

NOTHING'S GOING TO BE THE SAME Sunday, June 23, 2013

Unifying Topic: THE GLORIOUS NEW CREATION

Lesson Text

I. A New Creation (Isaiah 65:17-19)

II. Blessings For The People (Isaiah 65:20-21)

III. Nothing Like Before (Isaiah 65:23-25)

The Main Thought: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy (Isaiah 65:17-18, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People desperately long for a time when there will be no more weeping and crying and the earth will be a place of happiness and peace. Will that time ever come? The God of truth and creator of the earth promised through Isaiah that someday God's children would be so blessed.

Lesson Aim: To encourage students to be patient and confident in God's promise to create a new, glorious, and eternal dwelling place.

Life aim: To be encouraged by and secure in the truth of God's promise, knowing that a day will come when imperfection will be replaced with the glory of God's new and perfect creation.

65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

65:18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

65:25 The wolf 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, saith the Lord.

HISTORY:

Isaiah Chapter 65:1-16

The Calling of the Gentiles, and the Rejection of the Jews (Verses 1-7).

65:1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. *"I am sought of them that asked not for me"* means that the Gentile people could now know God. These people were not Jews. They were not called by God's name. *"I am found of them that sought me not."* In response to the prayer of the previous chapter, God speaks to the Gentiles who did not seek Him or had not experienced the blessings of Israel, but have since come to trust in His Salvation. *"Behold me, behold me"* in other versions: *"Here am I, here am I."* God takes the initiative to reveal Himself *"unto a nation that was not called by His name."* Today the gospel is for every person who calls on the name of Jesus as Lord and Savior, whether Jew or Gentile.

65:2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;—God patiently pleads with rebellious Israel to walk in His ways; constantly stretching out His hands. He says *"all day"*—time after time. They kept following their own devices or thoughts.

65:3 A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;—The Israelites have provoked God's anger. To His face they sacrificed in gardens which was a sensual false religion connected with goddesses. To burn incense to false gods was blasphemy. They pleased their flesh in these religions.

65:4 Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;— They have provoked God with their evil worship of false gods, getting involved with the occult; communicating with the dead and demons. They ate food that was unclean. The eating of swine's flesh had been forbidden to the Jews.

65:5 Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. The Israelites falsely assumed that their election as the chosen (v.15) nation was based on some merit of their own. They esteemed themselves holier than others, though all their holiness lay in rituals. But to God, they are like the nasty smell of smoke!

65:6 Behold, it is written before me: It's saying — ¹The misconduct of His people is "written" in God's Book, which lies open "before him," so that their sin is ever in his sight. **I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,**—God will not keep silent, He vows a reckoning with Israel for their historic accumulation of sins.

65:7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom . The sins of the fathers together with the next generation are spoken of here. Because they have burned incense upon the mountains, and treated God with scorn on the hills: a reference to the pagan worshiping at the pagan altars of the high places. God's due measure of their former work (their iniquities and their fathers together) will be repaid into their lap in full.

The Lord would Preserve a Remnant (Verses 8-10).

65:8 Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. God does not get rid of anything too quickly. ²Using the illustration of harvesting grapes from the vineyard, the Lord shows us the distinction He makes between those who are spiritually alive and fruitful and those who are not—a juicy cluster of grapes in the midst of clusters that have rotted or are shriveled. They spare the good cluster before chopping down the unproductive vine. In the midst of the final fury of judgment when the time of Jacob's trouble comes and God purges out the rebels in Israel, there will also be the restoration of the faithful remnant to the Lord. Though judgment comes to the nation as a whole, God will spare and save the faithful remnant, "*my servants*" in the future kingdom. ³These chosen ones scattered throughout the earth are a people concerning whom the Lord God says, "*Destroy them not.*"

- God the Father says, "*Destroy them not,*" for he has loved them, chosen them, and found a ransom for them.
- God the Son says, "*Destroy them not,*" for he has redeemed them by his blood. – Illustration: Treasure Hid in a Field
- God the Holy Spirit says, "*Destroy them not,*" for he has pledged to regenerate them and make them the willing servants of the Most High.

