

Isaiah 9 - 66

The last time we were in Isaiah we moved from the promised redemption of God's people, as found in **Isaiah 7:14** *Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel*, to the promise of God's judgment of the nation as they served other gods.

Isaiah 8:6-7 ⁶ "Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah And rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah; ⁷ "Now therefore, behold, the Lord is about to bring on them the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates, *Even* the king of Assyria and all his glory; And it will rise up over all its channels and go over all its banks.

Chapter nine returns to the flip side of the dual sanctions of God whereby He again promises to bring a people out from the midst of Israel and we see this in another familiar passage.

Isaiah 9:1-7 ^{NAU} But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. ⁶ ***For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*** ⁷ ***There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,*** On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Chapter eleven picks up on this promised seed.

Isaiah 11:1-2 ^{NAU} Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

The entire book of Isaiah is about this shoot, this seed that will bear much fruit. But this seed that is born of a virgin was born to die for His people. And Isaiah sums up how this will happen in one of the most sobering parts of the word of God as the Lord tells of how His Son would be put to death.

Isaiah 53:1-12 ^{NAU} Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. ³ He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*? ⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as a* guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. ¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the

transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Let's take a look at this portion of God's word.

The first question to be asked is the question Isaiah asks. Who has believed our message?

And from what we've seen so far, what is Isaiah's message?

The message is consistently how God will judge a hard hearted people who reject the mercy and grace of God as they serve other gods. But the message doesn't stop there as He reveals how He will redeem a people for Himself out of Israel for His own possession.

This redemption must take place through the seed born of a virgin who will die as a sin offering.

But again, the question is, who has believed this message as Isaiah delivers it to Israel?

No one, except for those to whom God reveals it.

Romans 10:16-21 ¹⁶ However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" ¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." ¹⁹ But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU." ²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." ²¹ But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."

Which groups, or nations of people, according to Isaiah, are included to be able to have faith so as to be saved?

Both Jew and Gentile. This was the point Isaiah was making to the nation of Israel as they squandered the mercy given to them and God reminds them that all men everywhere will be called out by God and given ears to hear the gospel message.

But notice what Paul says in verse 20.

Romans 10:20 ²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." (ISA 65:1)

How is it possible for someone who was not seeking for God and who was not asking for God, to find God?

Because those who are blind and deaf are given the ability by God to do so.

^{NAU} **Isaiah 35:5** Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

^{NAU} **Isaiah 42:16** "I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, In paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them And rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone."

Paul puts it this way when writing to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:4-6 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

And this is what Isaiah is addressing to the stone cold lifeless hearts of those in Israel during his days.

The next few chapters are going to deal with the everlasting covenant that God has made with His people. And this is where the confusion often arises that God is speaking about reestablishing the nation of Israel back to a place of glory.

In fact, as Paul has already pointed out in Romans, the people of God will not be a particular nation, but the world, in which even the Gentiles will make up the one people of God. And this is what Isaiah addresses in chapter 54.

Isaiah 54:1 ^{NAU} "Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no *child*; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; For the sons of the desolate one *will be* more numerous Than the sons of the married woman," says the LORD.

Two different groups are identified here: the barren one who has borne no child and the sons of the married woman.

Who would be the sons of the married woman?

This would be Israel whose offspring are the physical descendants of Sarah and Abraham. And it would be through Israel, as Isaiah has made clear, that the seed of the woman would come as a redeemer child is born through a virgin.

Who then would be the sons of the barren one who have borne no child, which indicates that the Messiah would not come through them?

The Gentiles. And so, Isaiah is declaring in ISA 54:1 that the barren one should break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud because God will graft them into the vine.

By the way, as Isaiah writes about this marriage relationship with Israel and her God, this is during the time leading up to Israel's judgment by God as Assyria takes Israel into captivity around 720 BC.

It would be almost 100 years later that Jeremiah would address this marriage relationship and declare that God has cut Israel off as a nation from the privilege of representing God in this world.

