



## "A Gruesome & Glorious End" (Isaiah 63-66)

Danny Hodges – OT2383

With this study tonight we will complete our study of Isaiah. Jeremiah is next, so you will want to begin reading the book of Jeremiah.

Isaiah concludes with the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:2b-7; The time of grace will one day run dry, Jesus will return and pour out wrath upon those who have not repented, & the nation of Israel will be blessed beyond belief. But there will be terrible times before this (The Great Tribulation).

63:1-4 We would relate to these passages better if we were from the Middle East and were familiar with these towns and cities, especially during the time Isaiah lived. If it said, "Who is this coming from Louisiana, from New Orleans, we would understand.

- \* Bozrah was the capital of Edom.

- \* The Edomites were descendants of Esau, and became bitter enemies of Israel.

- \* Hebrews 12: 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

- 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

- \* When Jerusalem was destroyed, the Edomites sided with the enemy and applauded the destruction.

- \* Isaiah 34: 6 The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat-- the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom...8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause.

- \* Jeremiah 49: 22 Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Bozrah. In that day the hearts of Edom's warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor.

- \* Most scholars see Edom and Bozrah as representative of all who have rebelled against the Lord and refuse to repent. This is an interesting thought, because the scene here is very similar to what we read in Rev.19:11-15.

64:1-2, 5-6 This is the prayer of those who long for redemption, who have realized their sinful state, humbled themselves before the Lord, and are dependent upon His grace and mercy for their salvation. But the Bible tells us that they are the "remnant" (remaining few).

\* Matthew 7: 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

\* Note: Not because it is not accessible for all, but because most refuse its path...

65:1-2 God had repeatedly called, and they had repeatedly rejected that call. But for those who would choose to listen, and repent, what a glorious hope God gives them!

65:8-13, 17ff (Which Art covered 2 weeks ago)

66:1-2a God reminds them how great He really is. They had reduced Him to a God that dwelt in a man made building, and was pleased with the religious rituals surrounding that building (the temple).

66:2b Here is what really pleases the Lord. No amount of religious practice or ritual will please the Lord apart from a person first coming to the place that they are broken over their sin, humbled by the greatness & glory of God, & deeply moved by the truth and power of the Word of God...

vv.3-4 These people were not only into mere religious ritual, but they had mixed elements of God directed worship with pagan practices (See Deut.18:9-12a; II Kings 17:33).

v.5 Religious persecution from the unrepentant toward those who have repented.

\* Who persecuted Jesus & His disciples the most? The religious crowd!

\* John 16: 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.

v.6 I Peter 4: 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

\* See Ezekiel 9:6; the Lord took Ezekiel in a vision to Jerusalem and showed him all the detestable practices going on in the temple. And God's judgment for their sin began at the temple.

v.7 I believe this speaks of the birth of Jesus Christ

v.8 I believe this speaks of the "rebirth" of Israel ("her children")

\* This is not their rebirth as a nation, but their spiritual rebirth

\* Verse 7 speaks of Christ being born, and the second part of verse 8 the rebirth of the nation through faith in Christ.

\* Rom.11: 25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

\* Note: no sooner is she "in labor" that she gives birth to her children

\* Matthew 24: 8 All these are the beginning of *birth pains*.

\* Matthew 24: 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

\* Daniel 9: 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. *The end will come like a flood*. War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

\* Note: A flood comes quickly, powerfully...

\* See Isa.60: 11, 14-15, 17b-18, 20b-21, 22b...I am the LORD; in its time I will do this *swiftly*."

v.9-14a John 16: 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

v.14b-16 It is a glorious end for those who repent, but a gruesome end for those who refuse to repent!

v.17 See Ezekiel 8

v.18 This refers to the end of the tribulation period, when God gathers the nations to fight against Jerusalem, then steps in to defend her...see Ezekiel 38-39, Daniel, Zech 14, etc.

v.19a What is the "sign" that God will set among them? I don't know...

v.19b This seems to refer some of the Jewish remnant saved during The Great Tribulation. They will go throughout the world declaring the glory of the Lord, and...

v.20 Jews from all over the world will be brought to Israel, and God will begin to fulfill all His promises to them. For a thousand years Israel will be the most blessed nation on earth.

\* Zechariah 14: 9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

v.21 Zechariah 14: 16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

\* Ezekiel describes the millennial temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

v.22-23 Israel's status with God will be as permanent & secure as the new heavens and new earth. And for a thousand years people on earth will come regularly to Jerusalem and bow before the King of Kings & Lord of Lords...and when they come, especially during the first few years, one of the things they will see is incredible...verse 24...

v.24 People will walk out to the Valley of Hinnom and see the corpses of the rebels being cremated in the perpetual fire that burns there (the city dump). Jesus used this imagery in reference to hell.

\* Mark 9: 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

## CONCLUSION

\* What a scene to end on. But one that God does not want us to forget. This is the end of all who reject His gracious offer of salvation...

\* One day people will be separated for all eternity, one group in what the Bible calls the "saved," the second in what the Bible calls the "lost."

\* II Peter 3:10-14