65:9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob,—“A Seed” is singular. God will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, meaning Jesus Christ who is the Seed of woman, the Seed of Abraham, and the Seed of David. **...and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains:** Certainly, this is true of Christ. He is the Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). Christ came out of the tribe of Judah hence He is called the Lion of that tribe. **...and mine elect shall inherit it,** — God had chosen Israel to be His elect. ⁴There is a physical Israel, and there is a spiritual Israel. Spiritual Israel is comprised of those who belong to Christ. They are God's elect, being heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. **...and my servants shall dwell there.** God's servants shall dwell in His kingdom and enjoy all forever. Wherever Christ is, His servants are there. For there is an eternal inheritance laid up for us.

65:10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. "*Sharon*" was the western territory on the Mediterranean coast, S. of Mt. Carmel. *Valley of Achor*" was the eastern territory near Jericho and the Jordan River. Together they represented the whole land which shall both blossom abundantly in an atmosphere of peace and prosperity. Sharon will no longer be a wilderness. Achor was the place where Achan was put to death. In effect, the grace of God will turn the valley of Achor, which was a scene of wrath, into a door of hope, and Sharon would again be a place of great fruitfulness for pastures.

Judgments upon the Wicked (Verses 11-16).

65:11 But ye are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. There are those that forsook the Lord by continuing in idolatry worship by homage to pagan idol gods. They forgot the holy mountain (Mount Moriah) and they set-up a table of food for the false idol god "Gad", the Babylonian god of Fortune and they filled the drink offering (rather, "mixed drink") for the false idol god "Meni", the Syrian god of Destiny, but the names literally mean "troop" and "number."

65:12 Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called,

¹ <http://biblehub.com/isaiah/65-6.htm>

² <http://biblestudycourses.org/isaiah-bible-study-courses-section-3/isaiah-65-1-25-exploring-the-passage/>

³ http://www.donfortner.com/sermon_notes/23_isaiah/isa%2065v08-10%20A%20blessing%20is%20in%20it%201405.htm

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/isaiah/74.html>

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. They were already bowing down to strange gods, well God says their fate has been destined to the sword and they will now bow down to the slaughter. Their actions displayed, was against God: they didn't listen nor answer when He called or when He spoke to them, but they kept doing evil before Him; choosing whatever displeased God. That's what the flesh does. Even if God is looking they pleased self. God is whispering the answer we need. He gives warnings!

65:13 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:—God speaks of His servants (*those who choose to obey Him and receive the blessings*) and the wicked (*those who were disloyal and unbelieving*). His servants would be the remnant that held on. They will eat, drink, and rejoice; but those who are not the servants of the living God will be hungry, will be thirsty, and will be ashamed before God. They are the ones who wouldn't hear Him speak or answer Him, and did evil before Him.

65:14 Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. God continues to let us know that His servants will sing for joy of the heart. But those that are not His servants shall cry for sorrow of heart (*grief or anguish*), and howl for vexation (*moan in misery with a broken spirit*).

65:15 And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name: Because of Israel's rebellion against God, their very name has been cursed. Those who were disloyal and unbelieving are described as having a cursed name. They will be remembered as objects of judgment as God sends their enemies against them to slay them. God's servants will be called by another name which would reflect her favored status among the nations.

65:16 That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.⁵Worldly people bless themselves in the abundance of this world's goods; but God's servants bless themselves in Him. He is their strength and portion. They shall honour Him as the God of truth. And it was promised that in Him should all the families of the earth be blessed. They shall think themselves happy in having Him for their God, who made them forget their troubles. Whatever is done in the earth, whether blessing or oath, is done so by the God of Truth, because past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from God's eyes for His people.

We have seen God calling the Gentiles, and the Jews rejecting Him; the Lord preserving a remnant; Judgments coming upon the wicked; and now His message of a new Creation through Isaiah' writing.

