

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 142

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Christ's Charge to Peter by Raphael Cir 1515-1516

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

One-Hundred-Forty-Two

God Answers Isaiah's Prayer Pt IV

THE LORD HATES HYPOCRISY

January 16, 2022

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 66:1-14

¹ Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of house will ye build unto me? and what place shall be my rest? ² For all these things hath my hand made, and so all these things came to be, saith Jehovah: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at my word. ³ He that killeth an ox is as he that slayeth a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as he that breaketh a dog's neck; he that offereth [Ⓜ]an oblation, as he that offereth swine's blood; he that [Ⓜ]burneth frankincense, as he that blesseth an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations: ⁴ I also will choose their [Ⓜ]delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did that which was evil in mine eyes, and chose that wherein I delighted not.

⁵ Hear the word of Jehovah, ye that tremble at his word: Your brethren that hate you, that cast you out for my name's sake, have said, Let Jehovah be glorified, that we may see your joy; but it is they that shall be put to shame. ⁶ A voice of tumult from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of Jehovah that rendereth recompense to his enemies.

⁷ Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man-child. ⁸ Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a land be [Ⓜ]born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. ⁹ Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith Jehovah: shall I that cause to bring forth shut the womb? saith thy God.

¹⁰ Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn over her; ¹¹ that ye may suck and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. ¹² For thus saith Jehovah, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream: [Ⓜ]and ye shall suck thereof; ye shall be borne upon the side, and shall be dandled upon the knees. ¹³ As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And ye shall see it, and your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like the tender grass: and the hand of Jehovah shall be known toward his servants; and he will have indignation against his enemies (ASV, 1901).

THE LORD ASSERTS HIS AUTHORITY

Isaiah 66:1

¹Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of house will ye build unto me? and what place shall be my rest (ASV, 1901)?

In this final chapter of the book of Isaiah the Lord God summarizes the teaching He has given Isaiah throughout this book. God begins by saying that the Temple and the offerings are not necessary for His sake. He Himself has no need for our service. Rather, it is the nation Israel and the whole world that benefits, when we express our desire to serve Him and come close to Him. God's intention is twofold: to reward those that humble themselves before Him, and to punish the nations that sin against Him

God switches from His description of Jerusalem's future glory, to rebut the misconception that lulled people into a false sense of security. They imagined that God would ignore even egregious sins as long as they brought their offerings in the Temple without true repentance. Contrary to the warnings of the prophets, they were sure that He would never permit His services in the Temple to be disrupted. To this, God responds that He is not confined to a specific building, nor does He require the animals that are brought as offerings. Rather, He takes pleasure that Israel and all mankind humbly submit to His Will. This Temple and the people's practices He condemns concludes with the Tribulation Temple. This is known because He sanctioned the one Solomon built for Him as well as the one that Zerubbabel rebuilt in the Second Temple period starting in 520 B.C. when the Jews were released from Babylon to return to Jerusalem by Cyrus the Great of the Medes and Persians. God will not sanction the Tribulation Temple. The Jewish leaders will affirm the bad covenant they will make with the Antichrist and God condemns them for it and will render judgment upon them for doing that instead of trusting Him. The Antichrist may offer to get the Tribulation erected. Something very attractive to them will cause them to enter a bad covenant.

Isaiah 28:14-18

¹⁴Wherefore hear the word of Jehovah, ye scoffers, that rule this people that is in Jerusalem: ¹⁵Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves ¹⁵therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone of sure foundation: he that believeth shall not be in haste ¹⁷And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding-place. ¹⁸And your covenant with death shall be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it (ASV, 1901).

God cannot be limited to the narrow space of a temple, synagogue, or church where some people worship, pray, and then think that they are free to live in a manner that is outside

God's Will everywhere else in the world. They seem to think that they only need to obey God when they are in the institutions dedicated to Him. When God says, "*Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool*" it is that God has no need for a Temple. Regarding the idea that "God's feet" reach down to the earth, He is saying that whoever wilfully commits a sin is considered as if he has pushed away the feet of God's Presence, as it were. If a person sins in secret, but would be ashamed to do so in public, it is as if he dismisses the notion that God is aware of what takes place in the earth. Because God is long suffering before He takes action against sin, the intentional sinner thinks that God does not see his or her sin and therefore sanctions it. Thus, they signify that they do not believe in God, he is, in effect, "pushing away" God's feet from the earth, as it were. If he really believed in God, he would be morally bound to obey His Laws all the time. In their hypocrisy it is common for them to not follow God's morality when absent from church or synagogue.

