

The Bride, New Jerusalem, and the New Heavens and New Earth

by Charles Edward Borjas

"Behold I make all things NEW!" Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

In the ESV it says :And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

This is a declaration of Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation....The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now if you are a new Christian, or an older Christian, you have most likely heard that people who are not Christian, or who are new Christians should not read the Book of Revelations until they have read the Gospels and Epistles and other parts of the Bible as it will only confuse them.

But I strongly disagree. I think new Christians, and even unbelievers should definitely read the whole book of Revelations, and especially take note that it is not depicting the "end of the world", but on the contrary it is declaring the eternal Kingdom of God and a "world without end" in the "ages to come". I believe the book of The Revelation expresses that, and makes it absolutely clear that those who do read it and keep it in their hearts will be greatly blessed by God.

Now I am looking at book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ ,and I will abbreviate that as "The Revelation", from the perception of New Jerusalem and the New Heavens and Earth being NOW , and not some unknown time in the far distant future.

No. I do not believe the Bible teaches that an antichrist dictator will take over the world and fight the Christians, defeating them, and that there will be 7 years of great tribulation or 3 and a half or whatever, and then fight with Jesus face to face.

Personally speaking, what world leader in his right mind would even think of attempting to defeat Jesus Christ who is King of Kings and Lord of lords? That would be pretty stupid if you ask me. So what I am offering here is an alternative teaching to the one that has spread all over the church today and that most Christians believe.

So before I get too deeply into the Anti-Christ myth, let me take you on a journey through the scriptures to explain to you why I believe this way. I won't get into many theological arguments, but I will simply state the verses and what they mean to me; how I see or perceive them and what I believe they are saying.

Look what happened to the Roman Empire after the early Church infiltrated it , the WHOLE empire changed into the Holy Roman Empire! Something unthinkable and seemingly impossible in the first century. How awesome!

We have to put this Bible prophecy thing in the right perspective, God's perspective and realize what Bible prophecy is really leading to. Not the destruction of the world. Not a 1000 year personal reign of Jesus on earth. not a burning up of the world and a recreation of a new one. That is all Apocalyptic language and not to be taken literally.

The proper perspective of Bible prophecy I believe should be the covering of the world by the Word of God as the waters cover the seas and the vision for eternity, "World without end" and "The ages to come" . I Believe that is what we are headed into now, and every event that takes place to further God's relationship with mankind is another mighty step towards "The everlasting righteousness of God covering the Earth as the waters cover the seas" and "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess Jesus is Lord" in eternity and the ages to come. There will be an awful lot of repentance, especially when people face the Lord and He says "I never knew you, depart from me ye workers of iniquity" There will be a lot of weeping and gnashing of teeth, but even that will end. People will learn their lesson, even if it takes a long long time.

They knew about God, even believed , but did not KNOW Him personally and intimately. They had no oil for their lamps, and were like the prodigal son who squandered "all their living" on worthless things. It must have taken the prodigal son many years to finally swallow his pride and go home, where he was treated royally.

The perspective God has of prophecy is and eternal one. God's word is eternal, and unchangeable, but prophecy is conditional and can change with circumstances and free choice.

God sees everything from the before physical time on into eternity. He has the best perspective because His is the widest perspective.

God puts things into perspective according to eternity and that is awesome. That makes what is happening right now seems so small and so short, almost not important at all.

When you put things in the right perspective, it changes your whole outlook. You know that you know God, and Jesus His son.

Now, just one question that I will ask you to answer honestly which I will also do. God gave the book of The Revelation to Jesus after He had already died, been resurrected and gone to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, right? It is a well known fact that the book of Revelation was the final direct Word from God to His people and I am among those who believe that this means that the book of The Revelation was given BEFORE 70 AD and the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Rome , which took about 3 and a half years. A familiar number in Bible prophecy.

So what should we literally believe and follow, what Jesus said to His disciples when He was on earth before He was crucified and salvation became a reality? Or should we believe the latest Word, from Jesus as He REALLY looks, in the Spirit....in the latter days....when He is talking to the Church just before the destruction of Jerusalem and the ending of Israel as God's nation and religion forever?

That was the end time John was talking about, the "antichrists" he meant. That was the last days Paul and Peter talked about. The last days of Israel as a nation. They would be destroyed just as Jesus said they would be, and scattered. These last days the Bible talks about in the Old Testament and the New Testament is not talking about some obscure time in the distant far future, but was relating to the believers who were right there and then, as it had everything to do with their lives and the future of the Church!

To clarify things a little, Futurists, or people who believe that the book of Revelation is yet to be fulfilled sometime soon and somewhere in the far distant future believe that The Revelation was written and given to the 7 churches AFTER the fall of Jerusalem, in fact 20 some odd years after!

And yet John who is writing down everything He saw , or dictating it to a scribe, says here in Rev 1:9

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ,"(KJV) in the ESV (English Standard Version) it says " I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus,

You see, one says "companion in tribulation" and the other says "partner in the tribulation". In the few years preceding the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome there was a horrible persecution going on, which I believe to be the "great tribulation" Jesus was talking about in Matthew 24. And rather than go back and forth between the KJV and ESV, I will only use the ESV from here on as it is actually a more literal and accurate translation than the KJV, in up to date English and in most places keep s the same wording as the KJV as long as it is easy to understand.

