

Isaiah 66

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

It is difficult for God to transform our thinking into God's eternal perspective. Our valuations and measurements are off of the mark. We are drawn to images and representations outwardly-successful results and efforts. We fight over packaging and labels; but God is involved in the contents. We cannot impress God with strength or performance. To the contrary. God loves a heart that is broken over the things of God. We are blessing God when we see how needy and dependent upon him that we truly are. He wants us to desire and identify with the eternal things.

Read Isaiah 66:1-3: God has made everything from the molecule to the universe. He is far larger than all creation. He obviously cannot be impressed with something he made himself; much less what we make or do. He is truth; and wants us to respond to truth in love.

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out heaven with the span (width of his hand), and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? (Isaiah 40:12)

Consider God's things considered man's greatest achievements over history: The Tower of Babel, the pyramids, the Titanic, the World Trade Center, The worldwide financial markets, etc... Has God given honor or disgrace to these things?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed thee, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:7-8)

The Old-Testament sacrificial system means nothing to God. God is not pleased with the slaughter of a lamb. That system is to prick our conscience. We are supposed to have a conflict over the death of a living thing because of our sin. It is supposed to spur us on to repentance; and appreciation of another who takes our place for the death penalty. The whole idea about being smug or proud of our contribution or compliance with sin confession is a contradiction. At the same time God does not value professional mourners or manufactured tears. True appreciation for our rescue should be our motivation to help others. God does not want man to make any icon or structure with his hands when it comes to connecting with God.

If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. (Exodus 20:25)

Our impressions of a grandiose and powerful God summon thoughts of earthquakes and lightning and planetary shifts. God is larger than all things; but only identifies himself as intimidating to unbelievers. He actually identifies himself as approachable and small to his own people. That said, he is surrounded by the magnificent and unscalable forces of his own creation.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind ripped the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entrance of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What are you doing here, Elijah? (1 Kings 19:11-13)

Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. And he spoke unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels,

even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.

Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory. (Ezekiel 10:1-4)

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. (Isaiah 6:1-4)

Read Isaiah 66:4: We have no contender and intimidator except what God has allowed or has sent. We grab onto imaginary or empty solutions to our wants and needs. God frequently lets us have a taste of our empty thoughts. He wants to teach us with solid Biblical doctrine if we will hear. Unfortunately we usually only learn from failures and hard knocks. We actually dig our own pits and challenges when we insist on alternate solutions. The 10 plagues of Egypt was a giving the people a dose of their own idols (The Nile, the sun, various insects and weather, etc..). God has Satan on a leash to perform things outside of God's nature. God can show us that we are on the wrong path through many methods. We have all had days where everything goes wrong. We usually begin to question our direction or we pray when that happens. Israel fell to the brutal nations sent by God. He will use all things good and evil to develop our faith.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn

from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith you may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell 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: (Isaiah 28:9-15)

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou might be justified when you speak, and be clear when thou judge. Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:4-7)

“The LORD will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all ^[u]you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me. The LORD will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from the land where you are entering to possess it. The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish. The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. The LORD will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. “The LORD shall cause you to be ^[w]defeated before your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you

will flee seven ways before them, and you will be an example of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses will be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away. (Deuteronomy 28: 20-26)

Read Isaiah 66:5: There are various orientations of believers. Some are drawn to a deeper worship experience. Some are drawn to a more welcoming fellowship of the saints, or traditions. Some are drawn to ministry-oriented fellowships. Calvary Chapel is a word of God focus.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Read Isaiah 66:6-8: ...Israel formed in a day... When was the nation Israel formed? What are these verses describing (original or subsequent regathering of Jews?

Is it the initial forming of the nation Israel?

But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day. Deuteronomy 4:20)

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. (Hosea 11:1)

Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. (Isaiah 48:10-12)

Is it about Israel becoming a nation in one day on 1948?

This accurately describes what happened on May 14, 1948 – when the Jews declared independence for Israel as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in 2,900 years. During that same day, the United States issued a statement recognizing Israel's sovereignty. And, only hours beforehand, a United Nations mandate expired, ending British control of the land. During a 24-hour span of time, foreign control of the land of Israel had formally ceased, and Israel had declared its independence, and its independence was acknowledged by other nations. Modern Israel was literally was born in a single day.

Is this talking about the millennial reign of Israel?

After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. (Hosea 6:2)

Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to

his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. (Ezekiel 37:4-11)

Read Isaiah 66 verses 9-14: These verses could only relate to the millennium.

Read Isaiah 66:15-17: The LORD will return with an immediate cleansing of the evil-doers.

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. (Daniel 7:9-10)

Read Isaiah 66:18-20: All nations will gather to Jerusalem. Emissaries will go out to the ignorant heathen nations. Will God place monuments in foreign lands?

And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that makes mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. (Isaiah 19:17-19)

Read Isaiah 66:(21-24): Those fallen God-haters will be a death memorial of hell. It is amazing that the more years I study the scriptures that for the first time I am seeing that most prophecy relates to the millennial period and beyond.

And if thy hand offend you, cut it off: it is better for you to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend you, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend you, pluck it out: it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:43-48)