Additionally, when God states that the earth is My footstool, He is saying that I do not require your Temple throne, and the earth is merely My footstool! To the nation Israel He is essentially saying, I allowed you to build the Tribulation Temple not to benefit Me, but so that the hearts of Israel would focus upon Me. The entire universe, not only heaven, is filled with God's glory. Heaven is called His throne as a metaphor. Just as a human ruler issues decrees while seated on his throne, God's issues decrees from Heaven, as it were through His prophets. The earth is referred to as a footstool, in the sense that it belongs to God, to do with as He pleases and His throne extends to it.

God is in essence saying that He owns everything we see and that which we cannot see. The purpose of the Temple was that there would be a place where the nation Israel would pray and bring offerings, and when Jews see the offerings consumed on the Altar, they would be inspired to admit their sinful condition and purge inappropriate thoughts and values from their hearts. If they perform the Temple service while continuing to engage in depraved behavior, they undermine its very purpose, which is the same as it is with the Church. God says it is to this that I look: to the poor and broken-spirited person, who is regarding My word not the hypocrite. This problem has existed for most of the history of the nation Israel. It will reach its height just before and during the Tribulation. This will be the attitude of the nation Israel when the Tribulation starts for both the leaders and most of the people.

What God wants Israel to do at this time is to return to Him in faith, not merely to build Him a house. This passage begins with a protest from God, Who, makes it clear that no temple built by Israel at this time will be acceptable, for God will not come and reside in this one as He did in the first Temple. He will not accept these reinstated Levitical sacrifices any more than He would accept human sacrifices, swine, or idolatry in the Old Testament. *He that killeth an ox* is as if he slew a man; literally, *is a manslayer*. God in essence is saying that, "He that, not being of a poor and contrite spirit, would offer Me an ox in sacrifice, is as little pleasing to Me as a murderer."

God tells the people to stop their hypocritical worship (Malachi 1:10). Jesus also said that the righteous Pharisees were vile. He referred to them as unclean tombs (Matthew 23:27). People with unclean hearts will offer unclean offerings, no matter how rigorously they think they obey the Bible, and such offerings are an offense to God. Offered out of an unclean heart, an ox is no different from a man, a lamb is no cleaner than a dog whose neck has been wrung (Exodus 13:13; Deuteronomy 21:4), the firstfruits of the grain are no more pleasing than the blood of a

swine, and a memorial (Isaiah 1: 13; Psalm 38:1; Leviticus 24:7; Numbers 5:26) offering of incense might as well be given to an idol (Isaiah 41:29; I Samuel 15:23; Hosea 4:15).

What these people are doing reflects not what God has chosen, but what they have chosen. This is forcefully expressed by the Lord, when He says Just as *they* have chosen, so I will choose. Instead of following the admonitions of 55:7 and seeking the ways of God, these people have *chosen their own ways*, and instead of seeking out what God desires, like the son of the foreigner (56:4), they have acted as though they desired God (58:2) while all the time desiring abominations. These are unclean hearts that desire not God but only His undeserved blessings.

Sacrifice, without the true spirit of sacrifice, is an abomination. God is in essence saying to what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? With the proper spirit, the sacrifices are actually accepted; here they are hypocritical. God who remembers the future rejects their future Tribulation offerings.

Their delusions makes reference to what God does to some sinners. God sends on some men "strong delusion that they should believe a lie" (II Thessalonians 2:11). Persons who engage in these strong continual sins are especially liable to vain and groundless "fears." God predicts how He deals with the strong continual sinners in Romans. He gives their minds over to a debauched, evil doers mind, where they want to continue to defy God thereby certifying their fate of no salvation will be available.

Romans 1:18–24

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves ²⁵ who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one towards another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, covenant-

breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³² who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them (KJV).

The very fact that they will build this temple and make a treaty with the Antichrist shows their failure to listen to God's word and come to God by faith in Jesus the Messiah. Then God has a word of encouragement to those faithful Jews who will not participate in the rebuilding of the Temple, but are seeking to do God's will. So, there will be a faithful remnant who will not participate in the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple for the Tribulation. Just as the Essenes left Jerusalem for Qumran before the Lord Jesus' first advent these will not be a part of the abominational practices of the Tribulation time Jewish leaders. Finally, Isaiah states that this new Temple will only end in judgment and not in forgiveness of sin or acceptable worship. God addresses the faithful too.

The hypocritical nation, having denounced God's judgments made a jest of God's word and would not answer Him when He called to them. False worship is rooted in the depraved will. They have "chosen their own ways;" they "have pleasure in their abominations." The Lord wants His children to achieve the morality He proclaims. It is not to be found in the creature, but only in the Creator. God will exercise retribution upon such idolaters, sending on them calamity and terror. Now the Lord turns his speech to those that *trembled at his word*. It is another way of describing those of humble and contrite heart. It is to these that He seeks to comfort and encourage. They shall not be included in the judgments that are coming upon their unbelieving nation. The prophet, having assured those that tremble at God's Word, here brings them a gracious message. The word of God has comforts in store for those that by true humiliation for sin are prepared to receive them. There were those who, when *God spoke, would not hear*; but, if some will not, others will. The godly are addressed by the Lord. They are those that have a reverential fear of God's word. *Your brethren that hate you, that cast you out for my name's sake* many times came to designate persecution and even death. The same negative attitude has been shown toward God's Chosen for many years who bring the truth to the world. Jesus said the same things to His followers. Over the centuries that have been many persecutions of the Jewish people by unbelievers.

