



Isaiah 58-66

Come, Follow Me

Isaiah 58 The True Law of the Fast

Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Me they seek (of all things!) would capture the tone of astonishment here... they look like a nation that did justice... but like is a key word. To be like such a nation and to be such a nation are not the same thing.

(Oswalt, *Isaiah 40-66 Commentary*, p. 496)

The Feel of Hunger

Perhaps the feel of hunger is why the Lord in his wisdom has linked fasting with giving to the poor. It took me a number of years to realize why we donate offerings on the day we fast. So often I have been reminded by others to have a purpose for the fast. This is excellent advice. It is healthy to think of a personal reason for fasting or to fast for the spiritual support of another member, but I think the greatest reason of all is linked to the donation and needs no other motive. Hunger is the greatest scourge of poverty. When we fast we feel, in the slightest of ways, what the poor may feel every moment of every day. Knowing that this is their experience, we are asked to alleviate it by our contribution. Our fasting is a monthly encouragement to consider the plight of the poor. (Mike Wilcox, *What the scriptures teach us about prosperity*, Deseret Book, 2010, p.120)

The "why" of the captivity – Isaiah 59

Your sins did this – 59.2

Your hands are defiled with blood – 59.3

None call for justice! - 59.4

Violence, feet run to evil – 59.6-7

Justice is turned away and truth faileth – 59.14-15

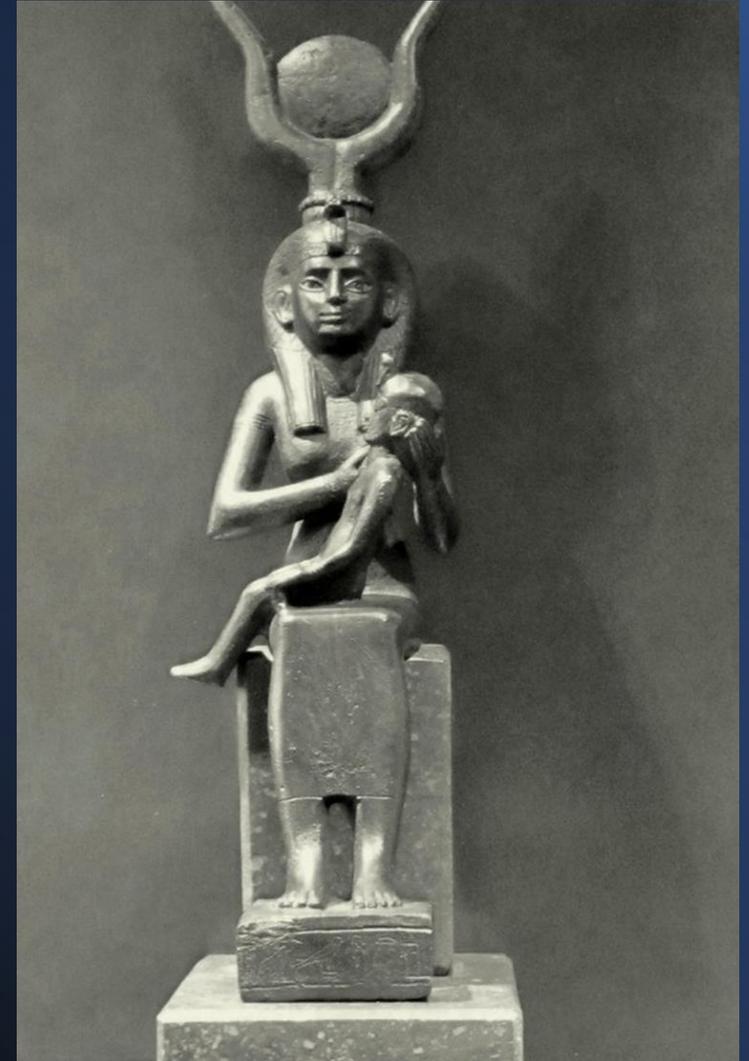
The Divine Warrior repays – 59.17-21

Israel will rise again – Isaiah 60

Israel rises amidst great darkness –
60.1-5

Kings will subjugate themselves to
Zion – 60.3,6-11

Thou shalt suck the milk of the
Gentiles – 60.16

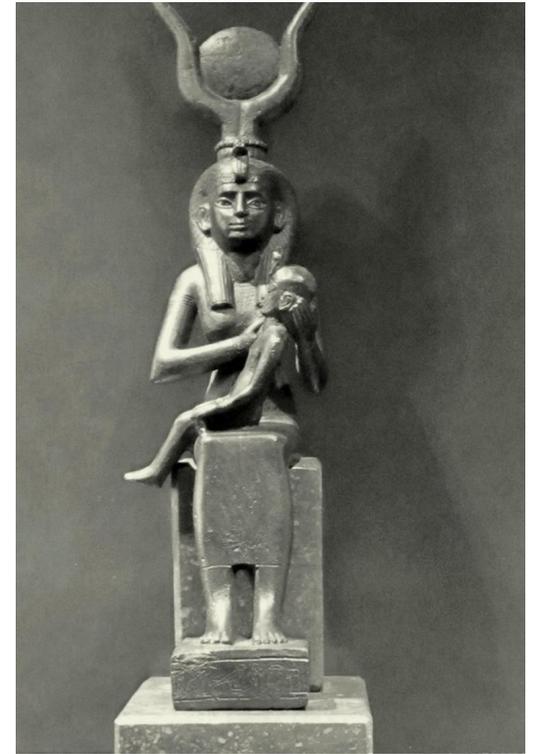


Suck the breast of kings – Isaiah 60

Across the ancient world, the mark of greatness and exaltation was to have been suckled at the breast of a goddess. This meant the life of the gods flowed through one...

Of course, no biblical writer would use such a figure... thus the mighty nations and their kings are said to be the nursemaids of Israel. The language used suggests is that the day will come when Israel will find itself cared for and supported by the great nations of the earth.

(Oswalt, p. 552-553) [Note what is happening in 1 Nephi 8.11, 1 Nephi 11.8-20]