Matthew 24:21: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. The very next verse says : "And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

So who is Jesus talking to here? What flesh is going to be saved? The elect are those believers who were able to escape from Jerusalem before the Roman siege and destruction took place, and not even one Christian was killed, because they obeyed Jesus' warning He is giving them right here!

So John was right there in the tribulation with the rest of the Christians who were scattered all over the Roman Empire, and Nero was burning them at the stake, feeding them to the lions, crucifying them, Roman soldiers were slaughtering Christian families and many of them had died horrible deaths, in direct fulfillment of what Jesus said was going to happen! The Great tribulation was that 3 and a half to 4 years before Rome finished Jerusalem off and most of the people inside its walls, in the most horrible slaughter of all time!

The Great Tribulation and its horrors is not depicted merely by the number of people who died, but by the method they tortured them and killed them and made many of them suffer so horribly, which had never happened before on that scale to the Christians and Jews and never has since then, and Jesus said there never will be such a horrible slaughter of Christians and Jews again in such a manner.

That did not mean there will never be persecution again, but that it would not be administered by Rome or any other nation in that form or manner using those methods of such horrible and merciless torture and murder on Christians and Jews again on such a scale as to virtually wipe out and scatter an entire race of Jews to where they have no city left, no country, no homeland, and haven't since then until 1948 when Israel became a nation.

The Believers, the Church also was scattered, but little by little infiltrated Rome and in a couple of hundred years became known as the Holy Roman Empire. Christianity had conquered the world! Christians have no Christian homeland, and so they had to make their home wherever they were led by God, and make that land their homeland so that they can affect and influence the people wherever they were and spread the Gospel to the whole known world.

Christianity spread and grew, evolved and went through many changes, but Jesus has always been kept as the reason for it all, and the Gospel has always been the driving force of the true Church, despite persecution, false prophets, teachers, and leaders, corruption, and many other problems it had to face, but now, today, the true Church is ruling and reigning with Jesus in His Kingdom come, exercising the power of the Holy Spirit wherever led, taking dominion, opening up the heavens as angels ascend and descend upon it, and closing up the spiritually dark portals through which the enemy enters in to kill , steal and destroy.

Jesus said a lot about seeing by faith, seeing things in the spirit. The rest of the New Testament too. The Bible talks a lot about walking (or living) by faith, not by sight . This spiritual sight is not with your eyes, but is your spiritual perception of things. How you see things and understand things in your mind and heart , according to the reality that your spirit already knows as fact.

John 20:29

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 7:5

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 13:13

This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Matthew 13:14

Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.

Matthew 13:15

For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

Matthew 13:16

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Matthew 15:17

Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?[1]

Matthew 24:30

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mark 8:18

Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?

And many many more Bible verses that express the ability of people to perceive the truth, but they do not, to understand but they do not. This we call "see". You see? What are you seeing? What are you hearing? Is what you understand only based on what you can see with your eyes and hear with your ears? Or do you walk by faith and "see" the things that do not appear in the physical realm?

Most Christians today are waiting for a physical Jesus to appear in the physical clouds, and looking for a physical New Jerusalem to come down out of the sky and land on the earth, and also waiting for the earth and heavens to burn up and God create a totally new one.

They do not perceive these things in the Spirit realm as already having taken place. Jesus coming in the clouds was the term He used to man His visitation in judgment upon the city of Jerusalem, which is so obviously described in metamorphic picturesque language in the book of The Revelation, even so specifically naming the place "where our Lord was crucified" and that can only be one place, Jerusalem! There can be no mistake about that and yet many Christians still make excuses and have their pet doctrines as to why that is not Jerusalem, despite the fact that it names it as the place where Jesus was crucified!

2Cor 4:18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Colossians 1:15

The Preeminence of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.[1] Amen.

Hebrews 11:1

By Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:8

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[1] love God whom he has not seen.

3 John 1:11

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

Jesus said that unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jn 3:3.

Does that mean everyone who is born again immediately sees the physical kingdom of God? No, it means they perceive it, and understand it, they see it in the Spirit and "see" that it is a spiritual thing.

Jhn 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

God wishes us to worship Him not in a temple, or church building, but in our hearts, in our spirits, in The Spirit, His Holy Spirit! He wants us to honor Him, esteem Him above all else in our hearts and minds. This is a spiritual thing and you cannot see it with your eyes or feel it with your senses. Feelings are good, but those who depend upon them will be sorely disappointed when the feelings stop coming.

God wants us to rejoice in the Spirit. He wants us to love Him and have a personal relationship with Him and be His bride now, in fact, yesterday! What IS New Jerusalem anyway? Is it a physical city that John saw literally coming down from heaven 3000 years from then, or was it symbolic of something else?

Let us see what the Bible says about it, and read where it says exactly what New Jerusalem is.

Rev 21:9

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

Rev 21:10

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, Rev 21:11

having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

This is New Jerusalem.....the Bride of Christ! The Church! The "body" of believers! We are New Jerusalem, and God dwells with us, is you are a believer and filled with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God dwells in YOU right now! YOU are New Jerusalem! The Kingdom of God! Jesus even said it dwells in you! The New Heaven is on the inside of you right now, if you are a believer!

