

## The Humble and Contrite in Spirit

66 Thus says the LORD:

"Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest?  
2 All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things came to be,  
declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.

- 3 → "He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man;  
→ he who sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck;  
→ he who presents a grain offering, like one who offers pig's blood;  
→ he who makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol.

These have chosen their own ways,  
and their soul delights in their abominations;

- 4 I also will choose harsh treatment for them  
and bring their fears upon them,  
because when I called, no one answered,  
when I spoke, they did not listen;  
but they did what was evil in my eyes  
and chose that in which I did not delight."

1-2a 1 Kings 8:27. The heavens cannot contain God, and a temple built by men out of His creation cannot contain Him. Those who want Jesus to return to earth and rule on a throne in Jerusalem should read this as a repent on seeing such a small God.

2b God is not looking for a building to live in. He is looking for people who will live their lives for Him.

3 After showing the type of follower God wants in 2b we are shown four pictures of how God views the sacrifices of the unholy. These do what they want by going their own way, and then expect God to accept their sacrifices. Their sacrifices become part of the sin God will punish or require they pay for. Their wickedness and their sacrifices are both abominations to God. They are distasteful and make Him sick to his stomach.

4 Here God shows what it all looks like from His point of view. Earlier the people complained about God not hearing and responding. This shows God has chosen to respond, not to their prayers, but to their sinful actions, including their unholy worship. God has spoken through His written word, His prophets, and their conscience and the people would not listen. God saw them ignore Him and continue to live seeking pleasure and earthly power/wealth. Their choices were not God's choices, and God will not let that go unpunished.

- 5 Hear the word of the LORD,  
 you who tremble at his word:  
 "Your brothers who hate you  
 and cast you out for my name's sake  
 have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified,  
 that we may see your joy';  
 but it is they who shall be put to shame.
- 6 "The sound of an uproar from the city!  
 A sound from the temple!  
 The sound of the LORD,  
 rendering recompense to his enemies!

Rejoice with Jerusalem

- 7 "Before she was in labor  
 she gave birth;  
 before her pain came upon her  
 she delivered a son.
- 8 Who has heard such a thing?  
 Who has seen such things?  
 Shall a land be born in one day?  
 Shall a nation be brought forth in one  
 moment?  
 For as soon as Zion was in labor  
 she brought forth her children.
- 9 Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to  
 bring forth?"  
 says the LORD;  
 "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?"  
 says your God.

BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

⑤ Having shown His disdain for the ungodly, God now turns to comfort? Give directions to those who "hear the word of God." These true believers are loved by God and hated by the unrighteous who use God's word to justify their sinful ways through selective theology and textual criticism. Here God sides with those oppressed by lies and the ungodly. God knows the hypocrite and will not let them win.

⑥ There is coming a time of judgment. It comes from the Holy city, from the eternal temple. It is as Thessalonians says a "Trumpet call of God." (1 Thes. 4.16) Judgment is coming. It may be delayed but it will not be stopped. All the ungodly will pay eternally for rejecting Him and His truth. Those who mock God by denial, and those who mock Him by worshipping idols they have made. If man want God to hear him then man must first respond to God and repent or face God's recompense.

⑦ Here is a picture of the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost where 3,000 were saved. To make every part fit exactly is not how parables and word pictures work. The pain for the church would follow birth. As the suffering of the Jews for being the instrument God used to bring Christ into the world. Rev. 12.5-6 shows how Satan (the dragon) went after the Jews (woman).

⑧ Here this new spiritual nation includes Jews and Gentiles who enter by faith. (cf. Luke 24.47; Acts 3.26; 13.46; 18.6; Rom. 1.16; 2.20 & in particular Acts 15.1ff). This is the miracle of the start of the church and its rapid growth.

⑨ After all God did in preparing why should anyone be surprised that it happens as He said it would. Even as a woman reaches a point where the baby will come and nothing can stop it so was the birth of the church. God planned all this He was not going to stop it.

BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
 all you who love her;  
 rejoice with her in joy,  
 all you who mourn over her;  
 11 that you may nurse and be satisfied  
 from her consoling breast;  
 that you may drink deeply with delight  
 from her glorious abundance."  
 12 For thus says the LORD:  
 "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,  
 and the glory of the nations like an overflowing  
 stream;  
 and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,  
 and bounced upon her knees.  
 13 As one whom his mother comforts,  
 so I will comfort you;  
 you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
 14 You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
 your bones shall flourish like the grass;  
 and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his  
 servants,  
 and he shall show his indignation against his  
 enemies.

