

Answers: The Book of the Conqueror

1. Waiting for a New World

56:1–8

Study Questions

1. **There is a final salvation to come. The old world will one day pass away, and a new world will arise. How far off is this new world? Why must YAHWEH's people maintain justice and do what is right? 56:1**

Here we hear a new sound: Salvation is close at hand. Righteousness will soon be revealed.

Isaiah 56:1 This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my **salvation** is close at hand and my **righteousness** will soon be revealed. Because that is who the LORD is! He saves and he is righteous.

2. **Why is the LORD's Sabbath to be honoured? 56:2**

The Sabbath is intimately connected to blessing and rest.

To receive God's blessing. Who will be blessed?

The one who keeps the Sabbath and who keeps from evil

56:2 Blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast, who **1** keeps the **Sabbath** without desecrating it, and **2** keeps his hand from doing any evil."

3. **What was the alien's share in the covenant community? What will change? 56:3a**

They were excluded from God's covenant people. However, all this would change.

56:3 Let no **foreigner** who has bound himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely exclude me from his people."

4. **What was the eunuch's share in the covenant community? Leviticus 21:17-20; Deuteronomy 23:1**

Leviticus 21:17 "Say to Aaron: 'For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. ¹⁸

No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; ¹⁹ no man with a crippled foot or hand, ²⁰ or who is hunchbacked or dwarfed, or who has any eye defect, or who has festering or running sores or **damaged testicles**.

Deuteronomy 23:1 No-one who has been **emasculated** by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.

5. **What does "I am only a dry tree mean?" How will the LORD solve the faithful eunuch's pain of childlessness and exclusion? 56:3b**

He does not have the joy of having children.

56:3b And let not any **eunuch** complain, "I am only a dry tree."

6. **What will the future hold for the faithful eunuch? 56:4-5**

56:4 For this is what the LORD says: "To the **eunuchs** who keep my **Sabbaths**, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—

⁵ to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.

7. **What will the future hold for the faithful alien? 56:6**

56:6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep **the Sabbath** without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant--

8. **In the future, what will the LORD's house be for all nations, and what will he give to them? 56:7**

56:7 These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my **house of prayer**. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**" (Jesus and Isaiah)

9. **In the future, who else will the LORD gather to be his people apart from Israel? 56:8**

56:8 The Sovereign LORD declares -- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

Reflection & Application

1. **Three times in these verses, we hear of the Sabbath. 56:2, 4, 6**
What is the Sabbath representative of? How does one keep the Sabbath? cf. Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 3:11, 18; 4:1, 3-6, 8-11.
 The Sabbath is the LORD's rest. First of all, rest in the wilderness, then in the Promised Land, in the gospel, and ultimately in heaven. You enter YAHWEH's rest by faith in Jesus. In Jesus, the Sabbath finds its ultimate ideal, namely, blessing and rest. Jesus is the Sabbath!
2. **Why are the eunuchs and the foreigners mentioned?**
 They were normally on the outside, excluded from Israel. See also Ephesians 2:11-22; Acts 8:32-38
3. **Can you think of a faithful eunuch(s) in the OT? Isaiah 39:7 cf. 2 Kings 20:18; Daniel 1:6-7 (ESV, NKJV) cf. Acts 8:27**
 Who was taken to Babylon? Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. (Dan 1:6 NIB) They were members of the nobility. They were placed under the care of the chief of eunuchs. In 2 Kings 20:18, it was prophesied that many nobles would be made eunuchs.
4. **Why did Jesus say, "My house will be a house of prayer for all nations" before he drove the money changers and animal sellers out? 56:7 cf. Mark 11:17, Matthew 21:13, Luke 19:46**
 The religious leaders were shutting the door in the faces of the lost. They were turning the only area of the Temple available to the Gentiles into a market.
5. **How did the arrival of Jesus solve the crises of bad leadership and the exclusion of outsiders? John 10:11, 14, 16**
 1. Jesus was the Good Shepherd, in contrast to the wicked and worthless shepherds of Israel, as described in passages such as Jeremiah 23:1-2, 9-40; Ezekiel 34:1-6; and Zechariah 11:4
 2. Jesus said that he had other sheep also (John 10:16).
 When the Greeks came to find Jesus, he said, "Now is the time for the Son of Man to be glorified." John 12:20
 3. Jesus commissioned his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, "Go and make disciples of all nations." Also Luke 24:47
6. **What practical advice is there in this section to teach us how to await salvation? 56:1-8**
 v. 1 Join with the LORD's people.

v. 2 Go the LORD's way.

v. 3 Live for his pleasure.

v. 4 Keep the Lord's Day.

7. **What else, apart from being part of the congregation, was also beyond the reach of the alien and the eunuch?**

The priesthood.

2. Wicked Leaders, Divided Society

56:9–57:13a

Study Questions

1. **Who are the watchmen in Israel? What is the problem with them? 56:10**

They are supposed to spot the danger, show understanding of the times, and protect the flock. However, the watchmen cannot see danger; they are blind, the shepherds have no knowledge, and they are fast asleep

Isaiah 56:9 Come, all you beasts of the field, come and devour, all you beasts of the forest!

56:10 Israel's **watchmen are blind**, they all lack knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; they lie around and dream, they love to sleep.

2. **What did the watchmen of Israel do? 56:11-12**

1. They love to eat, and they never have enough.

2. They are shepherds without understanding.

3. They are concerned about their own gain, following their own way.

4. They look out only for themselves.

56:11 They are dogs with mighty appetites; they never have enough. They are **shepherds who lack understanding**; they all turn to their own way, each seeks his own gain. ¹² "Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better."

3. **When the shepherds are corrupt, what happens to the righteous and the devout in the land? 57:1**

1. The **righteous** perish, and no one ponders it in his heart;

2. Devout men are taken away, and

3. No one understands that the **righteous** are taken away to be spared from evil.

4. **When will the righteous ultimately find rest? 57:2**

The righteous suffer, and they perish. They only find rest in the grave.

57:2 Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.

5. **Who metaphorically gives birth to these blind rebels? 57:3**

57:3 "But you--come here, you sons of a sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes!

These are the watchmen and shepherds, having no understanding.

They are the offspring of idolatry and immorality. The offspring of sorcerers, adulterers, and prostitutes, i.e. they are illegitimate children.

6. **What are these blind watchmen like? 57:4b-5**

They are rebels, liars, fornicators, and bloodthirsty.

57:4 Whom are you mocking? At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongue? Are you not a brood of rebels, the offspring of liars?