Luk 17:20

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is NOT coming with signs to be observed,(HERE IT SAYS IT RIGHT HERE, YOU WILL NOT SEE IT COME WITH YOUR PHYSICAL EYES)

Luk 17:21

"nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." (OR WITHIN YOU) The kingdom of God, heaven, the New Heaven, so that leaves only one thing left, the New Earth! What is that all about?

We, the Church, are New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ, and the New Heavens are on the inside of us. The Kingdom of God and all of God's power that is working on the inside of His people.

Eze 36:26

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27

"And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Luk 17:21

"nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Jhn 14:17

"even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Jhn 14:18

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jhn 14:19

"Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Jhn 14:20

"In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.  
Jhn 14:21

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."  
Jhn 14:23

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Jhn 15:4

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.  
Jhn 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.  
Jhn 15:6

"If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.  
Jhn 15:7

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Rom 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.  
Rom 8:10

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.  
Rom 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

1Cr 3:16

Do you not know that you<sup>[fn2]</sup> are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1Cr 14:25

the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Phm 1:6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Hbr 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

If God is in heaven and Jesus is at His right side and Jesus said the kingdom of God is within you, and He and the Father and the Holy Spirit dwell in you, and the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the God almighty and eternal is in you, then heaven that became the New Heavens God renewed when Jesus returned to the Father and sat down at His right hand is in you too. IT has to be. If you get the King, you get the kingdom along with it, and everything else that comes.

Mat 6:33, Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you!

Now to continue with the New Earth and how that all fits in. You might think by reading and watching the news that the world is getting worse and worse. well that is what they want you to think. The news is designed to promote fear and worry, and not faith. There is seldom any good news in the secular news. You have to go to Christian media in order to find good positive and encouraging news about what God is doing.

But when you put the current world situation in the perspective of world history, and how things used to be, it is obvious that after Jesus came this world changed for the better and despite what the devil still tried to do, the Bible and Christianity has still spread until one third of the world professes to be Christian. That is not to say everyone of those Christians have a close relationship with God and are living for God, but at least they confess it and profess it, as opposed to nations that oppose Christianity and the Bible and do not have freedom of religion.

Most of the world today is blessed far beyond what it was one hundred years ago and counting backwards through time it just gets worse and worse. There was more killing, more murderous governments, more ignorance, more disease, famine, poverty, the quality of life has risen dramatically and extremely over the past 100 years. Technology is booming, research and new discoveries all the time. These are not signs of the End Time, but signs how God has blessed mankind for Jesus sake, and what He did to die for the sins of the world so that we can have eternal life, here and now and there and then too.

There are more people in the world who are living in more of a heaven on earth situation in than there ever was, whether they are wealthy, or poor. Sure there is a lot of crime if you dwell on it, but in most places in the United States and Europe, Japan, South Korea, South America, Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Singapore, China , Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and even many places Africa and India, most places are quite civilized and have governments that are well organized and care for the welfare of their people. They are not perfect and there are still many problems to solve, but it is quite a jump from the way things were 100 and 200 years ago even, not to mention further back in time.

We have the blessing of world wide transportation to go anywhere in the world quickly. We have the luxury to go shopping in our choice of malls or markets and choose the brand of products we want. We have the luxury of working at any kind of job we want and getting training for it, getting an education and learning a trade, even going back to school to learn more.

The blessings and favor of God upon our lives are endless , and yet all some people can do is still complain that their situation is not perfect or they are not rich yet, and think about themselves that's all. People will always have something to complain about as long as they are thinking about themselves only , no matter how materially blessed their life becomes.

So here is where believers have to use faith and spiritual perception to SEE the New Earth that Jesus brought here when He came. His very presence started to transform the Earth and there have been many changes in the very atmosphere itself not to mention the ground, changes in the climates, the farming, and whole lands changing from desert land to fertile fruitful lands.

Here are some verses to describe some of the changes in the earth that were prophesied to occur at the appearing of the Messiah. Look how Jesus coming to the earth has changed it and how it has improved drastically, try to see with your heart, and not just with your eyes. Since the time of Jesus there have been some mighty cataclysmic changes in the world for the better. So much for global warning. Below are verses and passages from the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, that depict the blessings of God on His people, and so many precious promises that the Messiah will bring. How Messiah will change the world. Not only bring eternal life forever in heaven, but how He will change the Earth and bring a New Earth.

I will ask you right now, would you trade your life in this century, your house, car, job, friends, security, everything you own, have and hold dear for a life 300 years ago when America was still fighting for its freedom? Would you prefer to have lived back then, when there was more struggle, uncertain future, untold calamities, hostile Indians, hostile renegade soldiers who would kill for a gold coin?

Little was known about diseases, and life expectancy was much shorter than it is today. Few were educated and the ones who were took advantage of those who were not. Today anyone can be eligible for a good education and can pretty much choose what he or she wants to be. You can choose your own career or job, you can decide your future and there are more possibilities and opportunities than there ever was before.

Yes, there may be people who are suffering in this world in various ways, but it is becoming more and more possible to be able to choose to pull out of it rather than resolve yourself to so called "fate", or a defeatist attitude where you just have the attitude that "it was meant to be" or "this is the way it always was and always will be" do nothing attitude of throwing in the towel.

People can choose to follow their dream today and many have done and not given up until they reached their goals and their dream came true. It may be an uphill fight, but that is what life is all about, fighting for your rights, what you believe in, your goals and dreams. If you don't have a fighting attitude, then you will just succumb to the majority opinion, and be everybody's fool.

