

God Of The Great Judgment - Part IV

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #36
Isaiah 65 – May 3, 2017 – Wednesday

I. THE SEEKING GENTILES, 65:1

A. What Do Gentiles Seek?

1. Romans 10:20 *But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.*
2. Gentiles sought after many things but not after God.
 - a. Matthew 6:30 *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 **(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)** for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1:22 *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*
 - c. Notice Isaiah 11:10 *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

B. What Did The Gentiles Find?

1. They eventually, through the preaching of the Gospel, began to seek after the Lord, though they before had not asked for him. Their hearts had to be broken and tenderized by the grace of God.
2. They found the Lord of whom they had not sought.

C. God Manifested Himself To The Gentiles – “Behold me, behold me” 1b

1. Hosea 2:23 *And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.*
 - a. New Testament – 2 Corinthians 6:16 . . . *and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
 - b. New Testament – Romans 9:25-26 *As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*
2. Titus 1:3 *But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching (KERYGMA = proclaim), which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;*

II. THE SINFUL JEWS, 61:2-7

A. God’s Continual Invitation, 2

1. Sometimes when God stretches out his hands, it is for judgment
2. Other times it is for inviting his people to be obedient to him and to enjoy his many blessings.
3. Here it seems he is inviting them to enjoy the pleasant things of the Lord through their

obedience to him.

4. Romans 10:21 *But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

B. God's Conduct Of Israel, 3-7

1. In these verses God numbers out many of the sins of Israel.
 - a. They walked after their own thoughts, 3
 - b. They sacrifice in gardens rather than in the temple, as was commanded of God, 3
 - c. They burned incense upon altars of brick, 3
 - d. They remain among the graves, to seek the wisdom and advice of the dead, which is called necromancy, 4
 - (1) Here they eat swine's flesh, which was forbidden of God, Leviticus 11:7.
 - (2) They also eat the broth from abominable things, some say the broth made from the swine's flesh and put in pots to pour out to idols in worship and sacrifice to these idols.
 - e. Verse 5 explains that these false worshipers think they are holier than those who are faithful to the Lord in worship. They have found a new religion, and it is much better than the old religion. They look in disgust at true believers and say "I am holier than thou." True believers are detestable to idol worshipers. They are like the smoke of a fire that goes up their noses all day long, 5
2. Then God brings a curse upon Israel.

C. The Curse Of Israel, 6-7

1. God will not be silent, 6, but will bring full recompense (judgment) upon them.
2. God will even bring judgment upon their fathers for their "former work." 7

III. THE SECURE REMNANT, 61:8-12

A. The Vine As A Sign, 8

1. Romans 9:27 *Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:*
2. Romans 11:5 *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*
3. Don't destroy the vine; don't dig it up. It has life left in it, even though it may look as though it is dead.
4. Jesus told a parable about this in the New Testament:

Luke 13:6-9 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

B. The Seed As A Savior, 9-10

1. God will bring forth a seed out of Jacob and out of Judah as a Messiah, Jesus, who came in the fulness of time to redeem his remnant.

2. Sharon and Achor will be replenished and will be the residence of God's remnant, 10
 - a. *Isaiah 35:2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.*
 - b. *Hosea 2:15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.*
- C. The Sword Of God, 11-12
 1. The sword of God will come upon those who forsake and forget God's holy mountain, 11
 2. They prepare a table "for the troop."
 - a. The word "troop" is the word Gad (which means 'a troop').
 - b. Most commentators believe that it refers to "a lucky star" or "a fortune." – We have the expression "oh, my lucky stars."
 - c. Egyptians would prepare these tables for their worship of the sun.
 - d. Other people made a great meal worshipping the idols for the bounty of the fields from the previous year and asking help for the coming harvest.
 - e. They did this "to that number," or to a number of deities, for there were many deities, many gods, to these false worshipers.
 3. These will bow down to the sword, or be destroyed by the sword, 12
 4. He names four reasons for this, 12
 - a. I called, and you did not answer.
 - b. I spoke, and you did not hear.
 - c. They did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
 - d. They chose that which God did not delight in.