LESSON:

Isaiah 65:17-19 A New Creation

65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. At this point the prophet Isaiah sees the future of God creating new heavens and a new earth. Remember nothing is permanent in this world except the Word of God! The former heavens and earth shall not even be remembered or even come to mind. The grandeur and magnitude of it all will cause people to forget about the former Creation. God is the Creator of all things. *Rev. 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."*

65:18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. God calls this new earth "*Jerusalem*" in verses 18 and 19. Instead of the city that had been trodden down, this would be a time of gladness and joy for Jerusalem. Why? - Because God is the Creator of rejoicing. He emerges with great joy for Jerusalem and joy for His people. This would be a city of never-ending joy! *Rev. 21:21 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."*

65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. God will come alongside Jerusalem and His people with the same rejoicing. There will be no cause for the people to weep or cry. Apostle John said it well: *Rev. 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

Isaiah 65:20-21 Blessings For The People

65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: — In this earthly

⁵ <http://bible.somd.com/henry/H23C065.shtml>

millennial kingdom both the infant of days and an old man shall be no more; life shall be prolonged so that babies will live out their lives (no more babies dying at birth or short-lived); and an old man will live as long as trees (v.22) (fulfilling their purpose in life before they die; having longevity). They will have lived to fulfill their days of full age. **...for the child shall die an hundred years old;** — means that he who dies as a youth, or is regarded as having died young, will not die before the hundredth year of his life. This would be considered normal. However, by contrast **....but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.** His death at so early an age, which in those days the hundredth year will be regarded, just as if it were mere childhood, shall be deemed the effect (consequence) of God's special visitation in wrath. He will not be swept away before the hundredth year of his life. And if he has not given his life to Christ by the time he is a hundred years old, he will not be saved. The sinner shall be cut off without hesitation.

65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. In this or earthly millennial kingdom, there will be blessings; houses to build and inhabit; vineyards to plant and eating of their fruit. As we look around today, all do not have homes to inhabit or eat the fruit of their labor from their vineyards. This should be Good News for all who have accepted Christ!

NOT APART OF THE LESSON Isaiah 65:22

65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree [are] the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. The day will come because *"Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains"* NLT. "Mine elect" refers to God's chosen, who shall go into the millennial kingdom under the banner of God's blessed provision. They will enjoy the work of their hands.

BACK TO THE LESSON

Isaiah 65:23-25 Nothing Like Before

65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. Thus God's elect shall not labor in vain, but shall have the opportunity to plant and harvest their own crops. Nor will they suffer trouble for if they are the blessed seed of the Lord, then so shall their offspring be blessed.

65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. This is a promise God gives to His people. ⁶That is, their desires shall be anticipated, God will see their needs, and he will impart to them the blessings which they need. ⁷This just speaks of the wonderful care God takes of His family. He hears even while our prayers are still in our hearts, even before we utter them.

65:25 The wolf 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, saith the Lord. The wolf and the lion are contrasted with the lamb and the bullock (ox); but they will feed together. This would indicate that during the Millennium, the carnivorous diet of certain animals shall be changed, and there shall be peace in the animal kingdom as well as among men. However, to remind us that this is not yet heaven, but Christ's rule upon the earth, we are cautioned that *"dust shall be the serpent's meat"* (an idiom for bite the dust), while the other predatory animals have become tame and harmless. Thus, the serpent remains in the dust as a symbolic reminder that Christ's final and ultimate triumph over him is yet to come. Harmony is spoken of in the Lord's holy mountain.

SUMMARY:

⁸We are to look for this new heaven and new earth. The former confusions, sins and miseries of the human race, shall be no more remembered or renewed. The approaching happy state of the church is described under a variety of images. He that dies in his youth is a hundred is considered normal, however in a sinful state the sinner living to the age of a hundred years is considered to be cursed or doomed. In this millennial reign, all God's people shall enjoy the blessings of the Lord. There shall be new creations, new life, new joys, and new comforts like you have never seen before. God answers prayers before you call; the animals will be in tranquility with each other. In this glorious creation of the God of truth gives us a glimpse of what this long awaited prophecy will hold for His people.

APPLICATION:

What do you think it will be like? Nothing as we know it will not be or look the same. Can you believe the impossible when you haven't seen it? With God nothing is impossible, so my hope is in the God of Truth who supplies everything!

⁶ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/18922/eVerseID/18922/RTD/barnes>

⁷ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/isaiah/74.html>

⁸ <http://bible.somd.com/henry/H23C065.shtml>