People are sick and poor and live in desperate situations either because they have succumbed to being a victim, or they don't know how to pull out of it and need help. That is what Christians are supposed to be doing today, by the way.

In your New Heaven and New Earth God commands you to love your neighbor as yourself. In other words, everything you want for yourself and your family, you are to also do something to help your neighbor get it.

Jesus takes us even further, He takes us a level higher and says to love your enemies. Wow! Now this is not so popular today is it? He said that if you only love them that love you what reward do you have? Even the wicked love their own kind.

So living in this New Heaven and New Earth there is still a lot to do to help establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth until it covers the Earth like the waters cover the seas. Making a better world and trying to help people and make a difference is a whole lot better vision for the future than to say that the world is going to be taken over by a satanic antichrist demagogue dictator who will kill anyone who tries to stop him and lead the world to the brink of disaster.

What hope is there in that? What redeeming qualities is there to hope for a world that Jesus is going to have to come back to save again? He already saved the world once, for all it says. Why would He come back to save it again? The Bible just does not say that.

Of course there are whole study courses that use slews of Bible verses taken totally out of context that take you "through the Bible" in 7 days or so with their cut and paste theology. But where are the whole chapters, the whole books of the Bible that are supposed to talk about this in detail?

The truth is, there isn't any. It is all a mystery and only if you are smart and intelligent and go to their seminaries and take their courses can you begin to figure it out by splicing verse after verse together out of their original context, so that your argument appears to be convincing, because after all who wants to argue with a list of carefully selected Bible verses taken out of context?

There ARE no chapters in their entirety or even passages that confirm anything about the current end time doctrines and antichrist coming and Jesus appearing in the sky. They just do not exist.

Please read the passages below, especially from the book of Isaiah. There are more from other books, if you seek you will find. But below there are whole chapters, whole passages that talk about the current and future blessings of God upon the Earth. There is nothing about it being burnt up. That is only found in one verse taken out of context in Peter's Epistle, where it is talking about the elements or principles of Judaism and the Laws of Moses being burnt up, or disposed of, if you read it its proper context.

Sensationalist and charismatic preachers and so called prophets have taken verse after verse out of context and created whole new doctrines that never were before.

Just look at the book of Psalms, how many whole Psalms are about blessing, and praise. Scores of them. Yes there are also many verses that talk about the Messiah and the effect He would have on the Earth, which were fulfilled and He did, and is still having an effect through His people who are showing Him to the world.

It all depends on what side you are on. Are you on the side that is always publishing the evil news and the bad things? Are you one of those who are always preaching the devil's gospel of doom and destruction? Always dwelling on the negative and the evil instead of the good? Are you one of those who have given up on the fight against evil and have resolved yourself to the fate which Satan would choose for you to be annihilated and destroyed?

Have you let the perpetual negative world news shape your outlook on life and the world to the point that you are welcoming antichrist programs and seeing it as a sign that the second coming is near? Therefore you will not try to do anything to stop it, as you will think that the evil in the world is ordained of God to purge and teach or some other reason.

No, God is not the author of the destruction and disaster in the world. The Bible is clear who the destroyer is. Jesus says that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy, not God. God is not the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy.

When did Jesus ever kill anyone? When did He ever make anyone sick or destroy someone's life or get vengeance on someone? Jesus never refused anyone who came to Him for healing. It says "He healed them ALL"

Sorry, but God is not about to let any would-be devil possessed dictator rule His world! The devil already had his chance a long time ago and he lost! Jesus defeated him on the cross, and he has nothing more to do with Jesus. He is a defeated foe, totally vanquished.

Yes he is still going around as a roaring lion seeking who he may devour with his lies and deceptions, but that is the extent of his power. Satan only has as much power as humans will give him, and there are plenty of people who do. It may cause some mayhem and difficulties, disasters and the like, but that is the extent of it.

Good IS winning over evil with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit NOW not 1000 years or more in the future. This is the time to get connected with God and learn how you can KNOW him. Learn how you can be connected to His source of power and have a personal and intimate relationship with the creator of the universe.

Is Jesus enough? Is He enough for you , or do you want to be like Thomas, who said that he will not believe until he put his hands into the nail prints and thrust his hand into the wound in Jesus side. At least he was smart enough to guess that Jesus would have scars.

Is Jesus enough for you or do you need to see Him come in the clouds with your eyes before you will believe Him and His Word? That is why He said "it is expedient(beneficial) for you that I go away, for if I do not go away I cannot send the Holy Spirit to you"

His disciples did not really know Him in the Spirit . There were very few of them who knew Jesus intimately after He ascended to heaven. John was the one who leaned on the chest of Jesus at the last supper, but then when he saw Jesus in heaven, with eyes like fire, and saw him in all His glory, that familiarity disappeared immediately . He fell down as if he were dead! No familiarity there!

So how well do you really know Jesus? Do you know Him so well, through His Word and having a personal relationship with Him that you can trust what He tells you even though you do not see Him physically or hear His voice with your ears?

Is Jesus enough or do you need rewards in heaven to convince you to love and serve God? YOU mean knowing the creator of the universe, who still holds everything together, and is recreating matter at a speed of one twentieth of a billionth of a second perpetually, is not awesome enough for you? You need more proof of His existence and love for you? YOU need some sign? A miracle, that He will show His love to you and then you will believe?

