

Isaiah

Part Nine

The Path of Peace

The Destiny of God's Servant (chapters 56-66)

The Path of Peace

Throughout Isaiah he has tried to show them the right path in which to walk.

- **Finding the Path of Peace – 56:1—57:21**
 - **A Path open to Everyone**
 - **Obstacles – leadership failure, blatant idolatry, trusting diplomacy rather than God**
 - **Choosing peace or not – God heals and restores but there is no peace for the wicked**

Final Sections of Isaiah

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- **God will take care of their enemies**
- **They must choose to walk in the right path**

God will Bless Them with Glory and Light – 60:1-22

- **The Nations Will Come to your Light – 60:1-9**
 - **The Nations in Darkness will Come to your Light – 60:1-3**
 - **The Nations will Return your Captives and Bring Riches – 60:4-5**
 - **The Wealth of the Nations will be Brought to you to Honor Me – 60:6-10a**

God will Bless Them with Glory and Light – 60:1-22

- **I will Turn from Anger to Compassion –
60:10b-14**
- **They were Forsaken; They will be the Pride
and Joy – 60:15-22**

The Last Few Chapters of Isaiah

- **THREE MAJOR MESSAGES**

- **FIRST, God will bring Judah back from Babylon, completely reversing her situation**

- That means blessing for God's people.
- It means defeat for those who are oppressing God's people.
- God avenges not in a human manner, but because justice requires it.
- **TWO PATHS:** those who are servants of God, and those who rebel against God (cf. Matt 7:13-14)

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- **THREE MAJOR MESSAGES**

- **FIRST**, God will bring Judah back from Babylon, completely reversing her situation
- **SECOND**, Israel still has a mission. She can choose to fulfill it or not.
- **THIRD**, the prophets spoke of Christ, and some things in this section will apply to Jesus.

The Year of the Lord's Favor – 61:1-11

- **The work of the anointed one – 61:1-3**
 1. To proclaim good news to the afflicted
 2. To bind up or heal the hurts of the people
 3. To proclaim liberty
 4. To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and vengeance
 5. To comfort all who are mourning and sorrowing
 6. To provide a new situation for those grieving

The Year of the Lord's Favor – 61:1-11

- **Blessing instead of shame – 61:4-11**
 1. **Rebuild the ancient ruins – 61:4**
 1. **Babylon will never be inhabited again – 13:19-22**
 2. **Desert creatures will possess Edom – 34:8-17**
 2. **Instead of shame, a double portion – 61:5-7**
 3. **God loves justice – 61:8**
 4. **Their descendants blessed by God – 61:9**
 5. **Zion responds joyously – 61:10-11**

A New Name – 62:1-12

- **STANZA 1: No Longer Forsaken—A New Name for a New Jerusalem – 62:1-5**
 - **A New Situation**
 - Her righteousness will shine like the dawn
 - Her salvation will shine like a blazing torch

A New Name – 62:1-12

- STANZA 1: No Longer Forsaken—A New Name for a New Jerusalem

- A New Situation

- Her righteousness will shine like the dawn
- Her salvation will shine like a blazing torch

- A New Name

- She was Azubah (Forsaken); she will be Hephzibah (My-Delight-is-in-Her)
- Her land was Shemamah (Desolate); it will be Beulah (Married)

A New Name – 62:1-12

- **STANZA 2: The Diligent Watchmen – 62:6-9**
 - **Curses for not keeping the covenant**
 - You will plant and someone else will eat it
 - You will work the vines and someone else will drink the wine
 - **Covenant blessings**
 - You will eat what you plant
 - You will drink the wine for which you've toiled

A New Name – 62:1-12

- **STANZA 3: A Highway for the Nations – 62:10-12**
 - Israel is not merely to come back home; she is to come back home to re-engage her mission
 - Those who repent will be called
 - Holy People
 - Redeemed of the Lord
 - The city will be called
 - Sought-after-the-city-no-longer-deserted