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me – Isaiah 61

Opening of the prison – v.1

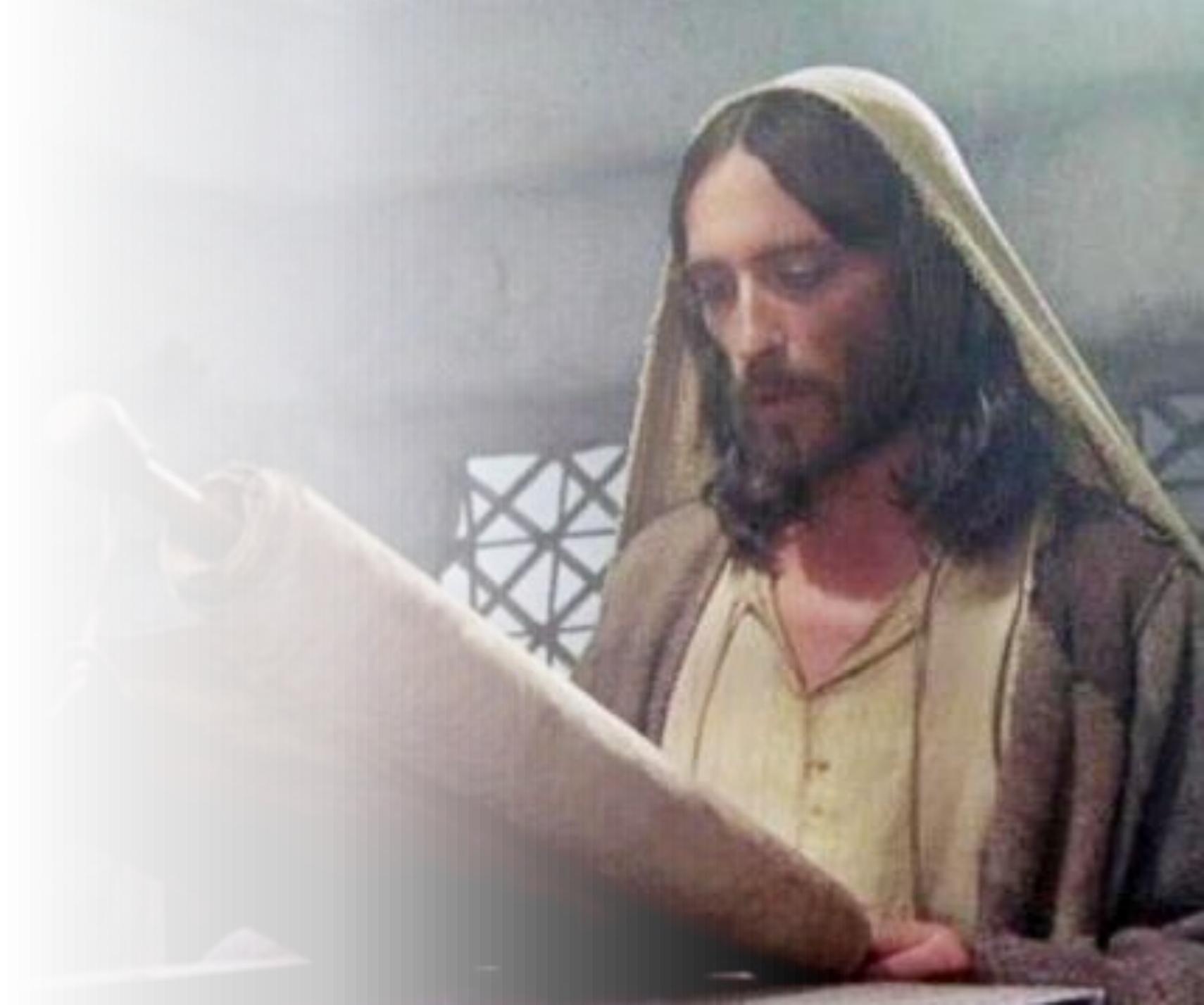
Comfort all that mourn -v. 2

Beauty for ashes – v. 3

Trees of Righteousness – v. 3

אֵילֵי הַצְּדָקָה

A-yilay= trees/rams/strong
ones



Isaiah 61.4-9

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.

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Isaiah 61.10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 62: Fertility Language

Kings and Gentiles shall see thy glory – v. 2

