26th July, 2020 Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre

**Series: Perplexing Problems in Isaiah.**

Part I: **P**erspective of **P**rophetic **P**rinciples **I**n **I**nterpreting **I**saiah.

**Part II:** **P**erplexing **P**rophecies in Isaiah.

**R**ecapitulation: **R**ightly Diving the Word of Truth. II Tim. 2:14-1 8

A. The Three Ethnic Entities in Prophecy I Cor. 10:32

B. The Mystery of the Mystical Church. I Cor. 12:12, 13

C. The Law of Double Fulfilment. Isa. 61:1, 2

 The Parenthesis (Gap) Principle cf. Lk. 4:17-21

D. The Three Prophetic Programmes. Lk. 4:17-21

E. The Two-Stage Second Coming Of Christ. I Cor. 15:52; Rev. 1:7

F. Present Travail and the Travail to Come. I Thes. 5:3; Mt. 24:21

1. **The Problem in the Perplexing Prophecy Posed in Isa. 66:7, 8**
2. Its **P**rofundity – Isa. 66:7

*Before she was in labor, she gave birth;*

*Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.*

1. Its **P**erplexity –*Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?* 66:8a
2. The **P**oints **P**osed in the **P**rophecy – 66:8b

*Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day?*

*Or shall a nation be born at once?*

 *For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.*

1. **The Perspective of the Prophecy. Isa. 66**
2. **G**od’s Sovereign**ty** and Man’s Futili**ty.**  66:1, 2
3. The Sovereign**ty** of God **P**roclaimed:

*Thus saith the LORD,* *The heaven is My throne*, *and the earth is My footstool:*

1. The Futili**ty** of Man to meet God’s **P**rerequisites:

*Where is the house that ye build unto Me* *and where is the place of My rest?*

 *All those things hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD:*

1. The Humili**ty** of the Man God **P**ursues to reveal His **P**lans:

 *But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor*

 *and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.*

1. The **G**ross Iniqui**ty** of the **P**eople’s Vani**ty**. 66:3-4 cf. 65:12
2. *Yea,* ***they have chosen*** *their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.*
	* 1. *He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man;*
		2. *he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck;*
		3. *he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood;*
		4. *he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol.*
3. ***I also will choose*** *their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them;*
4. ***B****ecause when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear:*
5. ***B****ut they did evil before Mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.*
6. The **G**rave **A**dversi**ty** befalling the enemies and their Calami**ty**. 66:5, 6

The Lord’s **A**dvent **G**reeted with **G**ladness and the Lord **G**lorified!

1. *Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at His word;*
	* 1. *Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for My name's sake, said,*

*Let the LORD be glorified:* cf. 65:5

* + 1. *but He shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.*
1. *A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple,*

*a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to His enemies.*

1. **The Perplexity of the Prophecy: Isa. 66:7-9**
2. The **P**erplexing **P**roblem: 66:7

KJV: *Before she travailed, she brought forth;*

 *before her pain came,* *she was delivered of a man child*.

NKJV: *Before she was in labor, she gave birth;*

 *Before her pain came, She delivered a male child*.

HCSB: *Before* Zion *was in labor, she gave birth; Before she was in pain, she delivered a boy.*

MSG: *Before she went into labor, she had the baby.*

 *Before the birth pangs hit, she delivered a son.*

1. The **P**roblem **P**osed: 66:8
2. Its **P**rofundity: *Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things*
3. Its **P**erplexity: *Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day?*
4. Its **P**oints in the **P**rophecy:
5. *Or can****a land*** *be brought forth in one day?*
6. *Shall a* ***nation*** *be born at once*
7. *for as soon as* ***Zion*** *travailed, she brought forth her children.*
8. The **P**oser:What God has **P**urposed shall He not **P**erform?Isa. 66:9
9. *Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD:*
10. *Shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.*
11. **The Probability of the Solution. Isa. 66:7, 8**

*Before she travailed, she brought forth;*

*Before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child*

1. *The* ***T****ravail* of The Great **T**ribulation – *travailed…pain*
2. The **T**ime of Jacob’s **T**rouble – Jer. 30:6-7
*Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*
3. The **D**readful **D**ay of the Lord - Zech. 14:1ff; II Pet. 3:10
4. Before she Travailed… *she was delivered of a Man Child*.
5. ***B****efore* she travailed – The Man Child’s first Coming…before the Great Tribulation.

