

Isaiah 66:1-2, 5-12

Haftarah for **Leviticus 17** on Yom Kippur emphasizes the necessity of repentance and humility.

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?"

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."

How could any Temple possibly contain God? And yet if we repent, and are of a humble and contrite heart, He condescends to dwell in us, the "place of His rest" - Emmanuel, God with and in us - in Christ.

Stephen quotes this passage:

- **Acts 7:48-50** - "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?"

Solomon concurs:

- **1 Kings 8:27** - "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"

Christ is the Temple: "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." (**John 2:19-21**) and He "ministers in the sanctuary and true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man" (**Hebrews 8:2**). Also, we are living stones in that Temple:

- **1 Peter 2:5** - "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Poor and contrite

- **Psalms 51:17** - "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

- **Zechariah 9:9** - "See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

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."

The religious leaders of Israel refused to receive Jesus as the Messiah, hated Him without cause, and cast Him out to be crucified "outside the camp."

"He shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed" -

- **Hebrews 9:28** - "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

- **Revelation 1:7** - "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

Recompence to His enemies - The destruction of the Temple

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

Targum: "the city of Jerusalem"

Before the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. the historian Josephus says a rustling and a noise like persons shifting and moving was heard, and a voice in the holy of holies, saying, "let us go hence," indicating either the ministering angels or the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 66:7 - "Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child."

Targum: "before distress comes to her, she shall be redeemed; and before trembling comes upon her, her King shall be revealed"

R. Moses Haddarsan - "before he should be born that should bring Israel into the last captivity (Titus?), the Redeemer should be born"

Christ began His ministry about 40 years before the destruction of Jerusalem.

See also **Revelation 12:2**

Rashi - that is to say that her children will gather into her midst, which was desolate and bereft of them, and it is as though she bore them now without birth pangs, for all the nations will bring them into her midst.

Isaiah 66:8 - "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath 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."

i.e. the thing about to be related was as wonderful as if all the women in the world should bring forth their children in one day.

Before the travail of the Roman war and destruction of the Temple, Christ was crucified and resurrected, and the Church was born on Pentecost.

Isaiah 66:9 - "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."

God will do what He says.

Isaiah 66:10-11 - "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."

It is the New Jerusalem that has brought forth the Church.

"her breasts of consolation" - Christ and the Holy Spirit, or the Old and New Covenants...

Simeon was "waiting for the consolation of Israel" when he came upon the baby Jesus in the Temple (**Luke 2:25**).

The pure milk of the Word gives glory or clarity to our comprehension of Christ.

Isaiah 66:12 - "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."

"glory of the Gentiles" - the wealth of the nations. Similar to **Isaiah 60:11** - "Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought."

Peace Like a River

- **Philippians 4:7** - "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."