A new name – v. 2

No more desolate or forsaken – v. 4

Hephzi-bah הֶפְצִי־בָּה = my desire is in her (from H2656 *khay-fets* = desire, delight, pleasure. The Greeks translated this $\theta\acute{\epsilon}\lambda\eta\mu\alpha$ = will, pleasure.)

Beulah בְּעוּלָה = married wife, from ba-al בַּאֵל , marry, husband, wife – v.4

As a young man rejoiceth over the bride... so shall God rejoice – v. 5



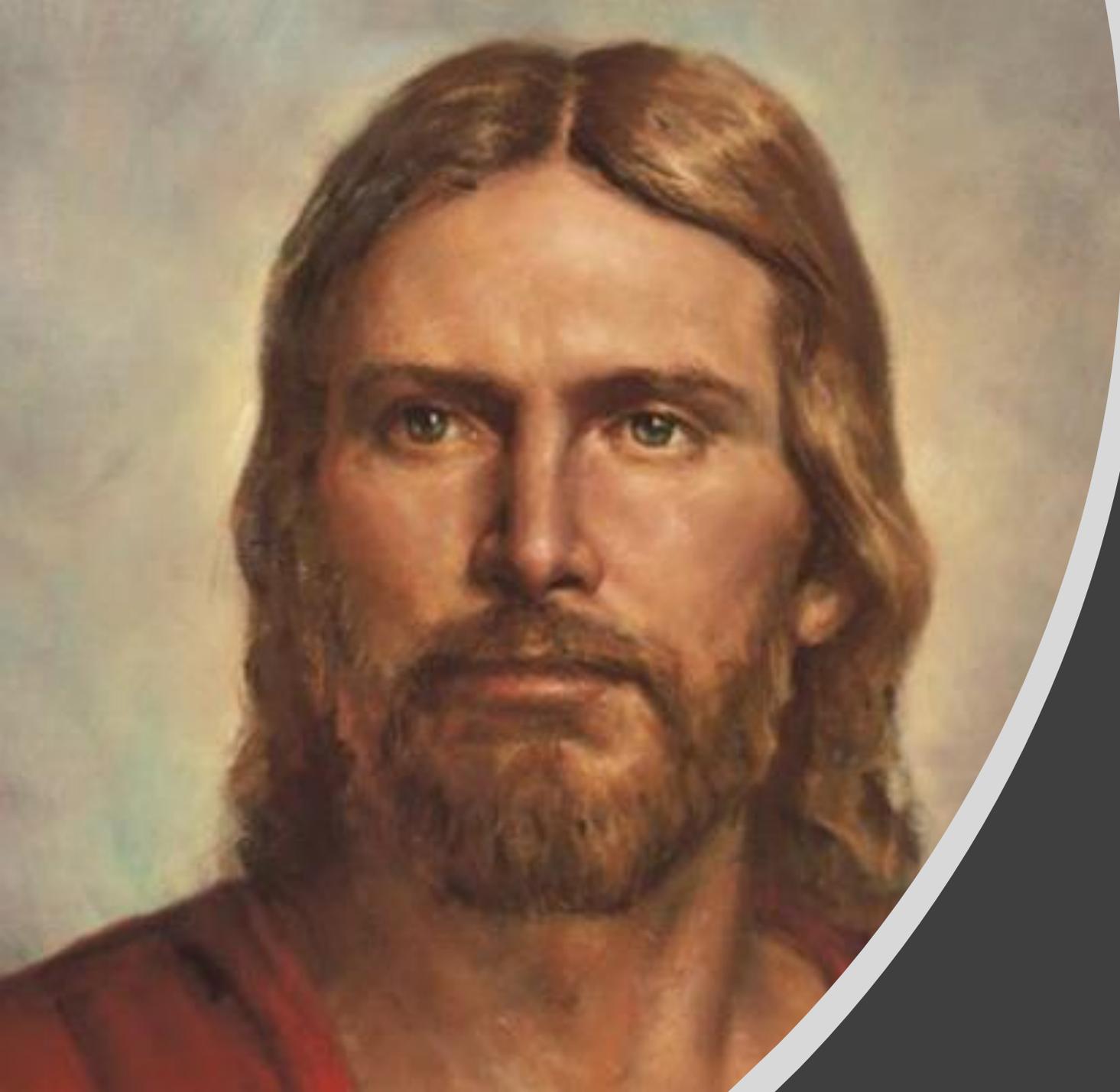
Gather the stones, lift the standard! (Isa. 62.10-12)

