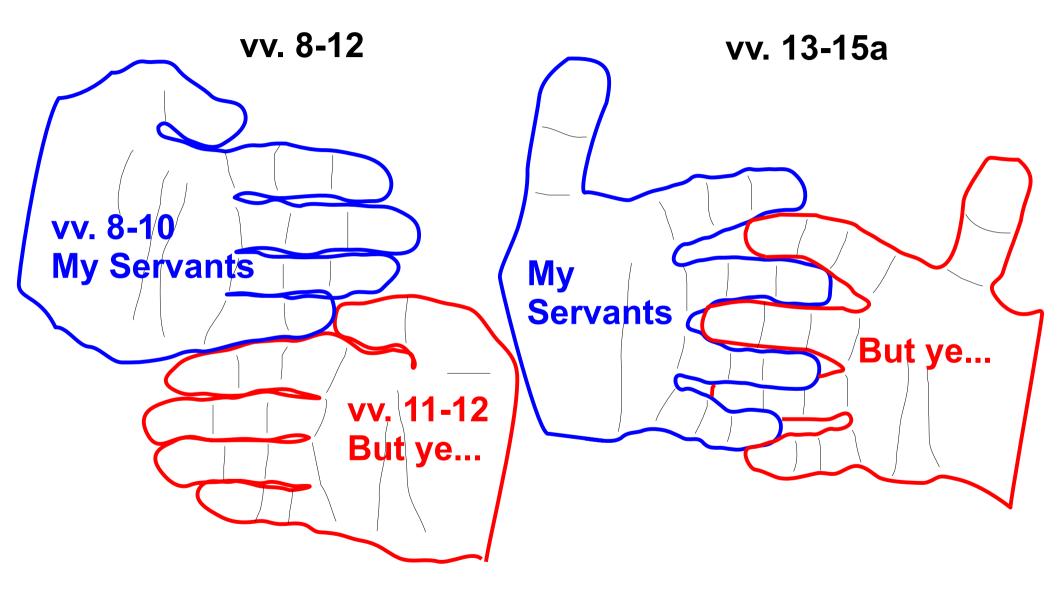
Treasure Hunt

- Why should we not be afraid when we see God's judgments falling on people around us?
- How does the experience of God's servants in this chapter differ from the experience of God's servant earlier in the book?
- Why are Sharon and the Valley of Achor singled out as places of God's blessing in v. 10?
- Who are "that troop" and "that number" in v. 11?
- What does it mean to "leave your name for a curse" (v. 15)?

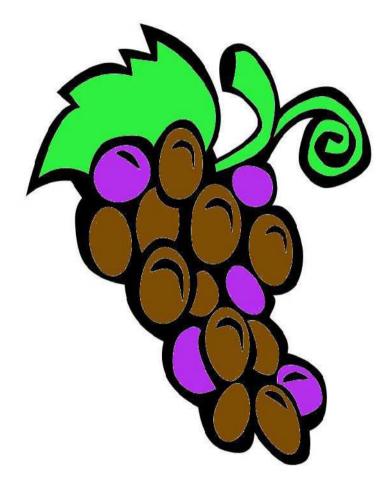
Integration of Isaiah 65-66

| | Isaiah 65 | Isaiah 66 | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------|
| True Worship (from Gentiles) | 1 | 1-2 | 18-23 |
| False Worship from Israel | 2-7 | 3-4 | 15-17 |
| The Fate of the Wicked vs. God's Servants | 8-16 | 5-6 | 14 |
| Blessing on Jerusalem | 17-25 | 7-13 | |

Servants and Sinners in 65:8-15



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Preserving the Remnant

Isa 65:8 As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing *is* in it:

Gen 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ... 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? ... 32 And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.

Mat 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Servant vs. Servants in Isaiah

God's Servant:

50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from **shame and spitting**.

53:3 He is **despised** and **rejected** of men; a man of **sorrows**, and acquainted with **grief**:

53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to **bruise** him; he hath put *him* to **grief**:

God's Servants:

54:17 This *is* the **heritage** of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

65:9 And 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.

Isa 65:13-14 Behold, my servants shall **eat**, ... behold, my servants shall **drink**, ... behold, my servants shall **rejoice**, ... 14 Behold, my servants shall **sing for joy of heart**,

Isa 66:14 And when ye see *this*, **your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb:** and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants,

65:9 "I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob"

Lot's experience:

Gen 19:16 they **brought him forth**, and set him without the city.

