

At the end Isaiah, after much destruction and prophesy of difficult truths, redemption is prophesied — a time will come after the heartache and exile when peace will reign.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: 66:10-14

Thus says the LORD: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her-- that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies."

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 66:1-8

- ¹ Be joyful in God, all you lands; *
sing the glory of his Name;
sing the glory of his praise.
- ² Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! *
because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.
- ³ All the earth bows down before you, *
sings to you, sings out your Name."
- ⁴ Come now and see the works of God, *
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.
- ⁵ He turned the sea into dry land,
so that they went through the water on foot, *
and there we rejoiced in him.
- ⁶ In his might he rules for ever;
his eyes keep watch over the nations; *
let no rebel rise up against him.
- ⁷ Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- ⁸ Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

In the Christian family, it is imperative to correct and rebuke — to tell the truth to — our brothers and sisters in faith, through mutual love and affection, we build up the body of Christ.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians: 6:7-16

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-- only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The Word of the Lord.