- ⁵ You burn with lust among the oaks and under every spreading tree; you sacrifice your children in the ravines and under the overhanging crags.
7. **Whom do these blind watchmen worship? 57:6-7**
Idols and false gods.
57:6 *The idols* among the smooth stones of the ravines are your portion; they, they are your lot. Yes, to them you have poured out drink offerings and offered grain offerings. In the light of these things, should I relent? ⁷ You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill; there you went up to offer your sacrifices
 8. **What is their actual religion known as? 57:8**
Paganism.
57:8 Behind your doors and your doorposts you have put your **pagan symbols**. Forsaking me, you uncovered your bed, you climbed into it and opened it wide; you made a pact with those whose beds you love, and you looked on their nakedness.
 9. **Who are their gods? 57:9**
Molech, the grave, the departed. For example, ancestor veneration and worship.
57:9 You went to Molech with olive oil and increased your perfumes. You sent your ambassadors far away; you descended to the grave itself!
 10. **Did they find any rest in their religion and their gods? 57:10**
56:10 You were wearied by all your ways, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint.
 11. **Why did they forsake the LORD? 57:11**
v. 11 actually means the opposite.
57:11 "Whom have you so **dreaded** and **feared** that you have been false to me, and have neither remembered me nor pondered this in your hearts? Is it not because I have long been silent that **you do not fear me?**
They did not fear the LORD. They did not remember or ponder why the LORD had been silent; therefore, they did not fear him.
 12. **What will the LORD do to them? 57:12-13a**
The LORD will expose their false righteousness and useless works. These will be of no benefit to them. When they call out for help, he will hand them over to their idols.
57:12 I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you. ¹³ When you cry out for help, let your collection of *idols* save you! The wind will carry all of them off, a mere breath will blow them away.

Reflection & Application

1. **What happens when the watchmen of a nation are blind? 57:1-2**
The righteous perish
They find only rest in death.
2. **What is their religion? Make a list of their practices to describe their religion. 57:3, 6-9**
Paganism
Magic
Immorality
Idolatry
False gods, i.e. demons
Making contact with the departed

Bloodguilt. Sacrificing their children

3. What will the LORD do? 57:12-13

He will judge. He will abandon them to their worthless idols. 57:12
Their works will be shown for what they are, i.e. totally worthless.

3. YAHWEH and his People

57:13b–21

Study Questions

1. What will the righteous inherit? What is the *holy mountain*? 57:13b cf. Matthew 5:5

The land of God and the holy mountain where the Temple stands, i.e. Mount Zion.

Isaiah 57:13b But the man who makes me his refuge will inherit the land and possess my holy mountain."

2. Which road is the LORD speaking of? 57:14; Isaiah 35:1-10

The way of holiness is the way to Zion.

57:14 And it will be said: "Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people."

3. How is YAHWEH described? 57:15a

57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says--he who lives for ever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place..."

4. With whom does YAHWEH dwell? What will he do for them? 57:15b; Matthew 5:5

YAHWEH lives with the contrite and lowly.

57:15 ..."I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

5. What happens when the contrite and lowly sin? 57:16

57:16 I will not accuse for ever, nor will I always be angry, for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me--the breath of man that I have created.

6. Why was YAHWEH filled with anger? And what will he do? 57:17

Because of their greed and stubbornness.

57:17 I was enraged by his sinful greed; I punished him, and hid my face in anger, yet he kept on in his wilful ways.

7. What will YAHWEH do for the repentant? 57:18-19

- The righteous will find peace.
- 57:18 I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;
- I will guide him and
- restore comfort to him,
- 57:19 creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel.
- Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them."

8. In contrast, what will be the outcome for the wicked? 57:20-21

The wicked will have no peace and no rest.

57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.

21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Reflection & Application

1. What does Jesus mean when he claims to be *the way*? John 14:6
2. Compare the idea of *the land* in this section with Matthew 5:5.

4. True Fasting and the Sabbath

58:1-14

Study Questions

1. **What kind of message did Isaiah conceive to convey to the wicked nation? 58:1; Isaiah 6:5, 9-10**
He had to rebuke them for their rebellion and sin. He had to do so publicly and loudly.
Isaiah 58:1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their **rebellion** and to the house of Jacob their **sins**.
2. **What did the people of Israel do to receive such an indictment? 58:2**
They act as if they seek the LORD and are eager to know his ways. However, it was all a farce. They forsook the LORD, the command of God.
58:2 For day after day they seek **me** out; they seem eager to know **my** ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its **God**. They ask **me** for just decisions and seem eager for **God** to come near them.
3. **What was wrong with their fasting? What was their heart attitude toward the LORD? 58:3**
The fasting was outward, but hiding rebellious hearts.
58:3 'Why have we **fasted**,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'
4. **What was abundantly clear from their behaviour? Did they fool YAHWEH? 58:3b-5**
The LORD's rebuke:
58:3b "Yet on the day of your **fasting**, you do as you please and **exploit** all your workers. ⁴ Your fasting ends in **quarrelling** and **strife**, and in **striking** each other with wicked fists. You cannot **fast** as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is this the kind of **fast** I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a **fast**, a day acceptable to the LORD?
5. **Why did they strike each other? 58:4**
Probably irritable and hungry.
6. **What kind of fasting does YAHWEH demand? Name seven actions. 58:6-7**
YAHWEH's chosen fast:
58:6 "Is not this the kind of **fasting** I have chosen:
 1. To loose the chains of injustice and
 2. Untie the cords of the yoke,
 3. To set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
 4. ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
 5. And to provide the poor wanderer with shelter

6. When you see the naked, to clothe him, and
7. Not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
7. **Which six promises does the LORD guarantee when this behaviour comes from the heart? 58:8-9**
 Promises of personal spiritual renewal
 1. 58:8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and
 2. Your healing will quickly appear; then
 3. Your righteousness will go before you, and
 4. The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
 5. 58:9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
 6. You will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
 The verbs are all singular.
8. **What is real and proper fasting? 58:9b-10**
 Fasting is not an outward action, but a real heart change displayed in real compassion, love and concern for your neighbour.
 58:9 "If you do away with **the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,**¹⁰ and if you **spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,**
9. **Which nine amazing promises of spiritual renewal does the LORD guarantee for the land if there is real fasting? 58:10b-11, 12**
 - 1 Then your light will rise in the darkness, and
 - 2 Your night will become like the noonday.
 - 3 58:11 The LORD will guide you always;
 - 4 He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and 5
 - 5 He will strengthen your frame.
 - 6 You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.
 - 7 58:12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and
 - 8 (You) will raise up the age-old foundations;
 - 9 You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.
10. **What did the Sabbath signify to them? A sign of blessing or a burden? 58:13**
 It was a burden, and they did as they pleased.
 58:13 "If you keep your feet from breaking **the Sabbath** and from doing as you please on my holy day, ...
11. **What happens when you see the Sabbath as an honour and a delight to the LORD? What will happen? 58:13b-14a**
 It will be a feast to you and a blessing.
 58:13 **if you call the Sabbath** a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and **if you** honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,¹⁴ **then you** will find your joy in the LORD, and **I will cause you** to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."
12. **What final guarantee is there? Can we trust in the promises of God? 58:14b**
 This is the Word of the LORD.

