

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 283 – Heaven Is His Throne Through An Abhorring To All Flesh (Isaiah 66:1-24)

1. How should man look at building things for God upon this earth?

With an understanding that no house for God can be made on this earth for Him as an adequate abode: *“Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest”* (Isaiah 66:1)?

- **II Chronicles 6:18, Psalms 11:4, Acts 7:47-50, and Acts 17:24.**

2. To what type of man will the Lord look?

“For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” (Isaiah 66:2).

- God is the Creator (**Genesis 1:1, Psalms 33:6-9, Psalms 134:3, Isaiah 40:26-28, Isaiah 45:18, Jeremiah 27:5, Colossians 1:12-16, and Hebrews 3:4**).
- He looks to him that has a poor and contrite spirit (**Psalms 34:18, Isaiah 57:15, Matthew 5:3-4, and Luke 18:9-14**) and trembles at His word (**Psalms 2:11, Philippians 2:12, and Hebrews 12:28-29**).

3. How did God view their sacrifices?

As abominations because they had chosen their own ways: *“He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog’s neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine’s blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abomination”* (Isaiah 66:3).

- **Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 21:27, Isaiah 1:10-20, and Amos 5:21-22.**
- When man chooses his own way it is not good (**Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 20:24, Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 55:7-9, Isaiah 56:10-12, Isaiah 65:2, Isaiah 65:12, Jeremiah 7:24, Ezekiel 26:17, and Luke 6:46**).

4. What was God’s plan in reaction to their refusal to hear Him?

“I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not” (Isaiah 66:4).

- God chose what came upon them (**Isaiah 3:1-8**).
- His Judgment was/is based upon their actions (**Proverbs 1:20-31, Jeremiah 32:19, Ezekiel 22:31, and Galatians 6:7-8**).
- God has always been minded to allow the erring to see their choices are wrong (i.e. **Judges 10:10-14 and Jeremiah 2:26-28**).

5. Did those whom trembled at God's word have any promise of comfort?

Yes: *"(5) Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. (6) A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. (7) Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. (8) Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. (9) Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. (10) Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: (11) That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. (12) For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. (13) As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. (14) And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies" (Isaiah 66:5-14).*

- Hear ye that tremble at His word (cf. **Psalms 66:16**).
- Brethren hated them (**Malachi 2:10**, **Mark 13:12-13**, and **Luke 6:22-23**).
- Cast out for the name of the Lord's sake (**Matthew 5:10-12** and **Luke 21:16-17**).
- The Lord repays His enemies (**Jeremiah 25:14** and **Romans 12:17-21**).
- Rebirth of Zion is a promise of a bright future, spiritually (**Galatians 4:26** and **Hebrews 12:22-23**), for God's city (**Isaiah 2:2-3** and **Isaiah 52:1-10**).
- The Gentiles would be to the aid of God's plan (**Ephesians 3:1-11**) and in several ways a benefit to the Jews (i.e. **Romans 15:25-27**).
- Comfort for Jerusalem is promised (**Zechariah 1:17**).
- Hand of the Lord known to His servants while His indignation known toward His enemies (**Ezra 8:22-23**).

6. Would God soften up towards the erring or would He consume them as a fire?

They were to see the Lord come with fire: *"(15) 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. (16) For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. (17) They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 66:15-17).*

- Come with fire (**Psalms 11:4-7** and **Psalms 97:3**).

- He pleaded with them with fire and sword (**Ezekiel 28:21-23**).
- Consumption (**Hebrews 12:29**).

7. Did God want His glory to be seen?

Yes, as far as unto the Gentiles: *“(18) For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. (19) And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles” (Isaiah 66:18-19).*

- He knows works (**Proverbs 5:21, Jeremiah 16:17, Jeremiah 23:24, Amos 5:12, and Revelation 2:2**) and thoughts (**Deuteronomy 31:21, I Samuel 16:7, I Chronicles 28:9, and Jeremiah 17:10**).
- He set a sign among them because He wanted people to know what He did and that He was behind it (**Isaiah 41:14-29, Isaiah 42:8, Isaiah 45:18-19, Isaiah 48:11, and Ezekiel 12:16**).

8. What did God seek to happen in Jerusalem from one Sabbath to another?

All to come and worship Him: *“(20) And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. (21) And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD. (22) For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. (23) And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 66:20-23).*

- From these verses we know we are not talking about New Testament worship of God (**John 4:20-24**).
- Priests from all nations rather than just the tribe of Levi (**I Peter 2:5-9 and Revelation 1:6**).
- New dwelling is spiritual and eternal (**II Peter 3:9-14**).
- All flesh worshipping before God (**Psalms 22:27 and Revelation 15:4**) should not be understood literally (**Luke 13:23-24**). Consider: **Acts 10:34-35**.

9. Did God want to display what He did to those who transgressed against Him?

Yes: *“And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isaiah 66:24).*

- Display of carcasses (**Isaiah 5:24-25 and Jeremiah 8:1-10**).
- Applicable conclusion (**Matthew 3:12, Matthew 25:31-46, and Mark 9:42-48**).