

Context of Isaiah's message

Isa 40-66 comfort to captives in Babylon

- Prophesies 100 years beforehand
- Reason: failure to listen to God's word
- Comfort: coming of the Messiah
- Their future: seeking the Lord/His word

Returning to Rebuild the temple

66:1-2 "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? ² For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," says the LORD.

"But on this *one* will I look: on *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and who <u>trembles at My word</u>.

Israel had forgotten God

66:3-4 "He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man.. He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations, ⁴So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."

God's blessings in His word

66:5-12 Hear the word of the LORD, You who tremble at His word... Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; .. ¹² For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.

Trembling before God

Exodus 19-20 God comes down on Mt Sinai

- Exod 19:18 Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire...
- 20:18-19 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

Fearing and Keeping His word

— Deut 10:12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

God offers true satisfaction

— Isaiah 55:1-2 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;

Seek the Lord.. His thoughts

- Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
- 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Man's thoughts produce idolatry and wickedness



God's word always delivers..

Isaiah 55:10-11 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

God's word is living..

Hebrews 3-4.. Don't repeat Israel's mistakes

- Heb 3:7-8 Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness..
- 4:11-12 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We have come to Mt Zion..

Hebrews 12:18-25 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire,

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,.. ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven..

To this one I will look ...

Isaiah 66:1-2 "But on this *one* will I look: on *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and who <u>trembles at Myword</u>.