Reflection & Application

1. How important is showing love to our neighbour at their point of need? What does 58:6-7 sound like? cf. Matthew 25:31-40
2. How practically can we, as believers, go about healing our land?
3. What will be the inevitable result?

5. A Desperate Situation

59:1-8

Study Questions

1. Why did Isaiah say, “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear?” 59:1; cf. Isaiah 36-37
Is the LORD able to save, and he is able to hear his people’s cry? Because he saved them from the past Assyrian invasion.
Isaiah 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.
2. What prevented the LORD from hearing their prayers? Why does the LORD not save? 59:2-3; cf. Romans 1:28-32
Accusation? Name six things...
 - 1 59:2 But your **iniquities** have separated you from your God;
 - 2 Your **sins** have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
 - 3 59:3 For your hands are **stained with blood**,
 - 4 Your fingers with **guilt**.
 - 5 Your **lips** have spoken **lies**, and
 - 6 Your tongue mutters **wicked things**.
3. What is the state of the nation at large? Does it literally mean that there is no one seeking justice or acting with integrity? 59:4
No, it is a generalisation.
 1. 59:4 No-one calls for **justice**;
 2. **No-one** pleads his case **with integrity**.
 3. They rely on **empty arguments** and **speak lies**;
 4. They **conceive trouble** and **give birth to evil**.
4. What are the people of Judah like? Give a description. What is the result of their actions? 59:5-6
59:5 They **hatch the eggs of vipers** and **spin a spider's web**. Whoever eats their eggs **will die**, and when one is broken, **an adder is hatched**.⁶ Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make.
5. What marks their action and thinking? 59:6b-8
Isa 59:6b Their deeds are **evil deeds**, and **acts of violence** are in their hands.
59:7 Their feet **rush into sin**; they are swift to **shed innocent blood**. Their thoughts are **evil thoughts**; **ruin and destruction** mark their ways.⁸ The way of **peace they do not know**; there is **no justice** in their paths. They have turned them into **crooked roads**; **no-one** who walks in them **will know peace**.
6. What are the chances that any of them could be saved?

Reflection & Application

1. **What does our society look like? Are there any similarities between what is described by Isaiah 59:3-4 and Romans 1:28-32?**
2. **Compare Isaiah 59:6b-8 with Romans 3:10-18.**
Isaiah 59:6b Their deeds are **evil deeds**,
and **acts of violence** are in their hands.
⁷ Their feet **rush into sin**;
They are swift to **shed innocent blood**.
Their thoughts are **evil thoughts**;
ruin and destruction mark their ways.
⁸ The way of **peace they do not know**;
there is **no justice** in their paths.
Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no-one righteous, not even one;
¹¹ there is no-one who understands, no-one who seeks God.
¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no-one who does good, not even one."
¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practise deceit."
"The poison of vipers is on their lips."
¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."
¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,
¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know." {Isaiah 59:7,8}
¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
3. **What is the natural state of man? Romans 3:20**
Depraved and lost
4. **What do we need to be saved? Romans 3:21-1-24**
Divine intervention

6. Lament for the Land

59:9-15a

Study Questions

1. **What is the summary of the desperate situation the righteous found themselves in? 59:9**
Isaiah 59:9 So **justice** is far from us, and **righteousness** does not reach us.
We look for **light**, but all is darkness; for **brightness**, but we walk in deep shadows.
2. **What is the experience of the righteous in the land? 59:10**
59:10 Like the blind **we** grope along the wall, feeling **our** way like men without eyes. At midday **we** stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, **we** are like the dead.
3. **What is their pain and why? 59:11**
There is no justice and no deliverance.
59:11 We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for **justice**, but find none; for **deliverance**, but it is far away.
4. **Do the righteous dissociate themselves from the sins of their society? 59:12a**
59:12 For our offences are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us.

5. **How do they feel about the sins of their generation? 59:12b-13**
Our offences are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities:
59:13 rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived
6. **What was the result of such a wicked and godless society? 59:14**
59:14 So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.
7. **What happens to those who want to do right? 59:15a**
59:15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

Reflection & Application

1. **How does this description compare with our experience today?**
2. **Do you identify with the sins and wickedness of your society and plead for God's deliverance? Or do you dissociate yourself from every wickedness going on and withdraw into your safe enclave?**
3. **What needs to happen in our land?**
4. **Is there any hope? Who will deliver us?**
5. **What is your experience of those who want to do right?**

7. **YAHWEH Prepared to Save** **59:15b-21**

Study Questions

1. **What does the LORD see and how does the LORD feel about the state of the covenant nation? 59:15b**
59:15 The LORD looked and was displeased that there was **no justice**.
2. **So, what did the LORD determine to do? 59:16b-17**
The LORD himself would bring about justice
59:16 He saw that there was **no-one**, he was appalled that there was **no-one to intervene**; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.
3. **What kind of dress is described by breastplate, helmet and garments of vengeance? 59:17**
He has dressed himself in the attire of a warrior
59:17 He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.
4. **Will the wicked get away with their rebellion? What will the LORD do? 59:18**
He will repay everyone for what they have done
59:18 According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.
5. **What will be the outcome for evildoers? 59:18b**
For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

6. **What will be the result of the LORD's action for the believers? 59:19**
 From the West to the rising sun there will be those who would revere his glory
 59:19 From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising
 of the sun, they will revere his glory.

Reflection & Application

1. **Do we need to fear that the LORD is not hearing or seeing?**
2. **Will the LORD act against the wickedness of the individual and the society at large?**
3. **Compare 59:17 with Ephesians the full armour of salvation.**
 59:17 He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.
4. **Is this good news or bad news?**
5. **What will be the ultimate result across every evil society?**
 From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.