The Lone Warrior – 63:1-6

- **Who is Coming? – The one Mighty to Save! – 63:1**
 - **The anointed one had announced in 62:2...**
 - **The Year of the Lord's Favor, which we've seen**
 - **Vengeance, which we see in 63:1-6**
 - **If God's people are to be blessed, those who persecute them must be defeated**
 - **That is why the one who is described as a WARRIOR taking vengeance is also the same one described as MIGHTY TO SAVE**
 - **Edom represents all Judah's enemies**

The Lone Warrior – 63:1-6

- Why are your garments red? – from trampling the nations! – 63:2-3
- Vengeance – the other side of the coin of God's redemption – 63:4-6
 - This is both the day of vengeance and the year of redemption
 - Favor for God's people means defeat for their enemies

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **LAMENT STANZA 1 – Reminiscing over the Lord's Kindnesses – 63:7-14**
 - He has show Israel compassion and many kindnesses – 63:7-9
 - They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit – 63:10
 - Then they recalled the days of old – 63:11-14
 - **Key Question (v 11) – Where is God?**

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **LAMENT STANZA 2 – The Complaint – 63:15-19**
 - God, where are your zeal, might, tenderness, and compassion? – 63:15
 - You are our father even if Abraham should forget us – 63:16
 - Complaint: Why do you harden our hearts? Return for our sake – 63:17-19

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **LAMENT STANZA 3 – The Confession – 64:1-7**
 - We have sinned, become unclean, and there is no one who calls on your name

LAMENT and RESPONSE: God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **LAMENT STANZA 4 – The Appeal– 64:8-12**
 - You are our creator – 64:8-9
 - Our condition is ruin – 64:10-11
 - Lord, will you keep silent? – 64:12

LAMENT and RESPONSE: God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **God's RESPONSE – 65:1-16**
 - I revealed myself to those who did not call on me – 65:1
 - All day long I held out my hand – 65:2
 - You provoked me with idols – 65:3-7
 - I will bless good grapes; I will destroy evil-doers – 65:8-12

LAMENT and RESPONSE: God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **God's RESPONSE – 65:1-16**
– A contrast of destinies – 65:13-16

My Servants Will...	You Will...
Eat	Go hungry
Drink	Go thirsty
Rejoice	Be put to shame
Sing from Joy	Cry from Anguish

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **God's Purpose: Blessing – 65:17—66:24**
 - **The New Heaven and the New Earth – 65:17-25**
 - **What's new about it?**
 - They won't remember their despair in Babylon – 65:17
 - Jerusalem will be a delight and its people a joy – 65:18
 - You won't be weeping over your oppressors any longer – 65:19 (cf. Isa 30:19; Psa 137:1).
 - Long life (an indication this is not heaven, for death is still present)
 - They, not their conquerors, will benefit from their land
 - Eden is pictured all over again
 - **These are IMAGES to convey blessing, not literal predictions**

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **What God thinks of External Religion – 66:1-24**
 - **The Path to God's Esteem – 66:1-2**
 - **Building God a temple will not impress Him**
 - **He already has heaven as a throne and earth as a footstool**
 - **So how do you become one God esteems? Be...**
 - **Humble**
 - **Contrite in Spirit**
 - **Tremble at His word**

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **What God thinks of External Religion – 66:1-24**
 - **The Path to Destruction – 66:3-4**
 - **What about the one who offers a sacrifice merely to manipulate God?**
 - **The problem of making ourselves feel good by doing what we want and calling it God's will**

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **What God thinks of External Religion – 66:1-24**
 - **Encouragement for the Righteous: God's Coming Joy – 66:5-6**
 - **God's enemies will be shamed – 66:5-6**
 - **God will do what he promises – 66:7-9**
 - **God will abundantly provide and will comfort them – 66:10-13**

LAMENT and RESPONSE:

God's Faithfulness – 63:7-66:24

- **The Destiny of Two Paths – 66:14-24**
 - You, God's servants, will flourish like grass; God's foes will see judgment – 66:14-17
 - Nations will see God's glory – 66:18-21
 - The End Result of Two Paths – 66:22-24