Why don't you just believe His Words in the Bible? That God loved the world that He sent Jesus to die for our sins, and believing on His name gives you the right to eternal life starting right now on this New Earth with the New Heaven of Spiritual Birth on the inside of you right now! Why isn't Jesus enough for you? To have and to hold, to lead and to guide you. To walk with you and talk with you in the garden of your heart, as the song goes.

To be your helmsman navigating you through your spiritual life through darkness and danger, into the light of a new world, the New Heavens and Earth and eternal reign of Christ here and now , in the earth as well as there and then.

Has the bad and negative news of this world dulled your spiritual senses so that you only see the bad and have a hard time seeing the good? Does it look to you like evil is winning, and the church has failed?

Have you given up trying to find positive and encouraging news?

Then you need to know God. You need to get a revelation of God's love and truth. You need a revelation of knowing God intimately. You can create good news, but just praying and prophesying it, the will of God. Every time you pray the Lord's prayer, you are praying for God's kingdom to come, and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

That is the New Heaven and Earth the Bible is talking about, where God's will is being done in the Earth as it is being done in heaven. So is it? Is God's will being done on Earth as it is in Heaven? That depends upon what you are praying and believing God for. Many can see it being done. I, for one, can see God's will being done on earth as we pray and prophesy it, the heart of God, to come to pass.

Thy Kingdom has come, thy will is being done in this earth as it is in heaven. But it takes willing hearts that love God and others for God to work His will through. It takes believing in His promises in order to partake of the nature of God.

Because of the length of the list passages below, and almost the whole last part of the Book of Isaiah, which focuses on the spiritual and physical changes the world and its inhabitants were and are still destined to experience, the blessings and favor of God, the following passage from 2 Peter chapter one precedes. This passage is very important in understanding that God wants us to put in His own nature , in Jesus Christ and experience a spiritual relationship with God through the Holy Spirit, in the fulness of His power, according to the will of God by what Jesus did for us.

2Pe 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to<sup>[fn3]</sup> his own glory and excellence,<sup>[fn4]</sup>

2Pe 1:4

by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2Pe 1:5

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,<sup>[fn5]</sup> and virtue with knowledge,

2Pe 1:6

and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

2Pe 1:7

and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

2Pe 1:8

For if these qualities<sup>[fn6]</sup> are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:9

For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

2Pe 1:10

Therefore, brothers,<sup>[fn7]</sup> be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

2Pe 1:11

For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:12

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.  
2Pe 1:13

I think it right, as long as I am in this body,[fn8] to stir you up by way of reminder,  
2Pe 1:14

since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.  
2Pe 1:15

And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.  
2Pe 1:16

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.  
2Pe 1:17

For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, [fn9] with whom I am well pleased,"  
2Pe 1:18

we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.  
2Pe 1:19

And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,  
2Pe 1:20

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.  
2Pe 1:21

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Isa 27:6

In days to come[fn2] Jacob shall take root,  
Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots  
and fill the whole world with fruit.

Isa 8:6

"Because this people have refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah,  
Isa 8:7

"therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks,  
Isa 8:8

"and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

Hag 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Genesis 12:2

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 49:25

by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty[1] who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

Genesis 49:26

The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills.[1] May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

Deuteronomy 11:27

the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today,

Deuteronomy 28:2

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Joshua 15:19

She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

2 Samuel 7:29

Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

1 Chronicles 23:13

The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the Lord and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.

Psalms 3:8

Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah

Psalms 24:5

He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**Psalm 72:15**

Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

**Psalm 133:3**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

**Proverbs 11:25**

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

**Proverbs 11:26**

The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

**Proverbs 24:25**

but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

**Proverbs 28:20**

A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

**Isaiah 19:24**

In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth,

**Isaiah 44:3**

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

**Matthew 14:19**

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

**Luke 9:16**

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

**Romans 15:27**

For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

**1 Corinthians 9:23**

I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

**Galatians 3:1**

so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit<sup>[1]</sup> through faith.

**Hebrews 6:7**

For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

**1 Peter 3:9**

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

**35:1** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

**2** it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

**3** Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

**4** Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

**5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**6** then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

**7** the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**8** And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>[1]</sup>

**9** No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;



they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 40  
Comfort for God's People

40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare [1] is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries: [2]  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."  
The Word of God Stands Forever

6 A voice says, "Cry!"  
And I said, [3] "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty [4] is like the flower of the field.  
7 The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
8 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
The Greatness of God

9 Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news; [5]  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news; [6]  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Behold your God!"  
10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand  
and marked off the heavens with a span,  
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure  
and weighed the mountains in scales  
and the hills in a balance?  
13 Who has measured [7] the Spirit of the Lord,  
or what man shows him his counsel?  
14 Whom did he consult,  
and who made him understand?  
Who taught him the path of justice,  
and taught him knowledge,  
and showed him the way of understanding?  
15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,  
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;  
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.  
16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,  
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.  
17 All the nations are as nothing before him,  
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

18 To whom then will you liken God,  
or what likeness compare with him?  
19 An idol! A craftsman casts it,  
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold  
and casts for it silver chains.  
20 He who is too impoverished for an offering  
chooses wood [8] that will not rot;  
he seeks out a skillful craftsman

to set up an idol that will not move.