8. The Anointed Conqueror – Song 1

59:20-21

Study Questions

1. **What was the LORD's solution to the mourning of the righteous, the meek and the lowly? 59:20a**
 Isaiah 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.
 Note: What is God's answer to evil? God's answer to evil is a Person! According to the LORD: Though **he** lingers, wait for it; **he** will certainly come and **he** will not delay. **Habakkuk 2:3**
2. **In what manner will the LORD come? 59:20**
 The LORD will send a deliverer, a redeemer.
 Isaiah 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.
3. **For whom will the Redeemer come? 59:20b**
 For those who repent of their sins
4. **To which city will he come? What is the significance of this name? 59:20**
 Zion is not an earthly city. Although Jerusalem is sometimes called Zion, it is clear that from Isaiah that Zion is a spiritual city. It is a city where those who repent of their sins and fear the LORD dwell.
 Isaiah 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.
5. **What is the relationship between the LORD and his Deliverer? 59:21**
 59:21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them (the believers)," says the LORD.

"My Spirit, who is on **you** (masc. singular), and **my words** that I have put in **your mouth** (masc. singular) will not depart from **your mouth** (masc. singular), or from the mouths of your children/seed (Galatians 3:29), or from the mouths of their descendants/seed's seed (Galatians 3:29) from this time on and for ever," says the LORD.

My Spirit, who is on **you** (masc. singular), and **my words** that I have put in **your mouth** (masc. singular) will not depart from **your mouth**

The Spirit of the LORD is on the Redeemer

The words of the LORD are in his mouth

The words of the LORD will remain with him

The words of the LORD will remain with his children.

The words of the LORD will remain with his children's children

This will be forever.

6. Where is the LORD's covenant with his people to be found? 59:21

In the Redeemer's words and person.

7. What will be the result in posterity for the Redeemer's children? And their children's children? 59:21

59:21 or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and for ever," says the LORD.

The words of the LORD that he will put in the mouth of his Deliverer will not depart from his mouth or the mouths of his children or from the mouths of their descendants for ever.

Reflection & Application

1. Who is this Redeemer the LORD will send? 59:20

The Anointed Conqueror (Jesus)

2. How many persons are mentioned in 59:20-21?

YAHWEH, the Redeemer, the Holy Spirit

3. With which two things will the Redeemer come? 59:21

The Spirit and the Word Ephesians 6:17

4. What will the LORD do for those who heed the Redeemer's words?

He will dwell with them

His words will not depart from them

He will establish a covenant with them

5. Who are the Redeemer's children? 59:20; Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:27-29

To those in Jacob who repent of their sins...

9. Zion, YAHWEH's Universal City - I

60:1-10

Study Questions

1. Who is the Redeemer exactly, and what will the Redeemer do for Zion? 60:1-2

He is the glory of the LORD. He will light up Zion and drive the darkness away.

2. What must the city of Zion and its inhabitants, that is the people of God do when the Redeemer comes? 60:1

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon (flashes out upon) you.

3. **What is the difference between the citizens of Zion and the people of the world? 60:2**

60:2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over (flash out) you.

4. **Where will the nations go to escape from the darkness that is over them? 60:3**

The World in Zion

60:3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

5. **Who all will become citizens of Zion? 60:4 cf. 59:19**

From the West and from the East people will come.

59:19 From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.

6. **Which blessings will be the result for the people of Zion? 60:5-7**

appearance

joy

wealth

land

accepted offerings

60:5 Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. ⁷ All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve (minister) you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple.

6. **What will the nations bring to Zion and what is the significance of this? 60:8-9**

The nations will give their very best, their sons and their wealth.

60:8 "Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests?

⁹ Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your sons from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honour of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.

7. **What will happen to the city? 60:10**

City of Destiny

60:10 "Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion.

Reflection & Application

1. **Are you a citizen of Zion? Hebrews 12:22-24**
2. **How do you become a citizen of Zion? Psalm 87**
3. **How do you see the future of Zion in your own words?**
4. **Do you believe this?**

10. Zion, YAHWEH's Universal City - II

60:11-22

Study Questions

1. **What is the meaning of, “so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations--their kings led in triumphal procession”? 60:11**
2. **Will the enemies of Zion prevail? 60:12**
60:12 For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined.
3. **Which blessings will be bestowed on Zion? 60:13-14a**
60:13 "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the pine, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place of my feet. ¹⁴ The sons of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet
4. **What will the city be called? 60:14b; Psalm 87; Psalm 125; Galatians 4:26, Hebrews 12:22-24; Hebrews 11:10, Hebrews 13:14**
14b and will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
5. **Which transformation will Zion experience? 60:15-16a**
60:15 "Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no-one travelling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations. ¹⁶ You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts.
6. **What will the people of YAHWEH know? 60:16b-17**
60:16b Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Saviour, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. ¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and righteousness your ruler.
7. **What will no longer be found in the city? 60:18; Revelation 21:4-5**
60:18 No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call **your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.**
8. **Who will give the city its light? 60:19-20; Revelation 21:23; 22:5**
60:19 The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.
9. **Who will possess the land? 60:21; Matthew 5:5**
60:21 Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land for ever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendour.
10. **Who guarantees the outcome? Who will do it? 60:22**
60:22 The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly."

Reflection & Application

1. **How will Zion change from their time to when the Conqueror comes? Revelation 10:10-11:3; 21:22-27**
Revelation 10:10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned

sour. ¹¹ Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

Revelation 11:1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshippers there. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

2. **In the current state of affairs, what is happening to the believers? Who is led in a triumphal procession? 1 Corinthians 4:9-13; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16**

1 Corinthians 4:9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at **the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena**. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured! ¹¹ To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.

¹² We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³ when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us **in triumphal procession** in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ **To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.** And who is equal to such a task?

3. **How does the triumphal procession in 60:1 differ from 1 Corinthians 4:9 and 2 Corinthians 2:14-16**

At the end of time, the roles will be reversed. From the suffering and humiliation of believers described in Corinthians, to the enemies of YAHWEH who will then be in that position.

4. **How will they triumph over their enemies to experience 60:11?**

Through the Redeemer and the gospel.

11. The Anointed Conqueror – Song 2

61:1-3

Study Questions

1. **Whose Spirit is on the Anointed Conqueror? 61:1**

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD.

ruach Adonai YAHWEH (רוּחַ אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה)

2. **How many persons are mentioned in 61:1**

The LORD, the Spirit, the Conqueror / Redeemer

3. **What is the first part of the message of the Conqueror's proclamation? 61:1-2a**

Good news

Bind up

Proclaim freedom

Release

Proclaim the year of the LORD's favour

Isaiah 61:1 The **Spirit** of the **Sovereign LORD** is on **me**, because **the LORD** has anointed **me** to preach **good news** (*basar*) to the poor.

He has sent me to **bind up** the broken-hearted,

to **proclaim freedom** for the captives and

release from darkness for the prisoners, {Septuagint the blind}

² to **proclaim the year of the LORD's favour** and

4. **Who fulfilled the words of this prophecy in history? What did he add at the end when he uttered these very words? Luke 4:17-21**

Jesus fulfilled it.