Peter:

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

65:9b mine elect [plural] shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there

Previous uses of the paired singulars:

- Psa 89:3 I have made a covenant with **my chosen**, I have sworn unto David **my servant**, Isa 45:4 For Jacob **my servant**'s sake, and Israel **mine elect**, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.
- Isa 42:1 Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold; **mine elect**, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

The Sharon

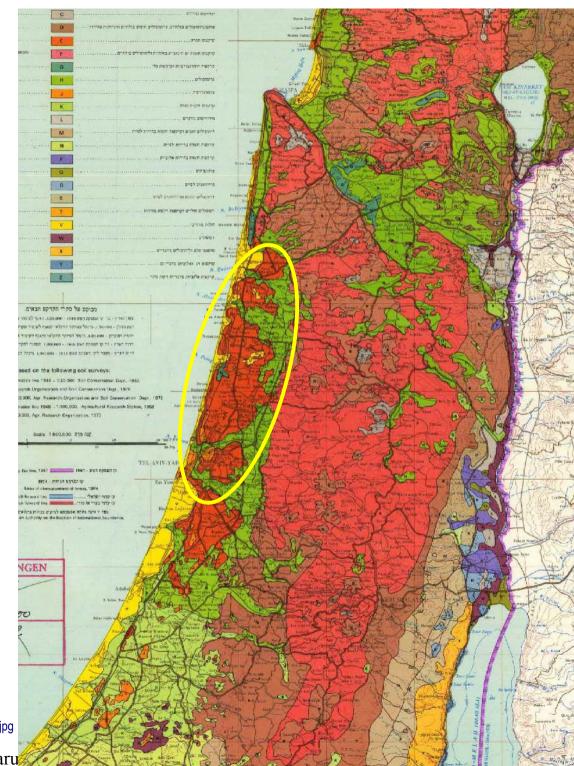
Region of brown-red sandy soil along the coastal plane between Caesarea and Joppa

- Agricultural: poor unless irrigated
- Military: main highway North-South (note passes through Carmel at Yoqneam and Megiddo)

Under God's judgment,

Isa 33:9 The earth mourneth *and* languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed *and* hewn down: **Sharon is like a wilderness**; and Bashan and Carmel shake off *their fruits*.

http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esdb_archive/eudasm/asia/images/maps/download/IL3002_SO.jpg



Valley of Achor

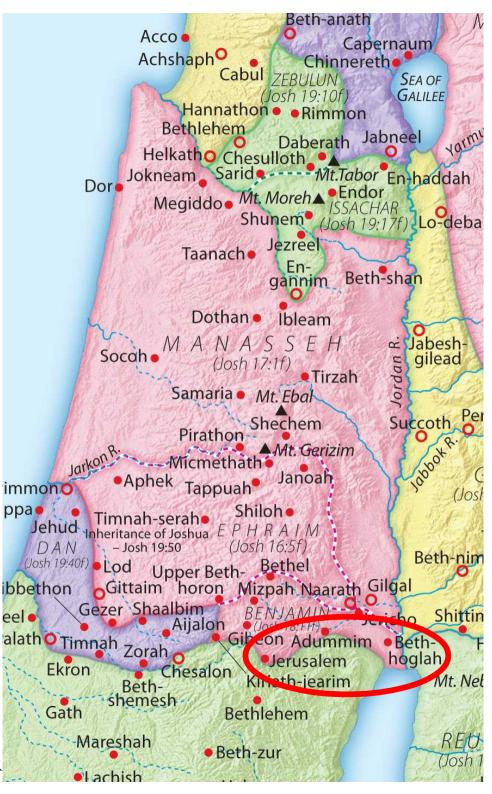
Location:

Jos 15:5 And the east border *was* **the salt sea**, *even* unto the end of Jordan. And *their* border in the north quarter *was* from the **bay of the sea at the uttermost part of Jordan**: ... 7 And the border went up toward Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward,... 8 And the border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom unto the south side of the Jebusite; the same *is* **Jerusalem**:

History (Achan):

Jos 7:25-26 And Joshua said, **Why hast thou troubled עכר us? the LORD shall trouble עכר thee this day.** And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, **The valley of Achor עכור**, unto this day.

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Inverting the Hinge

| 65:6-7 | 65:11-12 | |
|---|--|--|
| 6 Behold, <i>it is</i> written before me: I | Isa 65:11-12 But ye are they that | |
| will not keep silence, but will | forsake the LORD, that forget my | |
| recompense, even recompense | holy mountain, that prepare a | |
| into their bosom, 7 Your iniquities, | table for that troop, and that | |
| and the iniquities of your fathers | furnish the drink offering unto | |
| together, saith the LORD, | that number. | |
| you which have burned | 12 Therefore will I number you | |
| incense upon the mountains, and | to the sword, and ye shall all bow | |
| blasphemed me upon the hills: | down to the slaughter: | |
| therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. | because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. | |

65:15 And ye shall leave your name for a curse

Num 5:21 and the priest shall say unto the woman, **The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people**, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell;

Jer 29:22 And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which *are* in Babylon, saying, **The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab**, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;