

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)  
PROGRAM 45 (#911160)  
WEEK 9 (#911332) (Guest Teacher David Arthur)  
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)**  
**TITLE: Program 45 – Shame Or Glory?**  
**(Guest Teacher David Arthur)**

**FRIDAY**

**INTRO**

**Kay:** The book of Isaiah so captures our culture today, a culture filled with sin, a culture where truth has stumbled in the streets. And it is such a joy for me to know that the man teaching beside me is a man who knows the truth, who holds to the truth. I know you're going to enjoy David Arthur, the Vice-President of Teaching and Training at Precept Ministries. Be blessed.

**OPEN**

**David:** In our study today, we come to the very end of history. We come to the conclusion of 66 chapters of biblical prophecy that take us to the very end of time. How will it end for the people? How will it end for those who follow Jesus? How will it end for those who don't? A better question is: How will it end for you at the end of history? Join us today and we'll have the answers.

## **PART ONE**

**David:** Today we finish the book of Isaiah—sixty-six chapters of prophecy. We pick up in Isaiah chapter 66, verse 1: **“Thus says the LORD, ‘Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And...a place that I may rest? For My hand [had] made all these things, thus all these things came into being,’ declares the LORD. ‘But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.’”** (Isaiah 66:1-2) The first question our text asks is this: Where will God rest? And the question the text asks is this: **“...Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?”** (Isaiah 66:1) In other words, God has created everything. Where could you build something for Him to dwell in? He is so enormous, He is so divine, He’s so glorious, there’s nothing that we, with our mortal hands, could build that would house Him. It reminds me of the King Kong movie. You remember the King Kong movie where they find this enormous ape in the jungles of Africa? They decide they want to bring him back to New York City. But they get to New York City and they can’t figure out: “How do we house this enormous ape—this gigantic creature? What can we build that can contain him?” And so some say: “Well if we put enough chains on him;” or “If we do enough of this, that will hold him down.” And you remember the movie, he can’t be contained, he busts the chains and eventually climbs up the Empire State Building, only to find his death with planes shooting at him. We have God saying, “Where is it? What can you build for me that I may rest?” And the answer’s implied: “There’s absolutely nothing we can build.” So what does God then say He will look to? I love this. In verse 2 at the second part He says: **“...But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”** (Isaiah 66:2) Who’s God looking for? God tells us three things. “I’m looking, first, for one who is humble.” That means one who understands the vast difference between the Creator and the created, between

God, our heavenly Father, and us, His people—“one who is humble.” But secondly He says, “one who is contrite.” That means one who understands his or her transgression against a holy God, and in repentance and in forgiveness is reconciled to God—one who is humble and contrite. But then thirdly He says, “one who trembles at My Word.” That means one who takes the Scriptures and gives them the reverence and the attention that they demand. One who studies the Bible—one who not only understands the content of the Bible, but one who takes seriously the commands and instructions and the promises that God laid out for His people. My Friends, that’s what we’re doing. On this show, that’s what we’re doing. We are studying the Bible for ourselves, and I want you to know our prayer for you is that you would be one who is humble and contrite. Because you have encountered God through His revelation and you understand His holiness and your need for His holiness, your need for His righteousness. And the result would be that third thing: That you would tremble at His Word—that you would fear God. Now as we look at Isaiah chapter 66, we have a lot of text to cover, but I want to start by reading the end of Isaiah 66, the last paragraph, beginning in verse 18. We’re gonna see God presenting His glory, but there’s two options or two ways in which you can experience or grasp this glory. Let’s look at those two options. He says in verse 18, **“For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all [the] nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.”** (Isaiah 66:18) Here He’s giving an invitation: “At the end of time I will gather the entire world here together and they will see, or experience, My glory.” Verse 19: **“I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations...:”** and here comes a list. **“...Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech [Rosh], Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.”** (Isaiah 66:19) “So there will be some that I will gather together that haven’t even heard of My glory, but when they are