"This prophecy is now fulfilled in your hearing!"

5. **Why did Jesus stop at 60:2a? What did he come to do? Luke 4:17**

Why did he leave out 61:2b?

The first part is fulfilled in the 1st coming

Jesus read in the synagogue in Capernaum up to 60:2a

The first coming was to preach good news.

6. **What is the meaning of the second part of the Conqueror announcement? 61:2b-3**

(2nd coming)

61:2b the **day of vengeance** of our God,

to **comfort** all who mourn, (2nd coming)

³ and **provide for** those who grieve in Zion – (2nd coming)

to **bestow on** them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, (2nd coming)

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and (2nd coming)

a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

The day of vengeance of our God.

The fulfilment of these words still lies in the future.

This will only be fulfilled at the Conqueror's return.

7. **When will the Day of Vengeance be? 61:2b**

The Day of Judgement / The Day of the Lord.

8. **When only will the citizens of Zion be fully comforted? 61:2c-3**

The day when the LORD returns.

9. **Who are the oaks of righteousness? What does it mean? 61:3c**

The Redeemed

61:3 **They** will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

Reflection & Application

1. **Which blessings presently belong to the believer? 61:1-2a cf. Matthew 5:3; 10-11**

According to Isaiah, the Anointed Conqueror comes to preach good news.

To bind up

To proclaim freedom

To release from darkness

To proclaim the year of the LORD's favour

Notice that these coincides with the blessings of the beatitudes.

Notice also that some promises are fulfilled in the present.

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for **theirs is** the kingdom of heaven.

5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for **theirs is** the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

2. **For which blessings does the fulfilment still lie in the future? 61:2b-3 cf. Matthew 5:4-9**

^{2nd} coming according to Isaiah.

To bring about vengeance on his enemies

To comfort the mourning

To provide

To bestow the oil of gladness

5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for **they will be** comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for **they will** inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for **they will be** filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for **they will be** shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for **they will** see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

12. Zion and the Waiting People

61:4-9

Study Questions

1. **Which city's ruins will be rebuilt? 61:4**

The city of Zion.

Isaiah 61:4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

2. **Who will rebuild the ancient ruins of Zion? 61:1-3**

The redeemed, the broken-hearted, the freed captives, the released prisoners, the grieving, comforted mourners.

They will rebuild and they will renew

3. **The words *aliens* and foreigners are a description of something supernatural about this city, not something literal. What does it mean? 61:5**

61:5 Aliens will shepherd **your** flocks; foreigners will work **your** fields and vineyards.

4. **What will the citizens of Zion be called? How will they live? 61:6; 1 Peter 2:9**

61:6 And **you** will be called **priests of the LORD**, you will be named **ministers of our God**. **You** will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

5. **What will the citizens of Zion receive? What will they experience? 60:7**

61:7 Instead of their shame **my people** will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.

6. **What does the LORD love and what does he hate? How will he reward the citizens of Zion? 61:8**

61:8 "For **I, the LORD**, love justice; **I hate robbery and iniquity**. In **my** faithfulness I will reward **them** and make an everlasting covenant with **them**. **Burnt offering Malachi 2**

7. What will they be known as? 61:9

61:9 **Their** descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see **them** will acknowledge that they are **a people (a seed) the LORD has blessed.**"

Reflection & Application

1. Is Zion an earthly or a heavenly city?

Psalms 87

Psalms 125

Zechariah 13

Isaiah 2, 35

2. Who are the ones who will rebuild Zion?

The redeemed will rebuild and they will renew.

Priests of the LORD.

Ministers of our God.

My people.

a people the LORD has blessed

3. How will this be fulfilled?

Galatians 4:26

Hebrews 11

Hebrews 12

Hebrews 13

Revelation 21-22

13. The Anointed Conqueror – Song 3

61:10-62:7

Study Questions

1. Who is speaking in the first person? 61:10; 62:1

The Anointed Conqueror.

2. What does it mean that the Conqueror delights greatly in the LORD? 61:10a

Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in **the LORD**; **my** soul rejoices in **my** God.

3. What is the reason for the Conqueror's delight and joy? 61:10b

61:10b For he has clothed **me** with garments of salvation and arrayed **me** in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

4. What will the LORD do through the Conqueror? 61:11

61:11 For as the soil makes the young plant come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

5. What will the Conqueror do until Zion is established? What attitude does the Conqueror display for Zion? 62:1

He will not remain quiet as he is zealous for Zion!

Glorious Zion 62:1-7 The Anointed's concern for Zion

Isaiah 62:1 For **Zion's** sake I will not keep silent, for **Jerusalem's** sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

6. **What will the nations notice about Zion? Who will be given a new name? 62:2**
62:2 The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the **LORD** will bestow.
7. **Who is loved by the LORD and is his pride? What will they and their land no longer be called? 62:3-4**
62:3 You will be a crown of splendour in the **LORD's** hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ No longer will they call you **Deserted**, or name your land **Desolate**.
8. **What do the words Hephzibah and Beulah mean, and what do they convey about the LORD's relationship to Zion? 62:3-4**
62:3 But you will be called **Hephzibah**, (my delight is in her) and your land **Beulah**; (married) for the **LORD** will take delight in you, and your land will be married.
9. **Why will the LORD God rejoice over Zion? What will his relationship with Zion be? 62:5 cf. Revelation 21:1-3**
Like a wedding. As a young man marries a maiden.
As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride
So, the LORD will rejoice over Zion.
62:5 As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons {Or Builder} marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your **God** rejoice over you.
10. **Who did the Conqueror place on the walls of the New Jerusalem or Zion? What is their task? What must they never stop doing? 62:6**
62:6 I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night.
11. **Who must they give no rest? 62:6b-7a**
62:6b You who call on the **LORD**, give yourselves no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.
12. **Until when must they continue with their task? 62:7b cf. 62:1**
62:7b till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth
13. **How does the LORD (62:6b) differ from 'I' in 62:1?**
The Anointed Conqueror is the one speaking in the first person.
In the context of this passage, the LORD would be the Father.
See especially 63:15-16 (study 17 question 1).

Reflection & Application

1. **What is the meaning of 62:2? cf. Revelation 3:12-13?**
2. **Who is the Bride of the Lamb? John 3, Revelation 21**
3. **How do these watchmen differ from the wicked watchmen of Israel? Do you see the contrast? 56:10-12**
4. **Who is speaking in the first person in 61:1-3 and 61:10-62:6? Why is this significant? cf. Luke 4:21**
The Anointed Conqueror. Jesus fulfilled the first part with his incarnation. He will return in glory to complete the rest.

