

people have turned away from Him, and it has been necessary for Him to rebuke them and to punish many of them; yet they remain a people whom He has selected for a particular purpose and to whom He has promised to show great and lasting blessing.

While chapter 66 keeps the nation of Israel in the foreground, it has many revealing touches regarding the rest of the world. The prophet's vision takes in the entire universe. The destruction of all the enemies of God, regardless of race or distance, is seen in verses 15 to 17. The entrance of all nations into the presence of God is stated in verses 18 to 23. All flesh is to worship before Him in that glorious time of universal joy and peace.

The book of Isaiah ends on a practical note. After the marvelous blessings of its latter verses, verse 24 reminds us of the fate of those who turn against the Lord and are punished in the great judgment at the end of the age. God is not only a god of love. He is also a God of justice.

"Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched" (v. 24). This last verse of the Book of Isaiah is a vivid reminder of the fact that the torment of the finally impenitent will endure forever. It is one of the clearest indications of the eternal punishment of the wicked.