exposed, they will proclaim My glory to the nations.” Verse 20: How will they come? “...**‘They shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the LORD, ‘just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.’” (Isaiah 66:20)** He’s saying, “I’m gonna use the whole world. I’m gonna use all the nations to gather together My children,” here described specifically as the children of the covenant, of the promise that He made to Israel and to Judah. And He says, “I will bring them back in restoration and all the nations will be a participant in that parade back to My holy mountain.” But then He says this in verse 22: **“‘For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘so your offspring and your new name will endure...it shall be from [the] new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, [and] all mankind will come to bow down before Me,’ says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:22-23)** Let me stop there. From 18 to 23 in this chapter, we read about an experiencing of the glory of God in a positive light. I call that the bright side of glory. But there’s another side that we need to see in this text. It’s in verse 24. Look what it says. These who are bowing down to God, these who are in His glory, whom we’ll know to be in the new heavens and the new earth, it says in verse 24— these are hard words: **“Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of...men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; and they will be abhorrence to all mankind.” (Isaiah 66:24)** My Friend, that is the dark side of glory. When God comes back at the very end of history and He creates His new heavens and a new earth, we will experience His glory. But there’s two options. One: There’s the bright side of His glory and that’s in His forgiveness and His restoration, as described, as we saw, in verses 18 through 23, and it’ll be a glorious day. It’ll be a glory that brings joy and hope and gladness. But if we are not, by

faith, His children; if we have rejected Him, if we have decided that we do not need God in our life and that we can run our lives better, He tells us that we will end up in verse 24. Now what I want to do is, I want to look at these two different groups. I want us to examine them together. And so the first thing I want you to see is beginning in verses 3-6. We see those who choose their own way. Let's look at that. Verse 3: **"But he who kills an ox is like one who slays a man; he who sacrifices a lamb is like the one who breaks a dog's neck; [and] he who offers a grain offering is like one who offers swine's blood; he who burns incense is like...one who blesses an idol...."** (Isaiah 66:3) Now He's describing here in verse 3 those who we find out, eventually, will be in verse 24—will be in this place that we know as hell. The place where the **"...fire [is not] quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."** (Isaiah 66:24) But how does He describe them? Let's go back to verse 3. At the end of verse 3 it tells us why they are here. It says this: **"...As they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations. So I will choose their punishments and will bring on them what they dread. Because I called, but no one answered; I spoke, but they did not listen. And they did evil in my sight...,**" and note what He says. **"...And [they] chose that in which I did not delight."** (Isaiah 66:3-4) It's real simple. In verses 3 and 4 we find out those who receive the dark side of glory will be those who choose wrongly. We teach our kids this as they grow up. "Choose wisely. Make good choices." What's the wrong choice here? He says the wrong choice is this: when we choose our own way. Choosing our own way, according to verse 4, is directly equivalent to choosing in that which God does not delight. My Friend, if you're struggling with something in life which you do not want to let go to God, let me ask you a real pointed question: If God is your Creator, if God is your Designer, doesn't He know what's best for you? Why then choose something that He does not delight in. The answer is simple: Choose His way and you will understand and grasp the bright side of glory.

## **PART TWO**

**David:** Isn't it great to understand that our God has shown us the future? That our God is so powerful and so good to us that He has been willing to show us what will yet happen in the Bible, in His revelation of Himself and our future? We're looking at Isaiah chapter 66, which covers for us to the very end of history. We see the very end of it, and we're looking at two things. We're looking at the coming of God in all of His glory and we see from the text that there's two aspects. There's the bright side of His glory. And then there's the dark side of His glory. Verse 24 tells us the dark side. It'd be those, who will, as we understand from the Scriptures, go to hell; that those are the ones who have rejected God. But the bright side of the glory are those who will follow Him and will receive His forgiveness. We're looking still at the dark side here, of glory, and in verse 13 He describes "comfort," and then it changes. At the end of verse 14 we see the word "but." He says, **"But..."** speaking of God, **"...He will be indignant toward His enemies."** (Isaiah 66:14) And this is how His indignation is described. Verse 15: **"For behold, the LORD will come in fire and His chariots like [a] whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For the LORD will execute judgment by fire and by His sword on all flesh, and those [who are] slain by the LORD will be many. 'Those who sanctify and purify themselves...go to the gardens, following one in the center, who eat swine's flesh, detestable things and mice, will come to an end altogether,' declares the LORD."** (Isaiah 66:15-17) Now we see a couple of things I want you to see here. In verse 17, He describes what we saw earlier in our study in Isaiah 65, verse 3. Those who decide to go bring their sacrifices to the gardens. We noted then when we studied that, that that meant that the people of God had decided to customize their own worship. They had decided to blend it with the ways of the world, and He described that as an abomination. Here He tells us those are the ones who will receive His fury—His rebuke with flames of fire, and His judgment that