14. Zion and YAHWEH's Oath

62:8-12

Study Questions

1. **What can Zion and its citizens be sure of? 62:8**
The LORD has sworn by oath that he will accomplish what he has undertaken.
Isaiah 62:8 The **LORD** has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:
"Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again
will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled;
No-one will ever overrun Zion.
2. **Who is the LORD's right hand and his mighty arm? 62:8**
Psalm 80:17; Isaiah 52:10; 51:9; 53:1; 63:12
His *right hand* and *mighty arm* are descriptions of the Conqueror.
3. **What do harvest and grapes, and drink speak of in this context? 62:9; Revelation 19:7, 9**
Celebration. The Great Wedding Feast or Banquet of the LORD.
62:9 but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the **LORD**, and those who
gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."
4. **Who alone will be able to pass through the gates of Zion? 62:10; 35:8-10
cf. Revelation 22:14**
The people and the nations.
Call / Proclamation
62:10 Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for **the
nations**.
5. **Who are 'the people' and who are 'the nations'? 62:10**
Only the people of Israel and the Gentiles who belong to the LORD.
Those who are ransomed, the holy.
6. **What is this highway? Isaiah 35:8-10; 40:3; 62:10**
The Way of Holiness. The Highway to Zion
7. **Who all may come? 62:11**
The ends of the earth
8. **What is the Promise? 62:11 cf. Revelation 22:12**
Salvation is Coming!
Isaiah 62:11 The **LORD** has made proclamation to the ends of the earth:
9. **What must Zion know? 62:11**
62:11 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your **Saviour** (Salvation) comes!
See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'"
10. **What will happen to 'the daughter of Zion'? 62:11**
62:12 They will be called the **Holy People**, the **Redeemed of the LORD**; and
you will be called **Sought After**, the **City No Longer Deserted**.
11. **What will be Zion's future name? 62:12**
Sought After and the City No Longer Deserted.

Reflection & Application

1. **What can you say about the people of Zion? 63:12; Psalm 87**
2. **What can you say about the city? 63:12**

3. Can the one exist without the other? Revelation 21:1-9

15. The Anointed Conqueror – Song 4

63:1-6

Study Questions

1. **Who is asking the question in 63:1?**
Isaiah
2. **What does Isaiah see? 63:1a, b**
A person with garments stained red with blood. Robed in splendour, striding forth in might
Isaiah 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his **garments stained crimson**? Who is this, robed in splendour, striding forward in the greatness of his strength?
3. **Which answer does Isaiah receive? 63:1c**
The Saviour (The Messenger of YAHWEH's Presence)
63:1 "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."
4. **What does Isaiah want to know? 63:2**
63:2 Why are your garments red, like those of one **treading the winepress**?
5. **Which answer does Isaiah receive? 63:3**
63:3 "I have trodden **the winepress** alone; from the nations no-one was with me. I trampled them in **my** anger and trod them down in **my** wrath; **their blood spattered my garments**, and I stained all my clothing.
6. **In the context of Isaiah 56-66, who is this figure? Revelation 19:11-16**
The Anointed Conqueror
7. **Which Day of Vengeance was this? 61:4; 61:2b**
The Day of Judgement and the time of Comfort for God's people.
63:4 For the day of vengeance was in **my** heart, and the year of **my** redemption has come.
8. **Who would be there to help the Anointed Conqueror? 63:5**
63:5 I looked, but there was no-one to help, I was appalled that no-one gave support; so **my** own **arm** worked salvation for me, and **my** own wrath sustained me.
9. **What did the Conqueror do? 63:6**
63:6 I trampled the nations in **my** anger; in **my** wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

Reflection & Application

1. **Why is the whole of 63:3-6 written in the past tense, even though these events still lie in future?**
This day is inevitable. It is absolutely sure to happen.
2. **Which day does Joel 3:13 and Revelation 14:17-20 speak of?**
Revelation 14:19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the **great winepress of God's wrath**.
3. **How does Revelation 19:11-16 and 17-21 fulfil Isaiah 63:1-6?**
Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose **rider is called Faithful and True**. With justice he judges and

makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no-one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed **in a robe dipped in blood**, and his name is the **Word of God**. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads **the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty**. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

4. **What other kind of grape harvest is there apart from the one signifying celebration and joy? Deuteronomy 32:32-33; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:18-20**

Joel 3:13 Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!"

16. The Watchman's Prayer – Recollection

63:7-14

Study Questions

1. **What does the watchman remember about YAHWEH and praise him for? 63:7**
Praise and Prayer: I will speak of the Kindnesses of YAHWEH
Isaiah 63:7 I (watchman, perhaps Isaiah) will tell of 1. the kindnesses of the LORD, 2. the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to 3. all the LORD has done for us -- yes, 4. the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, 5. according to his compassion and many kindnesses.
2. **Who is the person called YAHWEH in this prayer? 63:7 cf. 63:16; 64:8**
God the Father.
3. **What does YAHWEH have to say about his people? What did YAHWEH do for Zion in the past, as the watchman recalls? 63:8**
63:8 He said, "Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me"; and so he became their Saviour.
4. **How does the suffering of his people affect the LORD? 63:9**
He grieved for them.
63:9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
5. **What did the LORD do for his people in the past? Which period in Israel's history is the watchman referring to? 63:9**
He sent the Angel of his Presence to save them.
6. **What happened when the people rebelled? What did the covenant people of God do? 63:10**
The Holy Spirit. They grieve the Holy Spirit.
Isaiah 63:10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So, he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.
7. **How did the LORD respond when the covenant people rebelled against him? 63:10**
In the Days of Old, he became their enemy.
8. **Which events are Isaiah describing and recollecting? 63:11-14**

63:11 Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people--where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, ¹² who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; ¹⁴ like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name.

9. Who accompanied Moses in the days of old? 63:11-14; Exodus 23:20-21

The Angel of YAHWEH's Presence.

The Angel of the Presence is identified with YAHWEH's Name.

His glorious arm of power.

Exodus 14:19 Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.

Exodus 23:20 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. ²¹ Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.

10. Who gave the LORD's people rest? 63:14

The Spirit of the LORD.

11. Why was the reason for the LORD doing this? 63:14b

Make for himself a glorious Name.

Reflection & Application

1. What should be the focus of the first part of the believer's prayer? 63:7-14

Telling God about the wonders of God. Matthew 6:9-10

Praying for God's honour, his name, his kingdom, his will.

