

THE RESTORATION OF JERUSALEM AND OF THE JEWS

ISAIAH 66:07–14

Introduction

This chapter is the climax to the great book of Isaiah. Through the power of God's Spirit, Isaiah has been able to look through the portal of time to see the events of the future. As has been seen, the behaviour of the human race repeats itself generation after generation. For this reason, the discipline of God and His hand of judgment have repeatedly fallen on the wicked people and nations of this earth. God is very patient, suffering a long time with the sinful person. But eventually the day comes when His hand of discipline and judgment must fall. However, as Isaiah looked into the corridor of the future, he saw not only the judgments of God but also saw the salvation of God, even the sufferings of the Messiah Himself. As he now closes the great prophecies given him by the LORD, he is able to see the glorious consummation of human history. He actually sees the events of the end time, the last days of the human race on earth. This is the exciting subject that closes the great book of Isaiah, *The Last Days of Human History (Part 2)*, Isaiah 66:1-24.

- I. The true temple of God (vv. 1-6).
- II. The restored Jerusalem: the restoration of the city and of the Jews, 54:1-17 (vv. 7-14).
- III. The Day of the LORD, His terrifying judgment (vv. 15-18).
- IV. The proclamation of God's glory worldwide (vv. 19-21).
- V. The gift of eternal life in the new heavens and earth (vv. 22-23).
- VI. The sad fate of the unrepentant (v. 24).

Isaiah 66:07–14 The Restored Jerusalem: The Restoration of the City and of the Jews

During the last days of human history, both the city of Jerusalem and the Jews will be restored to their nation, Israel. The nation will be reborn quickly, suddenly — within a day — more quickly than a mother who gives birth even before her labour pains begin (vv. 7-8). God Himself guarantees the rebirth (v. 9). And because He is the source and the giver of life, He will not fail to deliver Israel. The nation and its capital will both be restored (49:18-21; 54:1-3).

In that day, all Jerusalem will be a cause for great rejoicing among God's people (vv. 10-14). All who love the LORD — including the righteous believers down through the centuries who had mourned the city's sufferings and destruction — will rejoice over Jerusalem. Five reasons are given for the overwhelming joy of God's people:

1. People will rejoice because Jerusalem will nourish, comfort, and satisfy those who love her (v. 11). When Christ returns, He will rule from Jerusalem. And all the world
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will receive what it needs from Him. Looking to Him who reigns in Jerusalem, believers will have every need in life met by Christ.

2. People will rejoice because God will overflow Jerusalem with peace and prosperity (v. 12). This peace will allow all nations to become economically prosperous with Jerusalem as the capital of the world, the seat of government where Christ rules. Jerusalem will become the financial centre of the world, the centre into which the wealth of all nations will flow.
3. People will rejoice because Jerusalem's children will be provided and cared for (v. 12b). Obviously the children of Jerusalem will be the true believers and worshippers who enter the Messiah's kingdom when He returns to earth. Naturally, the LORD will take care of all His people, all the citizens of His kingdom.
4. People will rejoice because Jerusalem will comfort her children (v. 13). Comfort will flow from the heart of the LORD, reaching out to all His people. Although Christ will be ruling from Jerusalem, His Spirit will move throughout the world and comfort all His people.
5. People will rejoice over Jerusalem because the city itself will stir joy and bring vigorous health to the population. The very lives of people — their mental and physical health — will flourish like grass, for the hand of the LORD will rest upon His people.

Thought 1. Jerusalem and the Jews will be restored to their nation, permanently restored. When Christ returns to set up His kingdom on earth, He will set up His seat of government in Jerusalem. The Holy City will be reborn, restored as though it had been given a new birth. Old Jerusalem will become a brand new city, completely rebuilt. And all Jews who have truly trusted the LORD will be returned to their nation, becoming citizens of God's kingdom on earth. Listen to this wonderful promise of God given to all Jewish believers:

Isa 1:26 *"I will restore your judges as in days of old, your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City."*

Isa 11:12 *He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.*

Isa 49:22 *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.*

Isa 60:10 *Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion.*

Ezek 20:40 *For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them. There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices.*

Zec 1:17 *“Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”*

Zec 10:6 *“I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.”*

Zec 14:11 *It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.*

Mal 3:4 *And the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. ■*