21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;  
23 who brings princes to nothing,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows on them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,  
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.  
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name,  
by the greatness of his might,  
and because he is strong in power  
not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
29 He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.  
30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 41

Fear Not, For I Am with You

41:1 Listen to me in silence,  
O coastlands;  
let the peoples renew their strength;  
let them approach, then let them speak;  
let us together draw near for judgment.

2 Who stirred up one from the east  
whom victory meets at every step? [1]  
He gives up nations before him,  
so that he tramples kings underfoot;  
he makes them like dust with his sword,  
like driven stubble with his bow.  
3 He pursues them and passes on safely,  
by paths his feet have not trod.  
4 Who has performed and done this,  
calling the generations from the beginning?  
I, the Lord, the first,  
and with the last; I am he.

5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid;  
the ends of the earth tremble;  
they have drawn near and come.  
6 Everyone helps his neighbor  
and says to his brother, “Be strong!”  
7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith,  
and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil,  
saying of the soldering, “It is good”;  
and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.

8 But you, Israel, my servant,  
Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;  
9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth,  
and called from its farthest corners,  
saying to you, “You are my servant,  
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;  
10 fear not, for I am with you;

be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

11 Behold, all who are incensed against you  
shall be put to shame and confounded;  
those who strive against you  
shall be as nothing and shall perish.

12 You shall seek those who contend with you,  
but you shall not find them;  
those who war against you  
shall be as nothing at all.

13 For I, the Lord your God,  
hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,  
I am the one who helps you."

14 Fear not, you worm Jacob,  
you men of Israel!  
I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord;  
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

15 Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,  
new, sharp, and having teeth;  
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,  
and you shall make the hills like chaff;  
16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away,  
and the tempest shall scatter them.  
And you shall rejoice in the Lord;  
in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

17 When the poor and needy seek water,  
and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst,  
I the Lord will answer them;

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
18 I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys.  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.

19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar,  
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive.  
I will set in the desert the cypress,  
the plane and the pine together,  
20 that they may see and know,  
may consider and understand together,  
that the hand of the Lord has done this,  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

#### Isaiah 42 The Lord's Chosen Servant

42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
3 a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged [1]  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.

5 Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them."

Sing to the Lord a New Song

10 Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise from the end of the earth,  
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,  
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

11 Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,  
the villages that Kedar inhabits;  
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,  
let them shout from the top of the mountains.

12 Let them give glory to the Lord,  
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

13 The Lord goes out like a mighty man,  
like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;  
he cries out, he shouts aloud,  
he shows himself mighty against his foes.

14 For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
I will gasp and pant.

15 I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands, [2]  
and dry up the pools.

16 And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.

17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
"You are our gods."

Isaiah 43  
Israel's Only Savior

43:1 But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.

5 Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.

6 I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,

7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

8 Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes,  
who are deaf, yet have ears!

9 All the nations gather together,  
and the peoples assemble.  
Who among them can declare this,  
and show us the former things?  
Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right,  
and let them hear and say, it is true.

10 "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord,  
"and my servant whom I have chosen,  
that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.

11 I, I am the Lord,  
and besides me there is no savior.

12 I declared and saved and proclaimed,  
when there was no strange god among you;  
and you are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and I am God.

13 Also henceforth I am he;  
there is none who can deliver from my hand;

I work, and who can turn it back?"

14 Thus says the Lord,  
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
"For your sake I send to Babylon  
and bring them all down as fugitives,  
even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.  
15 I am the Lord, your Holy One,  
the Creator of Israel, your King."

16 Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
17 who brings forth chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
18 "Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.  
19 Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
20 The wild beasts will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
21 the people whom I formed for myself  
that they might declare my praise.

22 "Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;  
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!  
23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings,  
or honored me with your sacrifices.  
I have not burdened you with offerings,  
or wearied you with frankincense.  
24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money,  
or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.  
But you have burdened me with your sins;  
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

25 "I, I am he  
who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.  
26 Put me in remembrance; let us argue together;  
set forth your case, that you may be proved right.  
27 Your first father sinned,  
and your mediators transgressed against me.  
28 Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary,  
and deliver Jacob to utter destruction  
and Israel to reviling.

Isaiah 44  
Israel the Lord's Chosen

44:1 "But now hear, O Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen!  
2 Thus says the Lord who made you,  
who formed you from the womb and will help you:  
Fear not, O Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.  
3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,  
and my blessing on your descendants.  
4 They shall spring up among the grass  
like willows by flowing streams.  
5 This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,'  
another will call on the name of Jacob,  
and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,'  
and name himself by the name of Israel."  
The Lord Redeems Israel

21 Remember these things, O Jacob,  
and Israel, for you are my servant;  
I formed you; you are my servant;  
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.  
22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud  
and your sins like mist;  
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

23 Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it;  
shout, O depths of the earth;  
break forth into singing, O mountains,  
O forest, and every tree in it!

For the Lord has redeemed Jacob,  
and will be glorified [2] in Israel.