is executed by fire. (See Isaiah 66:15-16) I want to show you this also, though, in the New Testament. Go with me to 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. We'll look at verses 6 through 10; 2 Thessalonians. Paul is writing here to the church of Thessalonica, and in here he describes the end times. Look what he says beginning in verse 6: **"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those..."** to who? Who is He gonna deal retribution to? He tells us in verse 8, very clearly: **"...to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."** (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8) What does he have in store? **"These..."** he says, **"...will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, [and] when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed."** (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10) I want to say this carefully: There's a sense in which every single human being, this is the result of their life to be. This is where they are headed. There's a priest in England who has a very simple mission statement and it is this: Without Christ, people go to hell. That motivates and drives every aspect of his ministry. There's a sense, because we're all born in sin and because we're all enemies of God because of what happened in the Garden of Eden, that this is where we are headed, unless the grace of God turns us away from this destruction. But I want you to see this glory of God coming is also described in the New Testament. In other words, this isn't some angry, Old Testament God that's to be contrasted with a sweet, gentle, New Testament God. Often people do that with the Scriptures. They take the Old Testament and the New Testament and they put them against each other as if they don't work together. And they describe the God of wrath of the Old Testament as being very different from the gracious God of the New Testament. Or perhaps,

they say, this God has somehow changed His mind, but that's not true, My Friend. God tells us that He doesn't change, that [He's the same today and yesterday, and forever]. (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 13:8) He is trustworthy. He is always holy, and He is always righteous. But He says in the New Testament that He is coming back and He will "...[deal] **out retribution to those who do not know [Him] and to those who do not obey the gospel of [the] Lord Jesus [Christ].**" (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9) That's the dark side of His coming. Now in Isaiah chapter 66, we see and beginning in verse 7, those who will receive the bright side of this glory, those who will be brought in joy. Look what it says in verse 7. It says: **"Before she travailed, she brought forth; [and] before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy. 'Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day...?'"** (Isaiah 66:7-8) He then goes on to describe this rapid return and it says in verse 10: **"Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her...."** (Isaiah 66:10) And then He describes in verse 13 that she will be **"...one...[as a] mother [who] comforts...,**" and He says this, **"...[as a mother who comforts], so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem. Then you will see this, and your heart will be glad...."** (Isaiah 66:13-14) Why will the heart be glad? Why will there be joy? He says, **"...your bones will flourish like the new grass; and the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants...."** (Isaiah 66:14) Earlier on in this text in verse 12 he says His return is gonna bring **"...peace...like a river...."** (Isaiah 66:12) Reminds me of that great old hymn, that "peace like a river," that river that flows over us, the river of Shiloh, the river of His goodness and His trust for us. My Friend, if you are His son or daughter, which means by faith you have placed your trust in Him, then when the end of time comes and God brings His glory down from above, and the new heavens and the new earth, then you will not experience that dark side of the glory. But rather, you will experience the bright side,



and He says it will be joy and gladness. There'll be no more toil, there'll be no more pain, He says, but rather it'll be replaced with comfort. And He says this, "...[For] **behold, I [will] extend peace to her like a river....**" (**Isaiah 66:12**) That's how the world ends. It is every single person's destiny described here. And there are simply two options for us. One, we will receive the dark side of glory. We will receive his wrath and his judgment because we have rejected Him and not known Him and not obeyed His gospel. And we have said, "No, thank You," to our Creator. Or it will be one of comfort and of joy—of everlasting joy. And you will be with Him, and He says, "I will extend to you My peace, My 'Shalom' like a river." (See Isaiah 66:12) And you will encounter the bright side of glory.