

# Isaiah Series Part 24

From Rebellion to Renewal:  
The Final Vision of God's Kingdom

# I. LOOKING BACK: MAJOR THEMES THROUGH ISAIAH

## 1. The Holiness of God (Isaiah 6)

- God is utterly holy—set apart, sovereign, unapproachable.
- Sin is not merely moral failure but **cosmic rebellion**.

**Motyer:** Holiness is the “controlling center” of Isaiah’s theology.

**Oswalt:** God’s holiness demands both **judgment and redemption**.

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## 2. Human Rebellion and False Worship

Israel's persistent sin (chs. 1–5; 58–59)  
External religion without heart transformation

### **Key idea:**

God rejects worship that is not matched by righteousness (Isa 1:11–17; 66:3).

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## 3. Judgment and Hope Intertwined

Assyria, Babylon, and the nations as instruments of judgment  
Yet always a **remnant preserved**

**Oswalt:** Judgment is never God's final word—**restoration is  
always in view.**

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## 4. The Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 42, 49, 52–53)

The Servant succeeds where Israel failed  
Suffers, bears sin, brings justice to the nations

### **Connection we've built well:**

Isaiah 53 → Romans 8 → Ephesians 1  
Formation into the image of the Servant

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## 5. The Expanding Kingdom of God

Salvation extends to the nations (Isa 49:6; 60)  
Zion becomes the center of global worship

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## 6. Invitation to Transformation (Isaiah 55)

“Come, everyone who thirsts”  
Relationship with God is offered freely

# **Isaiah Chapters 65 - 66**

**The question:**

**“What does the final outcome of all this look like?”**

## II. Isaiah 65: God Responds – Judgment and New Creation

### 1. God's Initiative Toward the Unresponsive (65:1–7)

“I was ready to be sought... I said, ‘Here I am’”  
Yet Israel persists in rebellion

**Motyer:** God's grace precedes human response—even to those not seeking Him.  
(anticipates Romans 10:20)

## II. Isaiah 65: God Responds – Judgment and New Creation

### 2. A Dividing Line: Servants vs. Rebels (65:8–16)

Two groups emerge clearly:

#### **The Servants of the Lord:**

Will inherit blessing

Will rejoice, eat, and be satisfied

#### **The Rebels:**

Will face judgment, hunger, and shame

**Oswalt:** The distinction is no longer ethnic but **spiritual—defined by response to God.**

## II. Isaiah 65: God Responds – Judgment and New Creation

### 3. The Promise of New Creation (65:17–25)

This is one of the most important passages in Isaiah:

“New heavens and a new earth”

Joy replaces sorrow

Longevity, peace, restoration

Harmony in creation (wolf and lamb)

**Motyer:** Not merely restoration of the old, but **creation of something entirely new.**

**Oswalt:** The curse is reversed, but not fully described—  
pointing forward.

# III. Isaiah 66: True Worship and Final Glory

## 1. What God Truly Values (66:1–4)

Heaven is God's throne—He needs no temple  
What does He look for?

👉 “The one who is humble and contrite in spirit”

**Motyer:** True worship is not location-based but **heart-based**.

**Oswalt:** Ritual without obedience is offensive to God.

# III. Isaiah 66: True Worship and Final Glory

## 2. The Sudden Birth of Zion (66:7–14)

A nation born in a day  
Joy, restoration, comfort

### **Imagery:**

Jerusalem as a mother  
God as both sovereign and nurturing

### **Connection:**

Echoes earlier Zion promises (Isa 54, 60)

# III. Isaiah 66: True Worship and Final Glory

## 3. Final Judgment and Global Gathering (66:15–21)

God comes in fire to judge

Nations are gathered to see His glory

**Stunning development:**

Some from the nations become priests and Levites

**Oswalt:** This is a radical expansion—the people of God are redefined globally.

# III. Isaiah 66: True Worship and Final Glory

## 4. The Final Contrast: Eternal Worship vs. Eternal Judgment (66:22–24)

### Two eternal realities:

New creation endures forever

Ongoing reminder of judgment

**Motyer:** The book ends without softening judgment—  
👉 *glory and warning stand side by side*

## **IV. Major Concluding Themes**

### **1. God's Plan Moves Toward New Creation**

Not just fixing the old world

**Creating a new reality centered on His presence**

## **IV. Major Concluding Themes**

### **2. True Identity = “Servants of the Lord”**

- Not ethnicity, but response
  - Those who:
    - humble themselves
    - trust the Servant
    - walk in obedience

# IV. Major Concluding Themes

## 3. Worship Is the Central Issue

False worship → judgment

True worship → life

👉 This ties back to:

Isaiah 1 (false worship condemned)

Isaiah 6 (true encounter with holiness)

Isaiah 66 (true heart revealed)

# IV. Major Concluding Themes

## 4. The Kingdom Is Global

Nations gathered  
Gentiles included as priests

👉 Fulfilled in:

Acts (mission to the nations)  
Revelation (every tribe and tongue)

## IV. Major Concluding Themes

### 5. The Book Ends With a Choice

Isaiah does not end sentimentally—it ends **prophetically**:

- Life or judgment
- Joy or shame
- Worship or rebellion

# Conclusion

“Isaiah began with a rebellious people who honored God with their lips but whose hearts were far from Him.

He ends with a new creation filled with servants who delight in Him, worship Him, and reflect His glory to the nations.

The question Isaiah leaves us with is simple:

**Which people are we?”**