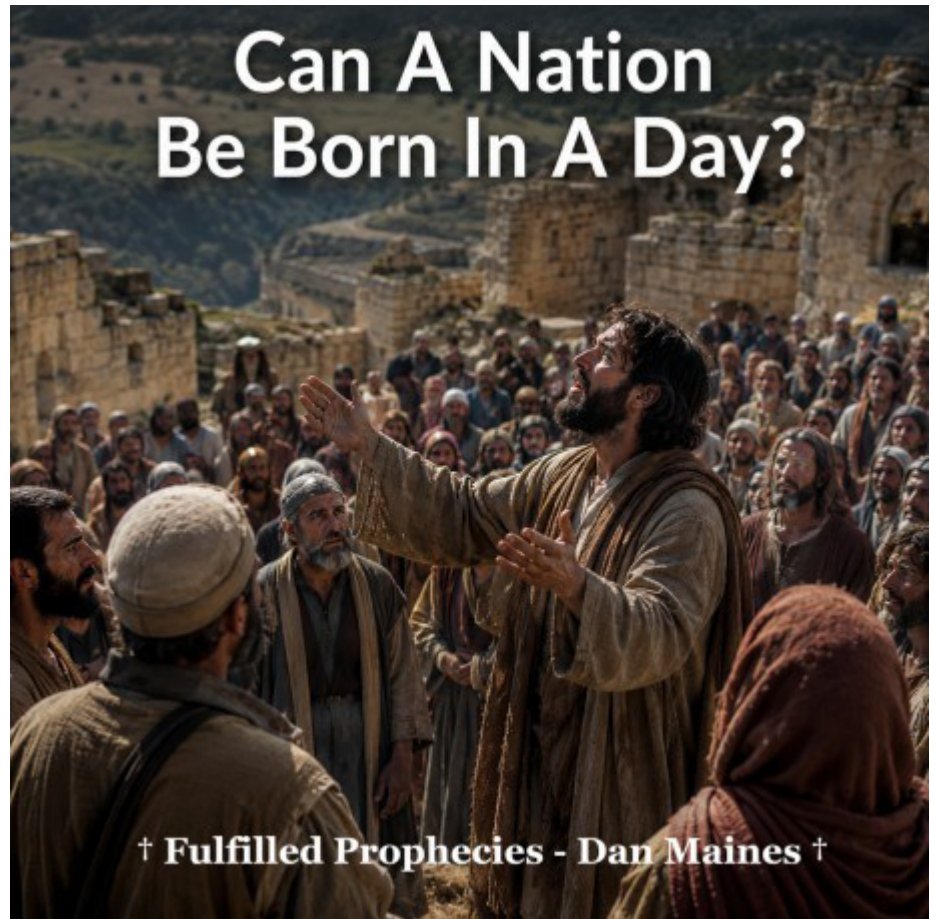


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Can A Nation Be Born In A Day?



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Isaiah 66 closes with one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Old Testament. God asked a question that sounded impossible: Can a nation be born in a day? The answer is yes, but not through politics, military power, or the establishment of an earthly kingdom. Isaiah was looking ahead to the birth of God's New Covenant people through Jesus Christ.

† This prophecy isn't about the founding of a modern nation. It points to the establishment of God's covenant people through the death, resurrection, and reign of Christ.

† The New Testament identifies that nation as the church, God's holy people, brought forth in the first century exactly as Isaiah foretold.

Isaiah 66:7-8

Before she was in labor, she delivered; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be given birth all at once? As soon as Zion was in labor, she also delivered her sons.

† Isaiah described a miraculous birth unlike anything the world had ever seen. God would bring forth His covenant people suddenly and according to His own timing. (Acts 2:1-41)

† Zion represents God's covenant people, not merely the earthly city of Jerusalem. The prophecy points beyond the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† The language of a nation being born in a single day finds its fulfillment in the first-century establishment of Christ's church.

Acts 2:41

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

† On one day, thousands entered God's covenant family through faith in Christ.

† This was the public beginning of the New Covenant nation Isaiah foresaw centuries earlier. (Isaiah 66:7-8)

† God's promise wasn't delayed or postponed. It began exactly when the gospel was first preached with power.

Matthew 21:43

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruit.

† Jesus declared that the kingdom would be given to another nation.

† This wasn't another ethnic nation but a covenant people who would bear the fruit of God's kingdom. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

† Jesus' words perfectly harmonize with Isaiah's prophecy of a nation born in a day.

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

† Jesus promised to build His church, the very nation Isaiah foresaw.

† The church wasn't an afterthought. It was God's eternal plan revealed through the prophets. (Isaiah 66:7-8)

† Christ Himself is the builder of this New Covenant nation. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim

the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

† Peter directly called believers a holy nation.

† The promise Isaiah made was no longer future. Peter declared it to be a present reality.

† Jews and Gentiles together became one covenant people through Christ. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

† The writer didn't say believers would someday come to Mount Zion. He said they had already come.

† This identifies Zion as the New Covenant community established through Jesus Christ.

† The nation Isaiah foresaw had already been born during the lifetime of the first-century church.

Galatians 4:26

But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

† Paul identified the true Jerusalem as the heavenly Jerusalem, not the earthly city that was about to pass away. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† This perfectly matches Isaiah's picture of Zion bringing forth her children into the New Covenant. (Isaiah 66:7-8)

† The nation born in a day belongs to the Jerusalem above, not the Old Covenant Jerusalem that came under judgment. (Matthew 21:43)

Romans 9:24-26

namely us, whom He also called, not only from among Jews, but also from among Gentiles, as He also says in Hosea:

"I will call those who were not My people, 'My people,' And her who was not beloved, 'beloved.'" "And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'you are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

† God's new nation would include both Jews and Gentiles through faith in Christ.

† The covenant people were no longer identified by physical descent but by God's calling. (Galatians 3:26-29)

† This explains how an entirely new covenant nation could suddenly come into existence. (Isaiah 66:8)

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, marking the complete end of the Old Covenant system. (Wars of the Jews, Book VI)

† Eusebius recorded that the Christians fled Jerusalem before its destruction because they remembered Jesus' prophecy. (Ecclesiastical History, Book III, Chapter 5)

† Irenaeus testified that the apostles proclaimed one New Covenant faith to all nations through Jesus Christ. (Against Heresies, Book IV, Chapter 34)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are citizens of the nation God promised through Isaiah.

† Our identity is found in Christ, not in an earthly nation or temple.

† God's kingdom is present because the King is reigning now.

† We can have complete confidence that God's promises were fulfilled exactly as He declared.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Can Isaiah 66:8 refer to modern Israel?

A: The New Testament identifies the holy nation as believers in Christ, not a future political nation. (Matthew 21:43; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Q: When was this nation born?

A: It began publicly on the day of Pentecost when thousands entered the kingdom through the preaching of the gospel. (Acts 2:41; Isaiah 66:7-8)

Q: Who belongs to this nation today?

A: Every believer in Jesus Christ is part of God's holy nation under the New Covenant. (1 Peter 2:9-10; Hebrews 12:22-24)

Q: Does "nation" mean a political country?

A: No. The New Testament defines this nation as God's holy people in Christ, made up of believing Jews and Gentiles together. (1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 2:11-22; Romans 9:24-26)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Isaiah 66:7-8; Acts 2:41; Matthew 16:18; Matthew 21:43; Romans 9:24-26; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22-24

† Historical Writers: Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book VI; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book III, Chapter 5; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book IV, Chapter 34

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