Jeremiah 3:8-9 ⁸ "And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, *I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce*, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also. ⁹ "Because of the lightness of her harlotry, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.

This is an official statement from God that Israel no longer represents the one true God, nor the people of God. And yet, Jeremiah can go on in the next few verses and say this.

Jeremiah 3:14-16 ¹⁴ 'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the LORD; 'For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.' ¹⁵ "Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ "It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land," declares the LORD, "they will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss *it*, nor will it be made again.

What is Jeremiah addressing here when he says that in those days when they are multiplied and increased in the land, they will no longer say, the ark of the covenant of the Lord, nor will they even miss the ark of the covenant?

Here Jeremiah is contrasting the old covenant, as seen in the Ark of the Covenant, with the new covenant in the blood of the Messiah where the Old Covenant will be dispensed with and there will be no need for it because it was only a shadow of the New. It will not be missed by God's true people, all who place their faith in Christ, both Jew and Gentile in those days.

And this is precisely what Isaiah addresses in the next chapter.

Isaiah 56:4-8 ⁴ For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, ⁵ To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. ⁶ "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; ⁷ Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples." ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, "Yet *others* I will gather to them, to those *already* gathered."

And so, it comes back to the question that Isaiah raised, who has heard our report?

Not Israel the nation. They have despised the report as he points out again.

Isaiah 59:1-3 ^{NAU} Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear. ³ For your hands are defiled with blood And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken falsehood, Your tongue mutters wickedness.

But the promise remains for those who are dispersed and whom the Lord will bring to Himself as Isaiah points out as he addresses the Holy One to whom the nations will come and bow down.

Isaiah 60:1-5 ^{NAU} "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. ³ "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ "Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms. ⁵ "Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Isaiah 60:11-13 ¹¹ "Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that *men* may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession. ¹² "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined. ¹³ "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious.

Any thoughts as to what Isaiah is addressing here in these verses?

Revelation 21:23-27 ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; ²⁶ and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; ²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This is the hope we long for and the One who will accomplish this is the One Isaiah continues to lift up.

Isaiah 61:1-2 ^{NAU} The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To

proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Luke 4:16-21 ¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Toward the end of the book of Isaiah, the prophet reminds Israel of her sin and judgment.

Isaiah 65:2-6 ² "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk *in* the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, ³ A people who continually provoke Me to My face, Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks; ⁴ Who sit among graves and spend the night in secret places; Who eat swine's flesh, And the broth of unclean meat is *in* their pots. ⁵ "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day. ⁶ "Behold, it is written before Me, I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will even repay into their bosom,

But as God moves beyond a mere nation in rebellion He still holds out the hope of a future with Him and Isaiah paints this picture.

Isaiah 65:15-19 ¹⁵ "You will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord GOD will slay you. But My servants will be called by another name. ¹⁶ "Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight! ¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing And her people *for* gladness. ¹⁹ "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there

will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying.

Again, where have we heard this before?

Revelation 21:1-5 ^{NAU} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

And this is precisely how Isaiah closes this book as he points to the contrast between that which is new that God will make and the destruction of those who reject Him.

Isaiah 66:22-24 ²² "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. ²³ "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD. ²⁴ "Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."

Here again, we have those who have rebelled against the Lord, who all throughout this book are identified as Israel, but it will certainly not be limited to Israel the nation, as we are told that all who rebel will be condemned.

So, just as the true people of God will be made up of Jew and Gentile, so too, the reprobate will be made up of both Jew and Gentile. It all goes back to the Garden and the designation that God imposed in His judgment on both man and Satan.

The seed of the woman vanquishing the seed of the serpent. This is what all of Scripture addresses and this is what God has shown Isaiah which he has revealed to a stiff-necked people who are

identified as the seed of satan while He calls out a people from that seed a remnant who share in the seed of the woman and the future hope of the new heavens and new earth.