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; **gather out the stones; lift up a standard** for the people. Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, **thy salvation cometh**; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and **thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.**

The Second Coming – Isaiah 63

Glorious in his apparel...
red in thine apparel... I
have trodden the
winepress alone... none
were with me... their
blood shall be sprinkled
upon my garments and I
will stain all my raiment. -
Isaiah 63.1-3





Isaiah 63 has a dual nature

The Divine Warrior and the Loving
Lord

Isaiah 64

No one has seen or heard that which the Lord has prepared for his Saints – Isaiah 64.4. See also: 1 Corinthians 2.9

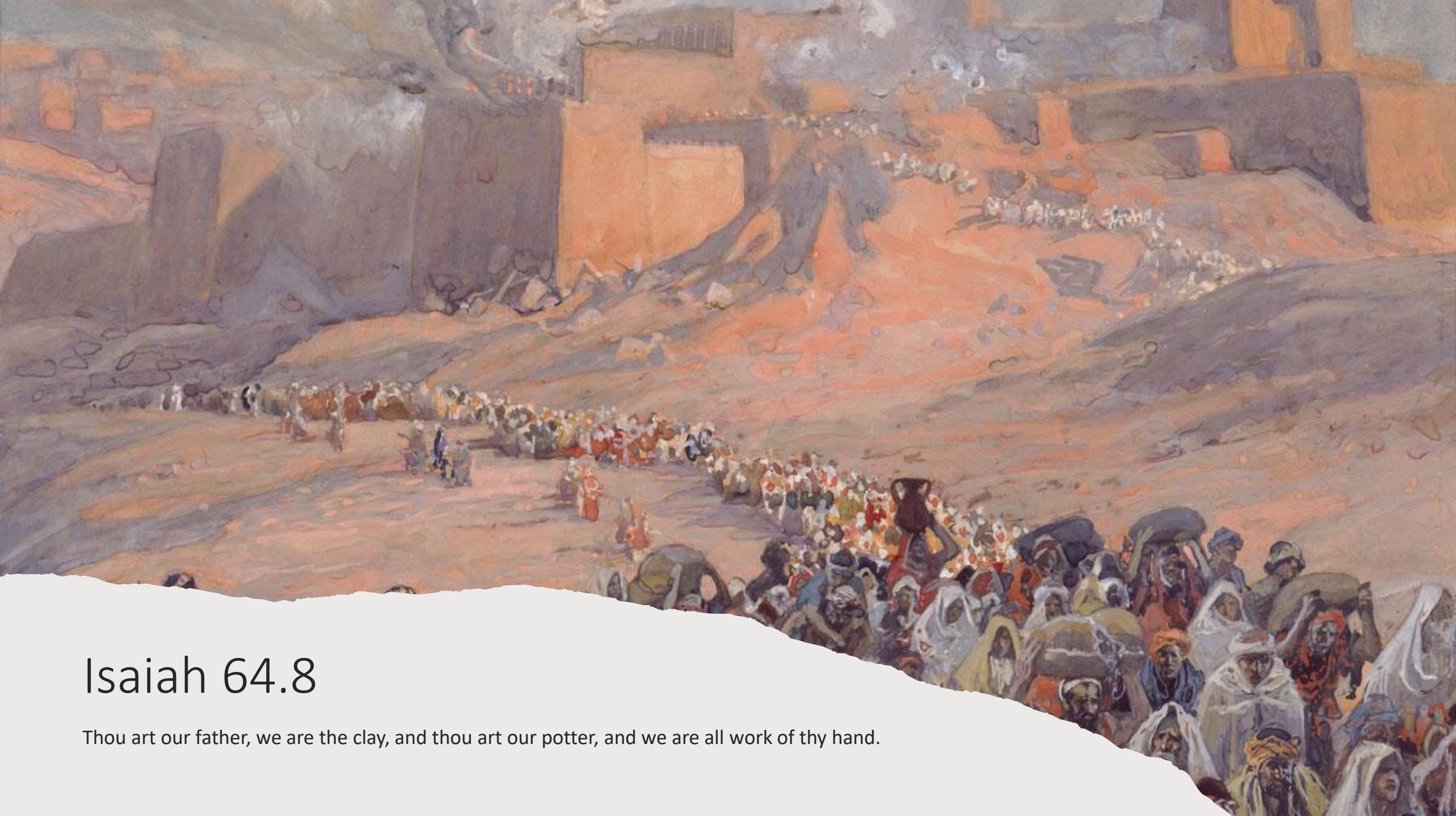


EYE has NOT
seen, nor
Ear **Heard,**
NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE
Heart of Man,
the things which
God has **PREPARED**
for them that
Love HIM.
1 CORINTHIANS 2:9



Isaiah 64.7

There is none that calleth upon thy name... for thou hast hid hid thy face from us, because of our iniquities!



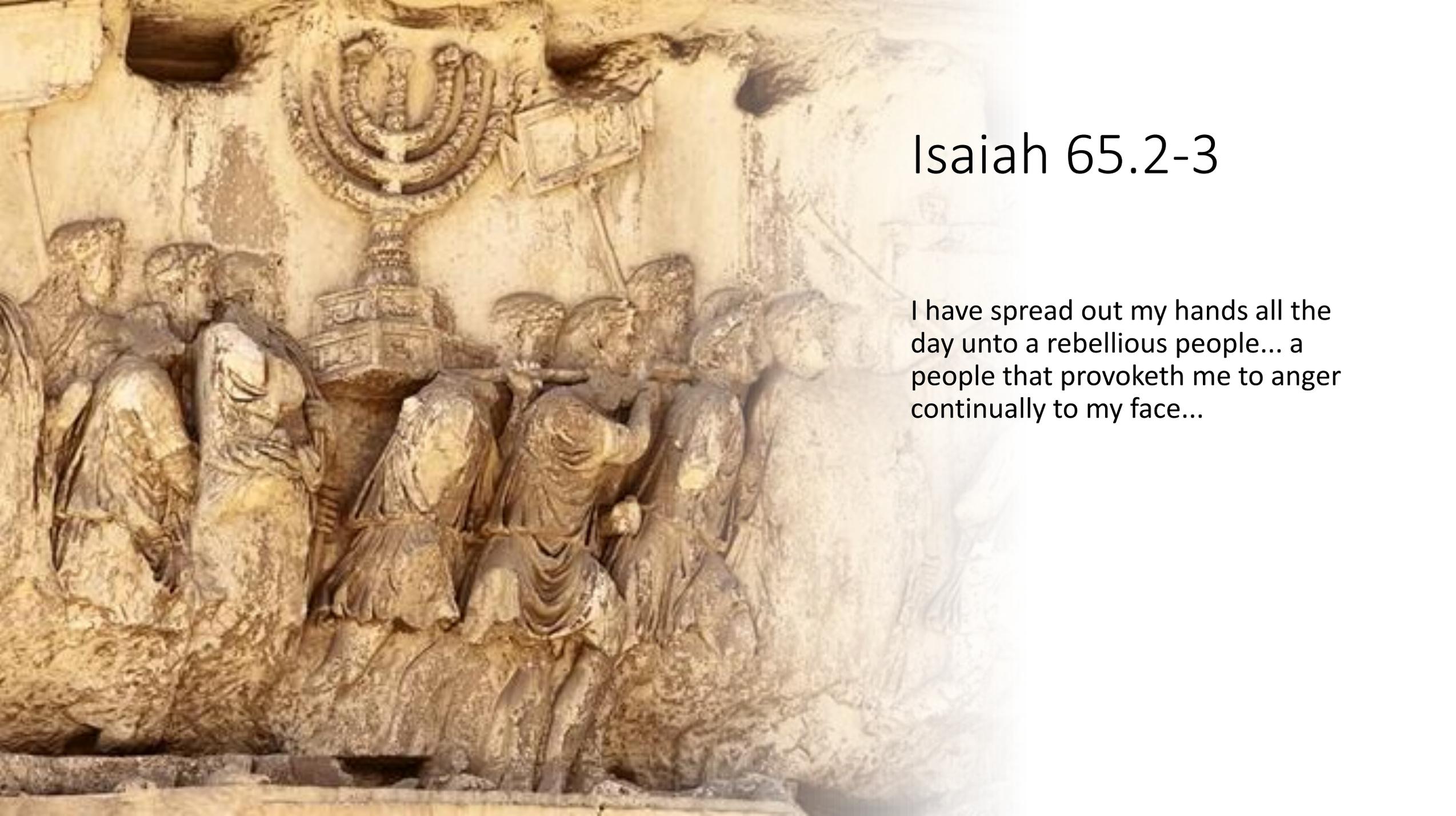
Isaiah 64.8

Thou art our father, we are the clay, and thou art our potter, and we are all work of thy hand.