1. Amorites
2. Cushan-Rishathaim of Mesopotamia
3. Midians Oppression
4. Servitude under Philistines & Ammonites
5. Assyrian captivity of Northern Ten Tribes in 722 B.C.
6. Babylonian captivity of Judah and Benjamin in three stages ending in 586 B.C.
7. Greek Persecutions under Antiochus Epiphanies
8. Roman Captivity of Israel by Pompey 63 B.C.
9. Herodian Rule over and Persecution of Jews
10. Roman Persecutions A.D. 70
11. Roman Persecutions A.D. 132
12. Roman Emperor Theodosius Enacts Laws and Persecutes Jews A.D. 388
13. Expulsions of Jews from France and England A.D. 1290-1300

- 14.Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions A.D. 1391-1539
- 15.Russian Persecutions, Pogroms & the Pale
- 16.Persecutions Under the Nazis
- 17.Hungarian Persecutions
- 18.Soviet Persecutions under Stalin A.D.1939-53
- 19.Arab, Muslim Persecutions A.D. 1948 Present
- 20.Final Persecution During the Great Tribulation

Many persecutions occurred to the early church including the Jewish leaders against the early Jewish Christians. Others include:

1. Nero
2. Domitian
1. Trajan
2. Marcus Aurelius Antonius
3. Severus
4. Maximus
5. Decius
6. Valerian
7. Aurelian
8. Diocletian
9. A vast number of persecutions of genuine Bible believers by the Roman Catholics.

John 15:17-23

¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye love one another. ¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. ²³ He that hateth me hateth my Father also (KJV).

This section closes with a prophecy of divine judgment against the nations," which functions in this context as God's judgment against those who hate the people who fearfully obey God's word. There can be no doubt that the prophet, in vision, sees The Lord taking recompence on His enemies, which is expressly specified. It includes the Hebrew people who offered syncretistic offerings when God brings his final judgment of all mankind (Isaiah 24:1- 23; 34:1-15; 63:1-6). This must be referring to events on the final Day of the Lord because that is the time when God will finally establish His justice on the earth by repaying his enemies their just rewards. Knowing this, all the humble and contrite can rest assured that eventually God will justly deal with those who hate them and repay all those who are involved with syncretistic worship.This Prophecy will be fulfilled at the second advent. The mocking challenge

of those apostate Jewish worshipers in the Tribulation Temple will be: Let the Lord be glorified, that is, by manifesting Himself in your behalf (Isaiah 5:19). Suddenly He will appear in Jerusalem in the (Tribulation) temple, rendering punishment to those enemies (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 25:31-46).

Here is the Lord's intervention as in the pouring out the last vial of judgment in the Tribulation (Revelation 16: 17). There, a "great voice comes out of the from the throne" announcing that the trial of man, both the spiritual and political spheres, has come to its end.

The Hebrew word for *tumult* (Hebrew Shaon) is only used for the tumult of war, the rushing sound of armies and the shock of battle, in which sense it is repeatedly employed by Isaiah. The enemies here mentioned are those who had just been described as the despisers and persecutors of their brethren. This is a description of the general judgment foretold by Joel, when all the nations should be judged at Jerusalem (Joel 3:2). This is an announcement to the confused clamor of war, and the battle cry raised by soldiers attacking Jerusalem. *A voice from the temple*. This again is the voice of The Lord breaking forth from the Temple, and commanding his foes to be slain. It doubtless means that the sound of the tumult was not only *around* the city, but *in* it; not merely in the distant parts, but in the very midst, and even at the temple. *A voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence*. These three things are apparent.

1. That it is recompence taken on those who had cast out their brethren.
2. It is vengeance taken within the city, and on the *internal*, and external enemies.
3. It is vengeance taken in the midst of this tumult.

The Messiah will slaughter the army by marching through the land in indignation and treading the nations with His feet, causing His garments to be blood stained. Zechariah describes the manner in which the massive hordes of Antichrist's army will be destroyed.

Zechariah 14:12–15

¹² And this shall be the plague wherewith Jehovah will smite all the peoples that have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. ¹³ And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from Jehovah shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor. ¹⁴ And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. ¹⁵ And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in those camps, as that plague (ASV, 1901).

Next message: ISRAEL REBORN IN A DAY

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