

**Isaiah 66:1-10**

The description of the Tabernacle in **Exodus 25-26** is paired with God's reminder that he doesn't really require a Temple (or a Tabernacle) because He dwells in Heaven.

**Isaiah 66:1** - "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?"

He dwelleth not in temples made with hands.

Stephen quotes this in **Acts 7:44-50** - "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness ... Solomon built him an house. ... Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?"

The Samaritan woman poses the question of whether to worship God at Samaria's temple or the one in Jerusalem.

- **John 4:21-24** - "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

**Isaiah 66:2** - "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."

Rashi - I confined My Shechinah among you when you obeyed Me, for so is My wont, to look at one poor and of crushed spirit, who hastens to do My bidding. But now, I have no desire for you.

God's real dwelling is within those who are broken and humbled. Christ was the only One who demonstrated this submission perfectly, and if we are "in Him" through faith then God dwells with us, and we in Him.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)

- **Colossians 1:26-27** - "...the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to His saints, to whom God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

He's with us in this life now, and we are with him in the heavenlies, seated in eternity:

“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (**Ephesians 2:6**)

**Isaiah 66:3** - "He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations."

Without faith, brokenness and humility, our religious opinions, sacrifices and activities are an abomination to God. This closing chapter of the book of Isaiah coincides with the first (See **Isaiah 1:11-15**).

**Isaiah 66:4** - "I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

delusians = *ta`aluwl* - childish caprice, vexation. A word Rashi and the Jewish translation interpret to mean "mockings."

According to the gospel narratives, Jesus had predicted that he would be mocked (**Matthew 20:19**, **Mark 10:34**, and **Luke 18:32**) These would be turned back upon them.

### Cast Out

**Isaiah 66:5** - "Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, 'Let the LORD be glorified': but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."

"cast you out" = *nadah* - exclude, cast out.

The Rabbis used this term "*niddui*" for excommunication from the congregation for 30 days, for ethical or doctrinal offenses. Repentance could shorten it, but stubbornness would lengthen it even until death. Persistence in the offense was punished with an extension of the ban for another 30 days, after which the sinner's rebellion was finally punished with *herem*, or "anathema" in Greek, excommunication, which, though indefinite, was revocable at the option of the authorities. (Mishnah Ta'anit, iii. 8)

See <http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/1477-anathema>

Rashi says the "brethren" who "cast you out" are the children of Esau.

- **John 16:2** - "They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God."

- **John 15:20** - "Remember the word that I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well"

In Jewish law, if someone heard a man blaspheme by promoting idolatry (or considering himself divine), he could be killed by anyone without recourse to trial.

Christians continued the idea of anathema in church discipline:

- **1 Corinthians 16:22** - "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."

[Someone expelled by anathema was called a "*muḥram*." Some think this is the meaning of "anathema maranatha" used by Paul. But "*maran*" was an Aramaic term for "master" used by the rabbis, so more likely marathana means either "Come Lord," or "The Lord has Come."]

Josephus on the "anathema" of the Essenes:

"Those that are caught in any heinous sins they cast out of their society, and he who is thus separated from them does often die after a miserable manner; for as he is bound by the oath he hath taken, and by the customs he hath engaged in, he is not at liberty to partake of that food that he meets with elsewhere, but is forced to eat grass, and to punish his body with hunger till he perish; for which reason they receive many of them again, when they are at their last gasp, out of compassion to them, as thinking the miseries they have endured till they came to the very brink of death to be sufficient punishment for the sins they had been guilty of." "B. J." ii. 8, § 8)

Compare with this **1 Corinthians 5:5**: "To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"

"The older generations anathematized with the Ineffable Name, and therefore the curse was effective: but later generations have forgotten the name, and the Anathema is of no effect" (according to the 12th century "Sefer Ḥasidim," § 1291)

### Christ's Appearing

"he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed"

- **Revelation 1:7** - "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him — even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen."

- **Hebrews 9:28** - "Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment, so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him."

- **Titus 2:13** - "...as we await the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great

God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

**Isaiah 66:6** - "A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that renders recompense to his enemies."

When destruction and desolation are come upon any place, a voice or a cry is said to come from it (See **Jeremiah 48:3**)

Josephus noted that just before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, at the feast of Pentecost as the priests were going into the inner temple by night, as usual, to attend their service, they heard first a motion and noise, and then a voice, as of a multitude, saying, "Let us depart hence."

- **Joel 3:15-17** - "The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness. The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more..."

"Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain" - Zion is the people of God, God's dwells with them.

**Isaiah 66:7-8** - "Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who has heard such a thing? who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

Historically, this refers to the Jews who were miraculously allowed to return to the Promised Land by Cyrus' decree. But this also has prophetic reach. The mother is Zion; the man-child, born at last without the travail-pangs of sorrow, is the new Israel, the true Israel of God, possibly the sudden conversion of the Gentiles. The same figure has met us in Isaiah 49:17-21; Isaiah 54:1, and is implied in Matthew 24:8. Its antithesis is found in Isaiah 37:3.

Perhaps the virgin birth of Christ, as Catholics interpret it? More probably the coming of Messiah brought forth by Israel.

Targum - "before distress comes to her, she shall be redeemed; and before trembling comes upon her, her King shall be revealed," that is, the King Messiah.

- **Revelation 12:2-5** - the woman =Israel? -"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

**Isaiah 66:9** - "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? said the LORD:

shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? said your God."

God will not leave his work unfinished.

See **Isaiah 55:11** - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

- **Philippians 1:6** - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 66:10** - "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"