Isaiah 64.10-11

Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem is desolation! Our holy and our beautiful house... is burned up with fire! All our pleasant things are laid waste!



Isaiah 65.2-3

I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people... a people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face...

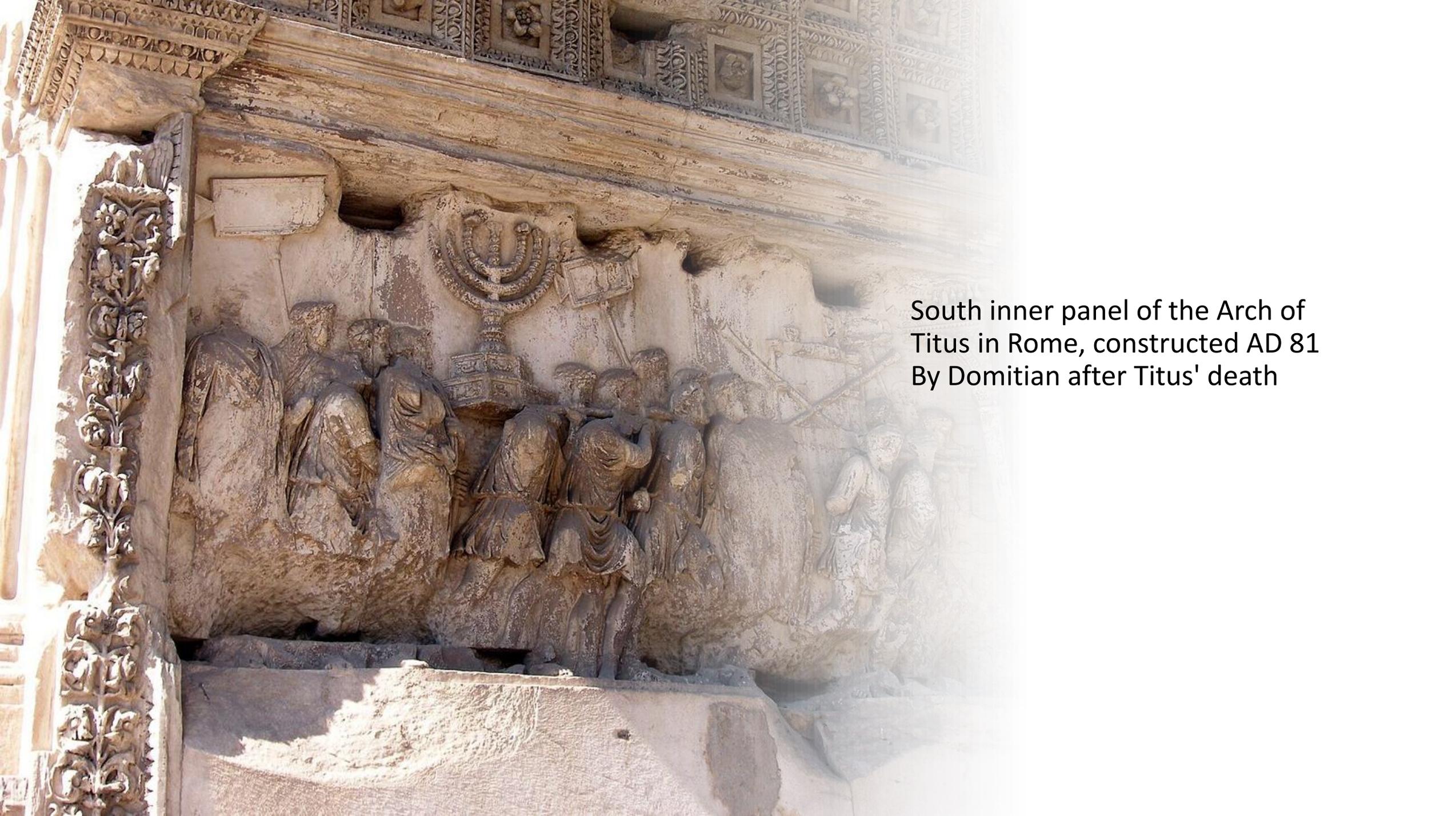
Isaiah 65.9

I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.



The emblem features a menorah captured by Romans during the [First Jewish-Roman War](#), as depicted on the [Arch of Titus](#).





South inner panel of the Arch of Titus in Rome, constructed AD 81 By Domitian after Titus' death



Isaiah 65.6

I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom.

