

## Adult Sunday Bible Study Lesson

### Isaiah 65

November 29, 2020

#### Restoration Coming

**Situational Context:** Isaiah is crying out to the Lord asking why He is being harsh and unyielding to Israel. **Isaiah 64:11-12 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> **Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins.** <sup>12</sup> **Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD? Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?**

**The Lord answered, Isaiah 65:2-5 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; <sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; <sup>4</sup> who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels; <sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

**The Lord promises restoration from His elect remnant, Isaiah 65:8-9 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. <sup>9</sup> I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains; my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there.

**Lesson Theme: Isaiah 65: 17-20** The Lord promises Isaiah a new Jerusalem, in a new earth and heavens. The former things have already begun to disappear, the new creation will commence with the Messiah, with the Resurrection of Christ and His ascension. When believers are born again, we are born into this new creation, the Kingdom of God and ruled by Christ from the right hand of the Father. The New Jerusalem, the city of God is defined by

**the perfections of Christ and His new creation saints, perfected in righteousness and holiness.**

Isaiah was looking for the Lord to restore the Old Jerusalem and its temple. What the Lord has in mind is something glorious and eternal not of this old order, the former things. The contrast is between the former and the new.

**1. A New City, a New People: Isaiah 65:17-20 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

**Interpretation:** This prophecy awaits the Second Coming of Christ. In the meantime, through faith the saints experience in part the blessing of the age to come. It will be altogether new with no remembrance of the old. As Isaiah paints a picture of the new heavens and the new earth, to which God has been leading his people for so long, the prophet uses images from life as we know it now to communicate life as we'll know it then. The contrast is meant to communicate the fact that sin's damages will no longer be experienced.

**Supporting Texts:**

**2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**Revelation 21:1-2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Isaiah 42:9 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

### **Discussion Starters:**

**What stands out as a contrast to the Old Order?**

**The fulfillment is more glorious than the prophecy, how can that be?**

**Why a city?**

**2. A New Experience: Isaiah 65:21-23 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

**Interpretation:** Premature death of infants or persons in mid-career can provoke the thought that life is meaningless. Such early death, as also the transfer of one person’s reward to another person who did not earn it, is part of God’s judgment on sin. God promises to remove this curse from His people.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Amos 5:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

**Deuteronomy 28:30 (ESV)** <sup>30</sup> You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit.

## **Discussion Starters:**

**What does prosperity look like in the New Creation?**

**What are the implications of planting and eating?**

**What will be the distribution of giftedness?**

**What is a world without envy?**

**3. A New Order: Isaiah 65:24-25 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

**Interpretation:** The barrier between the Lord and His people will be so completely removed that our very thoughts are heard as prayers and the Lord answers. This speaks of an almost unimaginable communication between the Lord and His people. We need not then be afraid of our thoughts so as to hide them from God. All will be open. Creation itself will be at peace with Satan muzzled and powerless.

## **Supporting Texts:**

**Genesis 3:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

## **Discussion Starters:**

**How can we imagine this kind of communion with God?**

**What makes us hide our thoughts now?**

**What will be our relationship with the created order?**