought in cleanness to the house of Jehovah" (Hailey 528).

Not only will Gentiles be saved by faith, they will be included as priests and Levites as they bring their offerings to the Lord. Whereas in the past the Jewish priesthood came through Levi and Aaron and the Gentiles could neither be priests nor offer sacrifices in the Temple, they will now join the royal priesthood.

II. The promises to come based on God's character (Isa. 66:22-24)

God's guarantee is that there will always be a seed, a remnant that will serve God and follow righteousness (Ps. 22:30-31). Just as the new heavens and new earth will remain eternally forever, so will spiritual Israel endure forever. National Israel will be destroyed (65:15) but spiritual Israel will remain forever in His presence (49:16). The redeemed Jews along with the influx of Gentiles will form a new Israel, one that is wholeheartedly devoted to their God and Lord Jesus Christ.

This great prophetic book ends with a great warning.

"There is no peace. . . to the wicked" (48:22; 57:20).

Despite all that God did for these people, despite the prophets crying out to repent, despite the pleadings and warnings, these people loved their idolatry and disobedience over the finished work of their Redeemer.

This will be an everlasting reminder of what God has saved us from, that punishment and judgment due to us but taken by our Savior. Our fate is changed only because the Servant was wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities.

The contrast is clear: the righteous will live in peace as they worship Jehovah while the wicked will be doomed forever.