24 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,  
who formed you from the womb:  
"I am the Lord, who made all things,  
who alone stretched out the heavens,  
who spread out the earth by myself,  
25 who frustrates the signs of liars  
and makes fools of diviners,  
who turns wise men back  
and makes their knowledge foolish,  
26 who confirms the word of his servant  
and fulfills the counsel of his messengers,  
who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,'  
and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built,  
and I will raise up their ruins';  
27 who says to the deep, 'Be dry;  
I will dry up your rivers';  
28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,  
and he shall fulfill all my purpose';  
saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,'  
and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

Isaiah 49  
The Servant of the Lord

49:1 Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from afar.  
The Lord called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.  
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
3 And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified." [1]  
4 But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the Lord,  
and my recompense with my God."

5 And now the Lord says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to him—  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
6 he says:  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

7 Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,  
the servant of rulers:  
"Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."  
The Restoration of Israel

8 Thus says the Lord:  
"In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages,  
9 saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,'  
to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.'  
They shall feed along the ways;  
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;  
10 they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,  
for he who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.  
11 And I will make all my mountains a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.  
12 Behold, these shall come from afar,  
and behold, these from the north and from the west, [2]  
and these from the land of Syene." [3]

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;  
my Lord has forgotten me."

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.  
16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.  
17 Your builders make haste; [4]  
your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.  
18 Lift up your eyes around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.  
As I live, declares the Lord,  
you shall put them all on as an ornament;  
you shall bind them on as a bride does.

19 "Surely your waste and your desolate places  
and your devastated land—  
surely now you will be too narrow for your inhabitants,  
and those who swallowed you up will be far away.

20 The children of your bereavement  
will yet say in your ears:

'The place is too narrow for me;  
make room for me to dwell in.'

21 Then you will say in your heart:

'Who has borne me these?

I was bereaved and barren,

exiled and put away,

but who has brought up these?

Behold, I was left alone;

from where have these come?'"

22 Thus says the Lord God:

"Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations,  
and raise my signal to the peoples;  
and they shall bring your sons in their bosom,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.

23 Kings shall be your foster fathers,  
and their queens your nursing mothers.

With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you,  
and lick the dust of your feet.

Then you will know that I am the Lord;  
those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

24 Can the prey be taken from the mighty,  
or the captives of a tyrant [5] be rescued?

25 For thus says the Lord:

"Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken,  
and the prey of the tyrant be rescued,  
for I will contend with those who contend with you,  
and I will save your children.

26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh,  
and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine.

Then all flesh shall know

that I am the Lord your Savior,

and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

## Isaiah 52

### The Lord's Coming Salvation

52:1 Awake, awake,  
put on your strength, O Zion;  
put on your beautiful garments,  
O Jerusalem, the holy city;  
for there shall no more come into you  
the uncircumcised and the unclean.  
2 Shake yourself from the dust and arise;  
be seated, O Jerusalem;  
loose the bonds from your neck,  
O captive daughter of Zion.

3 For thus says the Lord: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money." 4 For thus says the Lord God: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. 5 Now therefore what have I here," declares the Lord, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the Lord, "and continually all the day my name is despised. 6 Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."

7 How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,

who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

11 Depart, depart, go out from there;  
touch no unclean thing;  
go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves,  
you who bear the vessels of the Lord.

12 For you shall not go out in haste,  
and you shall not go in flight,  
for the Lord will go before you,  
and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions

13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely; [1]  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.

14 As many were astonished at you—  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

15 so shall he sprinkle [2] many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which has not been told them they see,  
and that which they have not heard they understand.

Isaiah 53

53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? [1]  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected [2] by men;  
a man of sorrows, [3] and acquainted with [4] grief; [5]  
and as one from whom men hide their faces [6]  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;  
he has put him to grief; [7]

when his soul makes [8] an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see [9] and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.



12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, [10]  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, [11]  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 54  
The Eternal Covenant of Peace

54:1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;  
break forth into singing and cry aloud,  
you who have not been in labor!  
For the children of the desolate one will be more  
than the children of her who is married," says the Lord.  
2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,  
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;  
do not hold back; lengthen your cords  
and strengthen your stakes.  
3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,  
and your offspring will possess the nations  
and will people the desolate cities.

4 "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;  
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;  
for you will forget the shame of your youth,  
and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.  
5 For your Maker is your husband,  
the Lord of hosts is his name;  
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,  
the God of the whole earth he is called.  
6 For the Lord has called you  
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,  
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,  
says your God.  
7 For a brief moment I deserted you,  
but with great compassion I will gather you.  
8 In overflowing anger for a moment  
I hid my face from you,  
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"  
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

9 "This is like the days of Noah [1] to me:  
as I swore that the waters of Noah  
should no more go over the earth,  
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,  
and will not rebuke you.  
10 For the mountains may depart  
and the hills be removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

11 "O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,  
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,  
and lay your foundations with sapphires. [2]  
12 I will make your pinnacles of agate, [3]  
your gates of carbuncles, [4]  
and all your wall of precious stones.  
13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.  
14 In righteousness you shall be established;  
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;  
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.  
15 If anyone stirs up strife,  
it is not from me;  
whoever stirs up strife with you  
shall fall because of you.  
16 Behold, I have created the smith  
who blows the fire of coals  
and produces a weapon for its purpose.  
I have also created the ravager to destroy;  
17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,  
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.  
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord  
and their vindication [5] from me, declares the Lord."

Isaiah 55  
The Compassion of the Lord

55:1 "Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
3 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
4 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
7 let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.  
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 "For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the Lord,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

#### Isaiah 56 Salvation for Foreigners

56:1 Thus says the Lord:  
"Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.  
2 Blessed is the man who does this,  
and the son of man who holds it fast,  
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,  
and keeps his hand from doing any evil."

