



## **“God, Religion, and Reality”**

**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?  
<sup>2</sup>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.**

**<sup>3</sup>“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;**

**<sup>4</sup>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.”**

**<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>“The sound of an uproar from the city!  
A sound from the temple!  
The sound of the Lord,  
rendering recompense to his enemies!**

**<sup>7</sup>“Before she was in labor  
she gave birth;  
before her pain came upon her  
she delivered a son.**

**<sup>8</sup>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.**

**<sup>9</sup>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.**

**<sup>10</sup>“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for  
her,**

**all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,**

**all you who mourn over her;**

**<sup>11</sup>that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;**

that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious abundance.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> As one whom his mother comforts,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> “For behold, the Lord will come in fire,  
and his chariots like the whirlwind,  
to render his anger in fury,  
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

<sup>16</sup> For by fire will the Lord enter into  
judgment,  
and by his sword, with all flesh;  
and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

<sup>17</sup> “Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the  
midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together,  
declares the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> “For I know<sup>[b]</sup> their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming<sup>[c]</sup> to gather all nations  
and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory,<sup>19</sup> and I will set a sign among them.  
And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the  
bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen  
my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.<sup>20</sup> And they shall bring all your  
brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in  
litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just  
as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord.<sup>21</sup> And  
some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> “For as the new heavens and the new earth  
that I make  
shall remain before me, says the Lord,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the Lord.

<sup>24</sup> “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against  
me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an  
abhorrence to all flesh.”

Isaiah 66

**GOD** – make no mistake

*The earth is my **FOOTSTOOL**. You would build a house for me?*

*I **CREATED** it all!*

**RELIGION** – it's a mixed bag

**TRUE** religion is humble **TREMBLING** before the word of God.

Declaring his glory among the **NATIONS** (v.19)

The **FALSE** - So much of what the world calls religion is an abomination to God:

-The arrogance of people to '**SAVE**' themselves

-Man-made forms of self-adulation and **PRIDE**

-**IGNORING** the voice of God and denying his **WORD**

-Treating **HARSHLY** the true worshipers of God

Coming **REALITY** – *Which will you choose?*

The **NEW NATION** God will create in a moment

Peace like a **RIVER**, comfort, abundance and blessing

Harsh judgment – the **FIRE** and the **WHIRLWIND**

The **TWO** endings of Isaiah – The prophet ends with a strong dose of reality

The **NEW** heavens and **NEW** earth reality of genuine believers in Christ (vv.23-24)

Eternal **PUNISHMENT** for all who reject God and his Son (v.24)

*“They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from<sup>[b]</sup> the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,<sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...”*

II Thessalonians 1:9-10