

### **Isaiah 65:23 – 66:2 + 9-13**

**Isaiah 65:23-25** - “They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.”

The chapter is talking about “descendants of Jacob” and “new heavens and a new earth.”

All animosity, self-serving appetites and violence will be banished.

“dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain”

**Isaiah 66:1-2** - “Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

God can only rest in “a contrite spirit,” which here is “nakeh” used only 3 times in the Bible. It means - smitten, i.e. (literally) maimed, or (figuratively) dejected: — contrite, lame.

(Compare with Jacob’s limp after wrestling with the Angel and being renamed Israel - **Genesis 32:24-31**)

The final passage of comfort (vs. 9-13) emphasizes the certainty of God’s promises:

**Isaiah 66:9-13** - “Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

“the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream”

“Glory” can mean riches, honor and, poetically, the heart or soul. The upshot is that the

Gentile peoples will turn toward Jerusalem to bestow heartfelt honor, fulfilled at Pentecost and as Jesus' Kingdom is opened to everyone.

The type of the suckling child is repeated in the New Testament:

**1 Peter 2:2** - "Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Like newborn infants, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, since you have tasted that the Lord is good."

**Luke 18:16-17** - "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, if anyone does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child, he will never enter it."

(This Haftarah, coupled with the birth of Jacob and Esau, overlaps somewhat with the Haftarah for Gen. 21:1-34 read at the birth of Isaac)