



Isaiah 66:7-14 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

⁷ “Before she goes into labor, she gives birth;
before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son.
⁸ Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this?
Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?
Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.
⁹ Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?” says the Lord.
“Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?” says your God.
¹⁰ “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly
with her, all you who mourn over her.
¹¹ For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts;
you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance.”
¹² For this is what the Lord says:
“I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding
stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees.
¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”
¹⁴ When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass;
the hand of the Lord will be made known to his servants,
but his fury will be shown to his foes.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion
and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can
comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For
just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds
through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are
comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the
same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that
just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles
we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond

our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.