Isaiah depicts God's anger – Isaiah 65

Ye are they that forsake the Lord – 65.11

I will number you with the sword – 65.12

I called, ye did not answer – 65.12

My servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry – 65.13

My servants shall sing, but ye shall cry for sorrow – 65.14

Statue of Titus, 79 AD. From the basilica of Herculaneum. Museo Archeologico Nazionale of Naples.



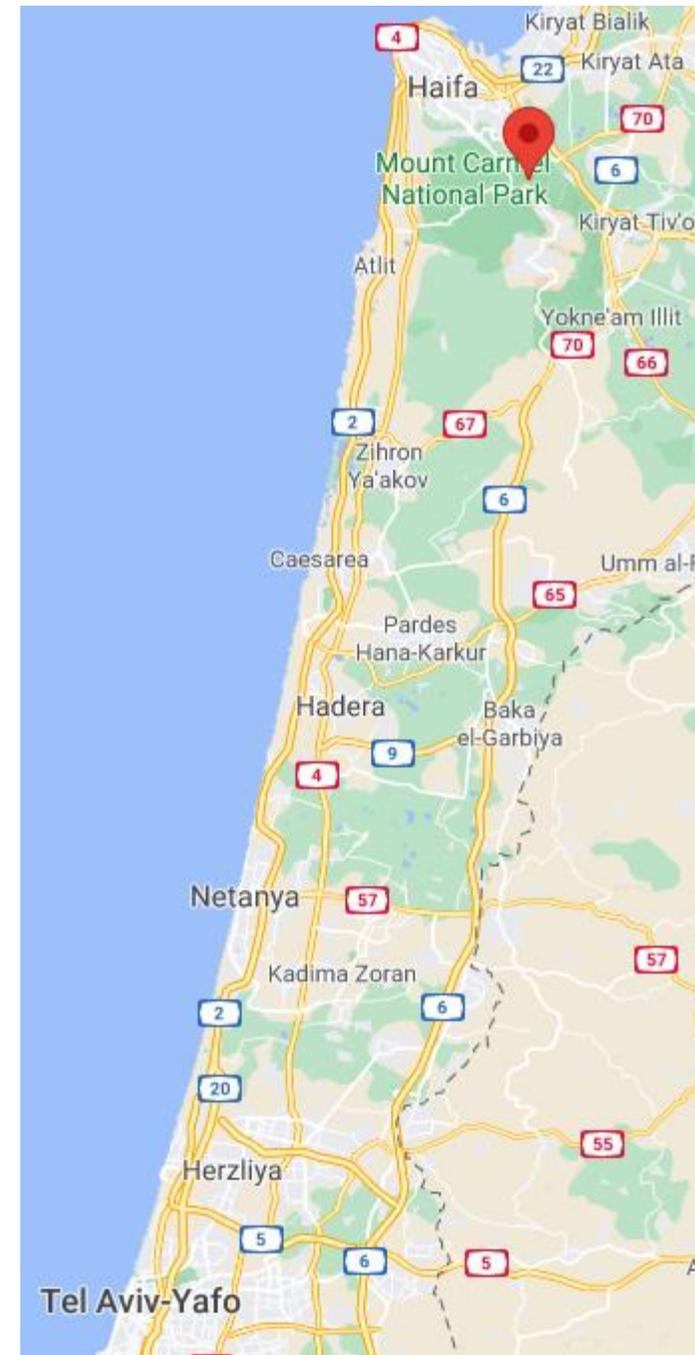
Isaiah 65.10 Sharon shall be a fold of flocks

Verses 8-10 address the horror that verses 1-7 would arouse as an answer to the lament of 1-7. In other words, is God going to destroy everyone because of the sins of the majority? This is the question Abraham asks of God in Genesis 18.23-25.

The metaphor of God's blessing through the land is continued in terms that are familiar from the earlier parts of Isaiah (29.17, 32.14-15, 18). Where once the land had been burned and barren (33.9), now it will be a prosperous and peaceful place, where flocks of sheep and herds of cattle can lie down in security (65.10).