Final Judgment and Glory of the LORD

15 "For behold, the LORD will come in fire,  
 and his chariots like the whirlwind,  
 to render his anger in fury,  
 and his rebuke with flames of fire.

10-14 THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IS A MOMENT IN TIME THAT LIKE THE BIRTH OF A CHILD BRING JOY TO EVERYONE.

- 10 Jerusalem represents the Jewish nation that should have shared in the joy of the new nation serving and worshipping the Messiah. Joy is all God sees as His working, planning, and prodding have finally see this birth.
- 11 Here the church like a child is encouraged to rest and grow much like they did in the temple before Acts 8 & the dispersion of the believers throughout the Roman Empire.
- 12 The picture extend to the nations that will be blessed by this birth. They shall be nurtured, protected, and loved as they discover their place in God's spiritual Kingdom.
- 13 God promises to care for His children who are born from above as a mother cares and comforts a new born baby.
- 14 Here is God's promise to the church and each individual member of how He will care for them. Those loved by God will always have His joy. He will protect His children and turn and deal w/ their enemies.
- 15 There is coming a final judgment of the wicked. This is to be by fire as demonstrated in over 100 verses in the O.T. & N.T. see (cf. Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 3:7) as examples. Here Isaiah begins to wrap up the book showing both judgment for those who reject or ignore Him, and His promise to those who surrender and worship Him.

16 For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment,  
and by his sword, with all flesh;  
and those slain by the LORD shall be many.

17 "Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares the LORD.

18 "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19 and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. 20 And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. 21 And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

23 From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the LORD.

16 Fire consumes all impurities, just as God's judgment will. This must not be used to assumed annihilation but punishment (cf. Mt 25.46) Eternal punishment is spoken of by Jesus. THE SWORD is the word of God or word of truth. By God's word ALL SHALL ANSWER. (Eph 6.17) Judgment will be upon all of humanity not just the Jews for rejecting Jesus but also on those who ignore or deny God/Jesus.

17 Those who worship idols may go through the Mosaic ceremonies of purification but in word and deed they deny God. As stated earlier God sees their offerings as abominations as they try to bribe God through ceremony w/ sin filled hearts. Some see this as literal but I lean toward the symbolism of unfaithful people lying to God and hoping He will not notice their hypocrisy.

18-21 Here is the church reaching out and bringing the Message of Christ to ALL NATIONS. This is the great outreach to the Gentiles

18 Isaiah see the time coming when all are invited into God's family.

19 The Sign is the resurrection as referred to in Luke 11.29. This sign of Jonah was Jesus pointing to the resurrection for all to see. The message is for all and is to be shared w/out regard for background.

20 Those who come will be family (brothers). They shall be offerings, or living sacrifices (Romans 12.1). This offering started on Pentecost or the first harvest sacrifice. This harvest continues even now as He gathers the crop of souls of those who submit & follow Jesus.

21 In the O.T. Law one had to be born into the tribe of Levi to be a priest. Now God is calling people into the priesthood of believers. see 1 Peter 2.5, 9. More specifically some will be called as pastors, ministers, leaders of the church. Chosen by God to serve His church.

22 THE new eternal Kingdom is to bring about what God has always wanted a people who worship and honor His name. This eternal God has finally gotten followers who through faith in Jesus are His family forever.

23 Here is a picture of Heaven. Filled with followers who joyfully and willingly worship Him. This is so contrary to what Judah was and why they were to be punished. IN THE END THEY ARE NOT RESTORED but instead are replaced by others who come for all over to the resurrected Lord.

<sup>24</sup> "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

(24) One last warning even as God's people worship and live with Him in eternal glory judgment is come for those who reject Him. To rebell against God is to ignore, deny, or to bring false worship. Jesus spoke of this place of eternal punishment while here in the flesh. Every knee shall bow. (Isa 45:23) Those that believe and lived it will experience vs. 23. Those who did not and rebelled will experience vs. 24. see Mt 25:46 where Jesus says exactly the same thing.