

# The Final Word, Isaiah Ch. 66

*But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

*Isaiah 66:2*

*If the universe is not governed by an absolute goodness, then all our efforts are in the long run hopeless. But if it is, then we are making ourselves enemies to that goodness every day . . . We cannot do without it, and we cannot do with it. God is the only comfort. He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from. He is our only possible ally, and we have made ourselves His enemies. Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger – according to the way you react to it, and we have reacted the wrong way. C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.*

## The Text

### 1. V.1-2: How different is God from man

- Who could build a house for Me? \_\_\_\_\_
- I made all that exists. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yet I will honor the human who is humble. \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. V.3-6: The corruption of worship.

- Condemnation of the sacrifice for:**
  - The wrong god: \_\_\_\_\_
  - The wrong expectation: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Within the temple the enemies of God are being recompensed, v.6: \_\_\_\_\_
- . For those who reject God, punishment
- Duplicity and deceit in the congregation.
  - Mocking true believers. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The temple is being cleansed of phonies. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. V.7-14: spiritual Jerusalem.

- The spirit of the Incarnation, v. 7-9. \_\_\_\_\_
- The spirit of peace and nurture. \_\_\_\_\_
- Where God reveals himself to his servants. \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. V.15-24: The judgment process.

- This time by fire. \_\_\_\_\_

- Despite our notions of a “nice” God, the process of judgment will be harsh; with fury and a “sword,” v.15-16. \_\_\_\_\_
- Cult practitioners will be annihilated, v.17-18a. \_\_\_\_\_
- The gathering of the nations to see the glory of God, v. 18b \_\_\_\_\_
- There shall be an undeniable sign that will cause the nations to restore the Holy Land, v.19. \_\_\_\_\_
- The restoration of Israel, v.20-22. \_\_\_\_\_
- The troubling issue of judgment: eternal death, v. 23-24. \_\_\_\_\_

## Hard Words

- No matter how hard and from what direction we look at it, there is a doctrine of judgment that includes punishment on an eternal scale: *For their worm shall not die and their fire shall not be quenched; and they shall be an abhorrence to all mankind. (66:24)***
- The two major issues that Isaiah has contended with are:
  - Idolatry:** The gods of Canaan were more attractive to the Israelites than their Savior/God, Yahweh, and they bargained with Him throughout their history for:
    - Rescue: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Prosperity: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Restoration: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Injustice:** throughout the complete text, but most profoundly in Ch.58, God stressed that He would:
    - Not return a blessing for any worship or sacrifice that was performed selfishly: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Bless abundantly those acts of worship or sacrifice that benefited the outcasts and the starving: \_\_\_\_\_

**But, there is also a doctrine of blessing on an eternal scale: *Your sun will set no more, neither will your moon wane; for you will have the Lord for an everlasting light. (60:20)***