2. How does this compare with the first part of the LORD's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-10

3. Which three persons are mentioned in 63:7-14? cf. 63:14; 64:8

The Father,

The Angel of YAHWEH's Presence, the arm of the LORD

Holy Spirit

4. Who is the Angel of the LORD's Presence? 63:9; Exodus 14:19; 23:20-23

Genesis 48:15-16

Exodus 23:20-23

Psalms 34:7

5. How does the Anointed Conqueror differ from the Angel of God's presence?

Genesis 32:24-30 Angel and Jacob; cf. Hosea 12:3-5

Genesis 48:15-16

Exodus 14:19; 23:20-23

Isaiah 63:9

It is the same Person.

17. The Watchman's Prayer – Request

63:15-64:12

Study Questions

1. **What kind of prayer is this, and who is it aimed at? 63:15-16**

It is a prayer for mercy and compassion prayed to the Father. A call for YAHWEH to show his zeal and might, that is, for the LORD to act.

This is the kind of prayer the believer can pray, as God is our Father and Redeemer.

Isaiah 63:15 Look down from heaven and see from your lofty throne, holy and glorious. Where are your zeal and your might? Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us. ¹⁶ But you are our **Father**, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O **LORD**, are our **Father**, our **Redeemer** from of old is your name.

2. **What does it mean that 'Abraham does not know us or 'Israel acknowledge us?' 63:16 cf. Galatians 4:25-26**

The people of Israel do not accept the fact that the people of Zion have YAHWEH as their Father. They think God is their Father because they are biologically descendants of Abraham, but spiritually they are sons of the devil (John 8:39-44).

63:16 But you are our **Father**, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O **LORD**, are our **Father**, our **Redeemer** from of old is your name.

3. **What did the people do? 63:17 cf. Matthew 6:13a**

They wandered from the LORD's ways.

63:17 Why, O **LORD**, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.

Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation

4. **What does the watchman pray? 63:18-19**

63:18 For a little while your people possessed your holy place, but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary. ¹⁹ We are yours from of old; but you have not ruled over them, they have not been called by your name.

5. **What does the watchman cry? 64:1-2 Can the watchman ever stop? 62:6-7**

Isaiah 64:1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

6. **Which event does the watchman remember when the LORD came down? 64:3**

Mount Sinai.

64:3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

7. **What does God do for those who wait on him and remembers his ways? 64:4-5a**

64:4 Since ancient times no-one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.

8. **What happens when God's people sin? 64:5b-6; Psalm 30:2-5; 8-10; Psalm 32:3-5**
 They repent and realise the ugliness of their sin. They feel God's displeasure and anger.
 But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?
 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
9. **What do the righteous realise? 64:7**
 64:7 No-one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.
10. **Yet, what do they ultimately realise? 64:8-9**
 Our own sins, as well as the sins of the nation, have separated us from God. We also know that they have a Father in heaven to whom we can cry out. We are his creation. We need to repent and ask for forgiveness. He is still our Father.
 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins for ever. Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.
11. **What is the problem with the earthly Jerusalem? 64:10-11 cf. Galatians 4:25-26**
 It is uninhabitable for YAHWEH's people.
 64:10 Your sacred cities have become a desert; even Zion is a desert, Jerusalem a desolation. ¹¹ Our holy and glorious temple, where our fathers praised you, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins.
12. **Will the LORD save when his people repent and call out for mercy? 64:11**
 64:12 After all this, O LORD, will you hold yourself back? Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

Reflection & Application

1. **Compare Isaiah 63:15-64:12 with Romans 3:9-20**
2. **What should be the focus of the second part of the believer's prayer? 63:15-64:12 Compare with the LORD's Prayer in Matthew 6:11-13**
 Telling God about the wonders of God. Matthew 6:9-10
3. **Does God make people sin? 63:17; Matthew 6:13; James 1:13-15**

18. YAHWEH's Response to the Watchman

65:1-16

Study Questions

1. **Who are those who did not seek the LORD? 65:1; Hosea 2:23**
 The gentile nations who did not know about YAHWEH.
Isaiah 65:1 "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'

2. **What happened to the covenant people of God? 65:2-3a; Matthew 23:37**
They were obstinate. They rejected God's instruction and followed their own imaginations.
65:2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—
3. **What are the elements of paganism? What is so ironic about this? 65:3-5**
These are all prohibited practices learned from the pagan nations around them. It is provocative and rebellious and it achieves nothing. It only serves to provoke the LORD.
65:3 a people who continually provoke me to my very face,
 1. offering sacrifices in gardens and
 2. burning incense on altars of brick;
 3. 65:4 who sit among the graves and
 4. spend their nights keeping secret vigil;
 5. who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat;
 6. 65:5 who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!' (false holiness)
 They actually think that by doing these things, they are actually spiritually superior.
4. **How does the LORD feel about this? Why is this so repugnant to the LORD? 65:6b**
Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day.
5. **What will the LORD's wrath bring about? 65:6-7**
65:6 "See, it stands written before me; I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps-- ⁷ both your sins and the sins of your fathers," says the LORD. "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds."
6. **Among the covenant community are there still some people who fear the LORD? Servants of the LORD? 65:8**
Yes. Even among the bad, there is still some good to be found.
For their sake, the LORD does not destroy them all.
65:8 **This is what the LORD says:** "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, 'Don't destroy it, there is yet some good in it,' so will I do on behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all.
7. **Who are the descendants of Jacob and Judah? 65:9; Genesis 15:1-6, 18; Galatians 3:26-29**
The covenant people namely Israel and Judah.
65:9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob (Israel), and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen people will inherit them, and there will my servants live.
Note: Explain Sharon and the Valley of Achor
Sharon symbolizes deterioration 33:4 as well as messianic renewal 35:2 One day Sharon will be what it was meant to be, and the nations will be the ones begging
Achor symbolises a bright beginning that was marred (Joshua 7:24-25).
65:10 Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me.
8. **Who or what is *Fortune and Destiny*? 65:11**

This is divination and soothsaying. An abomination to the LORD (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

65:11 "But as for you who forsake the LORD and forget my holy mountain, who spread a table for Fortune and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,

9. Ironically, what will be the destiny of these wicked people? 65:12

65:12 I will destine you for the sword, and you will all bend down for the slaughter; for I called but you did not answer, I spoke but you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

10. Why will the LORD destine them for slaughter? 65:12b

65:12b "...for I called but you did not answer, I spoke but you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

Reflection & Application

1. What is paganism essentially all about? Romans 1:18-23

It is the replacement of the Creator with created things, namely animals, trees, stones, rivers, spirits, nature gods, and fertility gods. For example: Ashtoreth, Baal, Mother Earth, the ancestors, etc.

