

ISAIAH STUDY GUIDE

One Holy Nation

Isaiah 65–66

In a summary of summaries, Isaiah preached his final message to the people of Judah. The prophet warned the people against vain religious practices and mixing true worship with false. In an astonishing revelation to most, Isaiah prophesied that the people of God were not exclusively the Jews, but those of all peoples who have a humble spirit and serve the Lord only. The Lord will comfort those who truly belong to Him; but terrible judgment will fall on the false worshiper and the hypocrite—whether Jew or Gentile.

Isaiah 65–66 may be outlined as follows:

- I. A final warning for current times (65:1–16)
- II. A final view of the end times (65:17–66:24)

A final warning for current times

Isaiah knew the history of Judah well. And he knew the nature of humankind. And so, in order to help to preserve the remnant of righteous people, Isaiah was given a message of warning to the wicked and promise to the righteous. Even in the best of times, we need warnings in place to help guide us and keep us on the right path. A time of great prosperity is coming, Isaiah proclaimed. But everyone, including God's chosen people, must take heed that they serve the Lord only.

What are some of the ways false religion is mixed with true worship today?
How can you avoid these pitfalls?

A final view of the end times

In his final message, Isaiah saw into the future to a time when this earth will be gone forever. Isaiah saw a new heaven and a new earth—the same as the Apostle John saw. (Compare Isaiah 65:17–19 with Revelation 21:1–4.)

As Isaiah preached many times before, God's eternal plan of salvation will be carried out. Nothing can stop the counsel of the Lord. Peace and prosperity will be restored. The plan of redemption for humankind and all of creation will be carried out. Then, God's people will worship the Lord, and the Lord only, all the time and for all eternity.

When you think about eternity in heaven, what things here on earth seems less important?

How has your study of Isaiah changed your understand of God and your relationship with Him?