Isaiah 65.10 *Sharon* shall be a fold

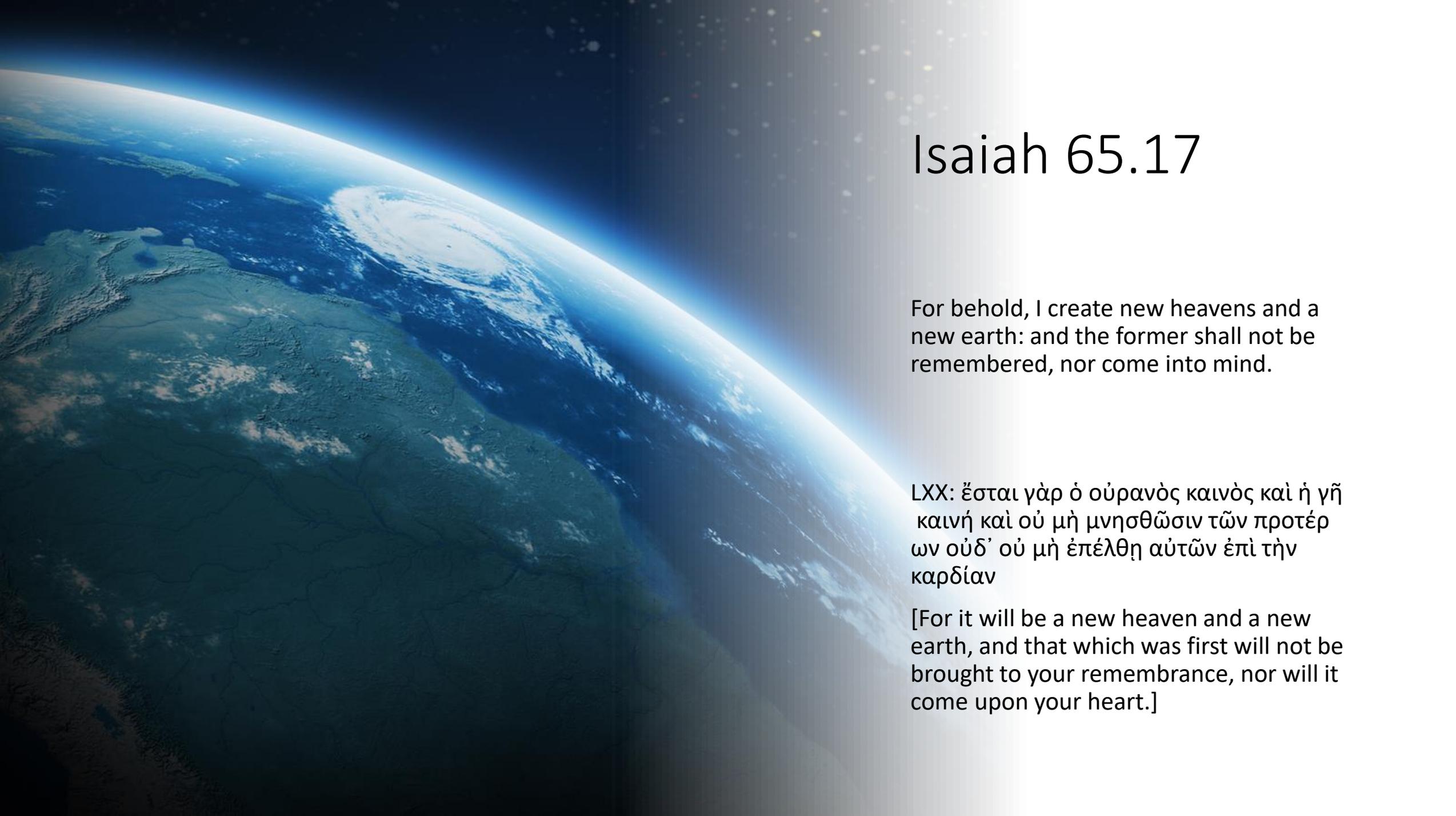
Sharon is the fertile coastal plain that stretches north and south along the Mediterranean Sea from Joppa (by Tel Aviv) to Mount Carmel in the north. By contrast, *The Valley of Achor* (probably The Wadi Qilt) is one of the almost barren wadis that lead up from the region of Jericho toward the central ridge. It is chiefly associated with the stoning of Achan and his family (Joshua 7.24-26).



The Wadi Qilt – Valley of Achor Isaiah 65.10

Achor עָכֹר means “trouble,” or “causing sorrow.”





Isaiah 65.17

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

LXX: ἔσται γὰρ ὁ οὐρανὸς καινὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ
καινὴ καὶ οὐ μὴ μνησθῶσιν τῶν προτέρων
οὐδ' οὐ μὴ ἐπέλθῃ αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τὴν
καρδίαν

[For it will be a new heaven and a new earth, and that which was first will not be brought to your remembrance, nor will it come upon your heart.]

Peace

The world and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain. (Isaiah 65.25)

The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11.6)





Isaiah 66.9-13

Shall I bring to birth, and not cause to bring forth? Rejoice... be glad... that ye may suck and be satisfied... I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then ye shall suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and dandled upon her knees.



Isaiah 66.9-13

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The Lord will come with fire
– Isa. 66.15-16

I will gather all nations and
tongues – 66.18

I will set a sign among them
– 66.19

Bring your offering – 66.20

New heavens and new earth
– 66.22