When *she travailed…her pain came…*The Great Tribulation;

Cf. Rev. 12:1-17 (1, 2, 6) - *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered…*

*And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

1. In **B**etween - The Gap of the Church age.

 i.e. *before she travailed* and *as soon as Zion was in labour, she gave birth…*

1. The **B**irth of her children – Israel restored in the Kingdom age.

 *Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day?*

 *Or shall a nation be born at once?*

 *For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.*

1. The Sequence of Events:
2. The first **C**oming of the **C**hild *– she was delivered of a man child.* Matt. 1:23
3. The Mystery of the Church and the Rapture: (The Gap or Parenthesis – no mention!
4. The Great Tribulation – Matt. 24:21

*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

1. The 2nd stage of the 2nd coming of Christ – Mt. 24:29, 30 *29  Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:* *Matthew 24:30 (KJV)*

*30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

1. The Judgment of the Gentile Nations – Mt. 25:31-32

*31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations:*

1. The Millennial Kingdom Mt. 25:34

*34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

1. **The Proofs in the Context Isa. 66:9**

*Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD:*

*Shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.*

1. Partial**ly** in **P**ast and **P**resent History.
2. In Nov. 2, 1917 – The Nation of Israel declared in the Treaty of Balfour.
3. In May 14, 1948 – the Rebirth of Israel declaring Independence.
4. In 5-10 June, 1967 (1980) – The Annexation of East Jerusalem in the Six-day War

In July 1980, the Knesset passed the Jerusalem Law as part of the country's Basic Law, which declared Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel

1. In 18 April, 2018 – The 70 years of Independence of Israel.
2. Ultimate**ly** in the **P**rospective **P**rophecy. 66:9
3. The Nation of Israel **R**estored, **R**ecognised and **R**ejoicing. cf. Isa. 54:10

 … *Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*.

1. The **R**esults of the **R**estoration in the Millennium:
2. The Millennial Kingdom with Jerusalem as its Capital. Isa. 66:10-14
3. The Enemies of Israel Destroyed and Judged. Isa. 66:15-17
4. The Two **G**atherings:
* Of the **G**entiles (nations) to see the **G**lory of **G**od. 66:18
* Of the Jews to declare the **G**lory of **G**od.

 66:20

1. The **M**ission of the **M**illennial **M**issionaries. Isa. 66:19-24
* Sent out worldwide to declare **G**od’s **G**lory among the **G**entiles. 66:19
* To **R**eturn the Jews to Israel - their **R**evival and **R**everence. 66:20
* To **R**estore the **L**evites to the Priesthood and **L**ead in Worship. 66:21
1. The **M**illenni**al** **B**lessings and Etern**al** **B**liss. 66:22, 23
2. An **A**bhorring End for **A**ll **A**liens. 66:24 cf. Mt. 25:41, 46; Mk. 9:43-48

**D**escription of the **D**oom of the **D**esecrated and **D**ecayed Corpses of the Rebels.

1. Other **P**arallel **P**rophetic **P**assages of the Millennium. **Isa. 65:17-25; 11:1-16.**
2. The Lord will ***R****ecover the* ***R****emnant* and **R**eturn them to their own land –

*second time*; *from the four corners of the earth*. Isa. 11:11, 12

1. The **P**rosperity and **P**eace in Jerusalem. Isa. 65:18 cf. 11:9
2. No **S**adness or **S**orrow – *no more voice of weeping or crying.* Isa. 65:19
3. **L**ife will be **L**ong – *no more an infant of days.* Isa. 65:20
4. The **P**eople will **P**rosper and enjoy their **P**roduce. Isa. 65:21-23
5. Their **P**rayers will be speedily answered. Isa. 65:24
6. Wild animals will live in **H**armony with **H**umans in Safety. Isa. 65:25 cf. 11:6-8
7. The **R**etribution in the **R**estoration. Isa. 66:14c-17, 24

Conclusion: The **P**rofundity, **P**erplexity and the **P**oints in the **P**rophecy of Isa. 66:7, 8