2. Why are both their own sins, as well as the sins of their fathers, reckoned to their account for punishment? 65:7 Does it not contradict Ezekiel 18:20? cf. Daniel 5:18-23

They were committing the same sins as their ancestors, having learned nothing. Therefore, they are doubly guilty.

Daniel 5:18 "O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendour. ¹⁹ Because of the high position he gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. ²⁰ But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. ²¹ He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes. ²² "But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, **though you knew all this.** ²³ Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven.

19. A New Creation, Zion Established

65:17-25

Study Questions

1. What will be the division YAHWEH uses when he refers to 'my servants' and 'you'? 65:13-14

My servants

will eat
will drink
will rejoice

You

will go hungry
will go thirsty
will be put to shame

will sing out of the joy of their hearts will cry out from anguish of heart and
wail in brokenness of spirit.

65:13 Therefore **this is what the Sovereign LORD says:** "My servants will eat, but you will go hungry; my servants will drink, but you will go thirsty; my servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. ¹⁴ My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts, but you will cry out from anguish of heart and wail in brokenness of spirit.

2. **What will be the outcome for the wicked? 65:15**

65:15 You will leave your name to my chosen ones as a curse; the Sovereign LORD will put you to death, but to his servants he will give another name.

3. **Who will be the only ones to dwell in the land? 65:16**

65:16 Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth. For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes.

4. **What is this land that the Sovereign LORD is referring to? 65:17-18, Revelation 21:1-3**

65:17 "Behold, **I will create new heavens and a new earth.** The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I will create, for I will **create Jerusalem** to be a delight and its people a joy.

5. **What does the New Jerusalem consist of? What will there no longer be? 65:19 cf. Revelation 21:4**

A city and a people.

65:19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

6. **Which ideas does the description of long life, houses and vineyards, and joy signify? 65:20-21**

65:20 "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

7. **What will be the perpetual state that the inhabitants of this new Jerusalem will enjoy?**

Joy and blessing. Hebrews 12:22-24

65:22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. ²³ They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be **a people blessed by the LORD**, they and their descendants with them.

8. **Where will the LORD himself be? Will the LORD hear? 65:24**
He will be with them.

65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

9. **What is the meaning of "the wolf and the lamb will lie together" and "the lion eat straw like an ox"? 65:25 cf. 11:6-9**

No more curse, no more suffering, no more death and bloodshed.

65:25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

Reflection & Application

1. **What do the new heavens and the new earth sound like? Revelation 21:1-2**
A new Eden.
2. **What will no longer be in effect? Revelation 21:4**
The curse.
3. **Is the New Jerusalem a people or a place or both? Revelation 21:10**
Both.
4. **Who will be the citizens of this city? Revelation 21:27; 22:14**
Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

20. The Arrival of the End.

66:1-17

Study Questions

1. **What is YAHWEH yearning for? 66:1**
A resting place, his temple. With his people! cf. Ephesians 2:19-22
Isaiah 66:1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"
2. **Despite the fact that YAHWEH created all things and is indescribable in his majesty, glory, and power, who does he esteem? 66:2; 57:15**
66:2 Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.
3. **How does YAHWEH feel about the wicked and their good works and sacrifices? 66:3**
66:3 But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol.
4. **What is the wicked like? 66:3b**
They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations;
5. **What did the wicked do when the LORD called? 66:4**
66:4 So I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread. For when I called, no-one answered, when I spoke, no-one listened. They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."
6. **What is the good news for those who fear the LORD and the bad news for those who reject the LORD? 66:5-6 cf. Revelation 18**
Death of the Old Age
66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word; "Your brothers who hate you, and exclude you because of my name, have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy!' Yet they will be put to shame. ⁶ Hear

that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve.

7. **What is the meaning of 'before she goes into labour she gives birth'?**
66:7

The curse of Genesis 3:15 has ended.

Zion will give birth to her children without pain.

It will be painless and instantaneous

66:7 "Before she goes into labour, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son.

8. **What is the birth of Zion, a nation brought forth in a day? 66:8 cf. Revelation 21:1-3; Daniel 12:1-2**

Birth of the New Age

The resurrection will happen instantaneously.

66:8 Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things?

Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?

Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children.

9. **How do we know that this will surely happen? 66:9**

66:9 Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD.

"Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?" says your God.

Reflection & Application

On the birth of Zion:

1. **When was Zion people saved, the deal done?**

At the cross

2. **What is the state of the believer now? Psalm 87; Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22-24;**

Citizens of Zion, together with the heavenly beings and the departed saints made perfect.

3. **When will Zion be actualised? Revelation 21-22**

At the second coming / The Day of the LORD / The End of the Age.

21. The New Jerusalem

66:18-24

Study Questions

1. **Who will be the citizens of the New Jerusalem? 66:10**

Isaiah 66:10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her.

2. **What will be the blessing of its citizens? 66:11-12**

Isaiah 66:11 For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance." ¹² For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees.

3. **How will the LORD end the inhabitants of Jerusalem's mourning? 66:13-14**

66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." ¹⁴ When you see this, your heart will rejoice and

you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants,

4. **What will happen to the LORD's enemies? 66:14b-15**

66:14b but his fury will be shown to his foes. ¹⁵ See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

5. **What will the LORD do to them? 66:16**

66:16 For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD.

6. **What is the difference between those inside the city and those outside? 66:17; Revelation 22**

66:17 "Those who consecrate and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following the one in the midst of those who eat the flesh of pigs and rats and other abominable things--they will meet their end together," declares the LORD.

7. **Who will the LORD gather into the city? 66:18**

66:18 "And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory.

8. **Who are the survivors and what will they do? 66:19**

66:19 "I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations--to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations.

9. **What will happen to their brothers? 66:20-21**

66:20 And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD--on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD.

10. **Will the new heavens and the new earth ever end? 66:22-23**

What is the outcome for the righteous?

66:22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From one New Moon to another and from one **Sabbath** to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.

11. **What will happen to the wicked, and how will the people of the LORD respond? 66:24; Matthew 24-25**

66:24 "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; **their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched**, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

Reflection & Application

1. **Which only two possible outcomes are there?**

Zion or destruction.

2. **What is this city? Hebrews 11:10; Hebrews 12:22-24; Hebrews 13:14; Galatians 4:26**

Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Galatians 4:26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

3. **Who lives there? Psalm 87; Revelation 20:15; 21:27**

Psalm 87:3 Glorious things are said of you, O city of God: Selah ⁴ "I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me--Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush-- and will say, 'This one was born in Zion.'" ⁵ Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her." ⁶ The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion." Selah

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

4. **Compare 66:24b with Daniel 12:1-2 and Revelation 20:12-15.**

Isa 66:24 "... their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

Daniel 12:1 "... There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.