

Isaiah Describes the Future Isaiah 66:5-24

Isaiah brings his book to a close by describing what God will be doing in the future so we can live in sync with God's purposes.

He describes the future in four ways:

Those who shame believers will be put to shame. (vv.5-7)

In the Old Testament those who trusted God's mercy, and today those who trust Christ, are persecuted. But the persecution won't last — those who shame us will themselves be shamed.

God will easily and quickly give birth to a new people. (vv.8-14)

This does not refer just to Israel — vv.12, and 20-21 show that it includes Gentiles.

So this probably refers to what God did in Jerusalem through Jesus — His death, resurrection, ascension, and His pouring-out the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

When we trust Christ we become part of God's people and will know joy and satisfaction and comfort.

God will punish all who continue in rebellion against Him. (vv.15-17)

This is a reference to eternal punishment, since Jesus quotes from v.24 in Mark 9:44-49.

God will save many from this punishment by sending His people to the nations. (vv.18-24)

All those who trust Jesus and survive God's judgment of AD70 (that includes all of us) are sent to the nations.

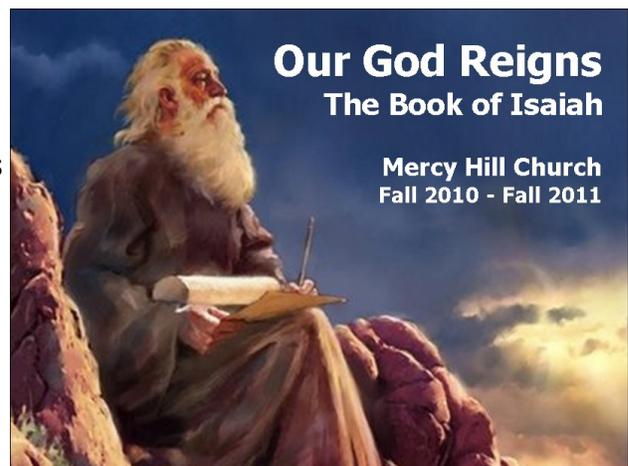
As we declare God's glory to our neighbors, fellow-workers, friends, and the unreached peoples — we will see people saved.

What does this mean for us?

God is sending each of us to the nations.

This could mean unreached people groups — but certainly means our neighbors and work-associates and friends and family.

This Christmas go to them. Show and share Jesus with them.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you understood that YOU are sent to the nations? Why or why not?

What keeps you from going to neighbors, work-associates, or unbelieving friends or family members? What would Jesus say about that?

How this Christmas can you go to people and show and share Jesus with them?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