3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,  
"The Lord will surely separate me from his people";  
and let not the eunuch say,  
"Behold, I am a dry tree."  
4 For thus says the Lord:  
"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,  
5 I will give in my house and within my walls  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.

6 "And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds fast my covenant—  
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples."  
8 The Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,

“I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered.”

Isaiah 60  
The Future Glory of Israel

60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
3 And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
5 Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult, [1]  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.  
7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;  
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;  
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,  
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

8 Who are these that fly like a cloud,  
and like doves to their windows?  
9 For the coastlands shall hope for me,  
the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from afar,  
their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the Lord your God,  
and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has made you beautiful.

10 Foreigners shall build up your walls,  
and their kings shall minister to you;  
for in my wrath I struck you,  
but in my favor I have had mercy on you.  
11 Your gates shall be open continually;  
day and night they shall not be shut,  
that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations,  
with their kings led in procession.

12 For the nation and kingdom  
that will not serve you shall perish;  
those nations shall be utterly laid waste.  
13 The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,  
to beautify the place of my sanctuary,  
and I will make the place of my feet glorious.  
14 The sons of those who afflicted you  
shall come bending low to you,  
and all who despised you  
shall bow down at your feet;  
they shall call you the City of the Lord,  
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

15 Whereas you have been forsaken and hated,  
with no one passing through,  
I will make you majestic forever,  
a joy from age to age.  
16 You shall suck the milk of nations;  
you shall nurse at the breast of kings;  
and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior  
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

17 Instead of bronze I will bring gold,  
and instead of iron I will bring silver;  
instead of wood, bronze,  
instead of stones, iron.  
I will make your overseers peace  
and your taskmasters righteousness.  
18 Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation,  
and your gates Praise.

19 The sun shall be no more  
your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give you light; [2]  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory. [3]  
20 Your sun shall no more go down,  
nor your moon withdraw itself;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.  
21 Your people shall all be righteous;  
they shall possess the land forever,  
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,  
that I might be glorified. [4]  
22 The least one shall become a clan,  
and the smallest one a mighty nation;  
I am the Lord;  
in its time I will hasten it.

Isaiah 61  
The Year of the Lord's Favor

61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor; [1]  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; [2]  
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. [3]  
4 They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;  
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;  
6 but you shall be called the priests of the Lord;  
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;  
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,  
and in their glory you shall boast.  
7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;  
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;  
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;  
they shall have everlasting joy.

8 For I the Lord love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong; [4]  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

Isaiah 62  
Zion's Coming Salvation

62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.  
2 The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, [1]  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, [2]  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, [3]  
and your land Married; [4]  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
5 For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

6 On your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have set watchmen;  
all the day and all the night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who put the Lord in remembrance,  
take no rest,  
7 and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it a praise in the earth.  
8 The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:  
"I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink your wine  
for which you have labored;  
9 but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in the courts of my sanctuary." [5]

10 Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.  
11 Behold, the Lord has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to the daughter of Zion,  
"Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him."  
12 And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the Lord;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.  
Isaiah 65 | Isaiah 66 >>  
Judgment and Salvation

65:1 I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here am I, here am I,"  
to a nation that was not called by [1] my name.  
2 I spread out my hands all the day  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
3 a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and making offerings on bricks;  
4 who sit in tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig's flesh,  
and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;  
5 who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all the day.  
6 Behold, it is written before me:  
"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their bosom  
7 both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together,  
says the Lord;  
because they made offerings on the mountains  
and insulted me on the hills,  
I will measure into their bosom  
payment for their former deeds." [2]

8 Thus says the Lord:  
"As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.

9 I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,  
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it,  
and my servants shall dwell there.  
10 Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks,  
and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down,  
for my people who have sought me.  
11 But you who forsake the Lord,  
who forget my holy mountain,  
who set a table for Fortune  
and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,  
12 I will destine you to the sword,  
and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter,  
because, when I called, you did not answer;  
when I spoke, you did not listen,  
but you did what was evil in my eyes  
and chose what I did not delight in."

13 Therefore thus says the Lord God:  
"Behold, my servants shall eat,  
but you shall be hungry;  
behold, my servants shall drink,  
but you shall be thirsty;  
behold, my servants shall rejoice,  
but you shall be put to shame;  
14 behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart,  
but you shall cry out for pain of heart  
and shall wail for breaking of spirit.  
15 You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse,  
and the Lord God will put you to death,  
but his servants he will call by another name.  
16 So that he who blesses himself in the land  
shall bless himself by the God of truth,  
and he who takes an oath in the land  
shall swear by the God of truth;  
because the former troubles are forgotten  
and are hidden from my eyes.  
New Heavens and a New Earth

17 "For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come into mind.  
18 But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.  
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
and the cry of distress.  
20 No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not fill out his days,  
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,  
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.  
21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
22 They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy [3] the work of their hands.  
23 They shall not labor in vain  
or bear children for calamity, [4]  
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord,  
and their descendants with them.  
24 Before they call I will answer;  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
and dust shall be the serpent's food.  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain,"  
says the Lord.  
The Humble and Contrite in Spirit

66:1 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."

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.

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." [1]

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.