### Isaiah

## Chapter 66

1Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Since the heavens are My Throne and the earth is My footstool;  
 What kind of Temple can you build for Me…  
 What kind of place [can you build] for My rest?  
 2For, since it all was made by My hands,  
 These things are [already] Mine!’  
  
  
Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Upon whom will I look [in favor]?  
 Just the unassuming and humble…  
 Just those who tremble at the things that I say.  
  
 3‘But a calf that is offered by the lawless  
 Is to Me, like the slaps of a man.  
 And when they sacrifice from the flock,  
 I view it as though they are offering dogs.  
  
 ‘[I consider] their offerings of fine flour  
 The same as the blood of a pig…  
 And the frankincense that they offer  
 As shouting blasphemies against Me.  
  
 ‘For they’ve each selected their own ways to go,  
 And what they’ve chosen has proven disgusting.  
 4So I’ll choose My own ways to mock them,  
 And I’ll pay them back for their sins.  
  
 ‘For I called out to them and they chose not to hear…  
 I spoke and they just wouldn’t listen.  
 Before Me, they’ve acted wickedly,  
 And done things that I didn’t want.’  
  
5So, hear the word of Jehovah,  
 O you who tremble when you hear His voice!  
 Tell your brothers that hate and detest you  
 To glorify the Name of Jehovah –  
 [A Name] that should be looked on in joy  
 And of which they should not feel ashamed!  
  
6There’s a voice crying out from the city…  
 From the Temple, a voice can be heard…  
 It is the voice of Jehovah,  
 And concerning His retribution, He said:  
  
 7‘Before her labor to give birth  
 And before the misery of birth pangs,  
 She fled and gave birth to a son.’  
  
8Who has ever heard such a thing…  
 Who’s ever seen anything like it?  
 Has the earth given birth in a day…  
 Has a nation given birth all at once,  
 As Zion will labor and bring forth [a son]?  
  
  
9Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘I told them what they should expect,  
 But they failed to remember [My words].  
 For {Look!} I made the ones who give birth,  
 As well as those who are sterile.’  
  
  
And your God says:  
  
 10‘So JeruSalem; you should be glad…  
 Those who love her should all celebrate.  
 Yes, celebrate in joy, you who live there,  
 And all of you who have mourned her!  
  
 11‘For, you can now nurse and be filled  
 With the comfort that comes from her breasts…  
 In sucking, you too may indulge,  
 When her glory is finally shown.’  
  
  
12Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Towards them, I’ll divert a river of peace,  
 And they’ll be covered with the glory of the nations  
 Who’ll carry your children on their shoulders,  
 And on their knees, [your young] will find comfort,  
 13As any [good] mother gives comfort.  
  
 ‘This is how I will then bring comfort to you…  
 And JeruSalem; you’ll find comfort.  
 14You’ll see it and rejoice in your heart and your bones…  
 Then you’ll flourish like grass in a pasture!’  
  
Then, all will know that this came from [God’s] hand…  
 Yes, all those who fear Him will know it.  
 But, He will threaten all those  
 Who choose to resist His persuasion.  
  
15For {Look!} the Lord will come like a fire…  
 As a blast from his chariot wheels, in his rage,  
 To pay back and punish in flames  
 All those who’ve turned from [God] in contempt.  
  
 16‘Then the lands will be judged by his fire,  
 And all flesh [will be judged] by his sword.  
 Many will be slain by the Lord in that day…  
 17Those who’ve gone to their gardens for cleansing  
 And those who ate pork on their thresholds  
 (The disgusting things and the mouse)…  
 Together, they’ll all be consumed,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 18‘I know of their works and their ways,  
 And I’ve come to gather all nations and tongues…  
 To see My glory, they’ll gather,  
 19And I will give them a sign.  
  
 ‘I’ll bring back those whom I gave to the nations…  
 From TarShish, Pul, MeShach, and Lud…  
 From Tubal, Greece, and the islands…  
 From those far away who’ve not heard of My Name  
 And from those who’ve not witnessed My glory.  
  
 ‘They’ll announce My glory to the nations…  
 20And then, as a gift from the Lord;  
 From the nations, I’ll bring back your brothers,  
 Along with horses and wagons,  
 And royal chariots with awnings, drawn by mules.’  
  
  
And Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Then the sons of IsraEl will bring sacrifices  
 And sing songs in the Temple of God.  
 21And from them, I’ll choose Levites and Priests,’ said Jehovah.  
 22‘For, as the new lands and new skies that I’ll make  
 Have been waiting before Me,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘I’ll establish your offspring and your name.  
  
 23‘Then, there in JeruSalem;  
 From New Moon to New Moon and Sabbath to Sabbath,  
 All flesh will come and bow before Me,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 24‘They’ll go out and see the bodies of men  
 (Those who’ve rebelled against Me)  
 Whose worms won’t come to an end,  
 And whose fire will not be extinguished…  
 It’ll be a sight for all flesh [to see].’

# Jeremiah

JeremiAh is a record of the prophecies that Jehovah gave to the Prophet JeremiAh.  
  
It was likely written by JeremiAh’s companion, the scribe Baruch, but was later edited by others after the return from Babylonian exile.  
  
It covers JeremiAh’s warning messages that he gave to the Kingdom of Judah over a (roughly) 40-year period, up until the destruction of JeruSalem by the Babylonians.  
  
There are two main versions of the text of Jeremiah:  
  
 • The Hebrew (used by most Western churches), and  
 • The Greek Septuagint version, which is the oldest version, is about 1/8th shorter, and which also presents the contents in a slightly different order.  
  
Scholars widely believe that the Greek version is closest to the original text. Copies resembling both versions were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, suggesting that the creation of the new Hebrew version had already begun prior to the 1st century CE.  
  
Our version of JeremiAh is based on the Greek, however, we’ve re-ordered the text to match the Hebrew ordering. That way, the chapter and verse numbers both match-up.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.