

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #95

Isaiah 65:17-25

I know we have many people who closely follow the news. Day after day, hour after hour, they tune in to find out what is happening because they want to be well-informed. There may be some value to this, but if you follow it too much you will end up depressed. You will never ever find happiness and joy continually looking at the news of this sin-cursed world.

The world in which we are living is depressing, but God wants His people joyful. Look carefully in this context and see the emphasis on joy and gladness (**Isaiah 65:13, 14, 18, 19**). Where in the world can Israel find joy and happiness right now and where can we find it? We certainly cannot find it in the threats and intimidations of this world. We cannot find it in a bunch of lying politicians who say one thing and do another.

There is one place the believer may look that will bring joy every single time; and that place is found in the Word of God, and it is found by looking into the future of God.

We can find joy and gladness in knowing that one day Jesus Christ will reign and rule this world. I guarantee you that if you spend as much time in God's Word as you do looking at the news of this world, you will be much more joyful and your heart will be filled with gladness.

What would life be like for Israel if Jesus Christ were reigning as King of the world right now? What would life for us be like if that were true now? Well there are some things we can learn about such a world. Israel would have the totality of her Promised Land. Israel would be glorious and esteemed as the great nation of God. Israel would be the focal point of the world and nations would gladly bring their gifts to her. Israel would be known for her majestic true worship of the true God of the Bible.

When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, He will not try to make peace with the Muslim world, the Mormon world, or the moronic world. All false religions will be gone because He will have destroyed them. We know that when Jesus Christ reigns, His servants will enjoy a life they have never experienced before. What a day it will be for Israel and for us when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth. The point Isaiah makes here is that:

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE JOYFUL ABOUT WHAT HE WILL DO FOR HIS PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE.

Carefully observe the use of the personal pronoun "I" (**verses 17-18**). This world is not going to be brought about by men, but by the Living, Sovereign God. Throughout the history of the Church, some who don't carefully study the Bible have taught that the Church is going to have such a great affect on the world that we will bring in a wonderful new Kingdom. Well I ask you this; in 2000 years of gospel preaching is our world getting better and better? It is getting worse and more perverse. If this world is going to become a happy place, God, Himself, is going to have to make this happen and we won't have anything to do with it.

We have never really known a happy world, but one day that will all change because God will change it. Now there are some specific eschatological facts about what God will one day do which not only can cause Israel to rejoice but us as well.

Isaiah is of course writing specifically in regard to Israel, but his prophecies also affect us, for we realize that when Israel is rejoicing we will be too. There are four main eschatological facts which Isaiah presents in these verses:

**ESCHATOLOGICAL FACT #1 – God will one day create a new heavens and new earth .
65:17a**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and it was all good. But then God had to destroy the earth by flood because it became so bad. We live right now in a post-flood world, which will ultimately be destroyed by fire (II Peter 3:10). This will set the stage for a brand new earth.

We know from the book of Revelation that the actual chronology as to when God will do this will be after the 1000 year Millennium and after the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:7-21:1). No unbeliever will ever get to see the new heaven and new earth. C. I. Scofield said that **verse 17** “looks beyond the Kingdom Age to the new heavens and new earth, but verses 18-25 describe the Kingdom Age itself” (*Scofield Study Bible*, NASV, p. 1005). Isaiah doesn’t specifically distinguish the chronology of the Millennium and the new heavens and earth. He sees it all as part of God’s finale.

Now by virtue of the fact that Isaiah calls this “new heavens” and “new earth” indicates that this will be brand new. The adjective “new” (καινος), which is used in the Greek Septuagint, is the one that means brand new. So this will be a brand new heavens and earth.

By virtue of the fact that Isaiah uses the normal word for “heavens” and “earth” we may somewhat understand things and draw some parallels to what we presently see about the heavens and the earth. It obviously will be as real as our present heavens and earth. We may assume that since the original heavens featured magnificent stars and galaxies, and the original earth that God created had water and vegetation and flowers and animals and many things that God himself classified as “good,” the new heavens and new earth will feature similar things.

Think for a moment of the proposition of seeing new heavens and a new earth. If we somewhat base what we might see on what we see now, it will certainly be a stupendous and glorious world to see.

Sometimes when we go to some beautiful places and see them it is almost a disappointment when we have to leave and go home. For example, when we stand in a gorgeous place and look at a breathtaking mountain or valley or we see the beautiful waves of an ocean or the beauty of a river, it is somewhat of a let down to have to leave it. One day we will never have to leave it. There will never be a letdown. One day we will experience the untainted beauty of God’s new heavens and earth every day. The thought of new heavens and new earth causes every believer to rejoice.

ESCHATOLOGICAL FACT #2 – God will erase all former things from our minds. **65:17b**

Think for a moment what consumes most people's minds today. Most are consumed with politics, economy, war, criticism, rebellion, drunkenness, immorality, murders, stealing and horrible accidents. None of this will even be remembered. Again if we compare this to Revelation, we learn that this too happens after the Millennium (Revelation 21:4).

God is going to reprogram our minds one day and we will never even remember the bad stuff we did or the bad things others did. No more sad things, no more bad things, no more things that make you cry.

First of all, it will be a happy day when we cannot even remember all the stupid and sinful things we thought, said and did in our lifetime. Nothing bad will even be possible in our memories.

There will come a day in which we will not remember the name Muhammad or Islam. There will come a day when no one will ever remember names like Joseph Smith and Brigham Young and Mary Baker Eddy and Sun Myung Moon. Those founders of Devil religions will be long gone. No one will even remember that Islamic terrorists killed thousands.

For Israel this will be a great day of rejoicing. She will not even remember the names of Titus or Adolph Hitler. Right now it is good for us to remember the evil that Hitler did to the Jews, but there will come a day when God will see to it that nothing negative will even be remembered.

There will come a day when we will not remember or know of even one disappointment. What a joyous existence this will be.

ESCHATOLOGICAL FACT #3 – God will create a new Jerusalem. **65:18-19a**

Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world and Isaiah brings out the fact that it will be a city and a people of rejoicing. Jerusalem today is anything but a city of rejoicing and the Jews are certainly not a people who are rejoicing in Israel. What you have in Jerusalem today is a "wailing wall" and as Dr. McGee said, "...very few smiling people" (*Isaiah*, p. 347). But that will change when Christ reigns on this earth. Jerusalem will be the wonderful city of God and the New Jerusalem will be spectacular.

The New Jerusalem is described in Revelation 21 and there it is called a "new" Jerusalem, meaning this will be brand new, not just refurbished. Some of the things we learn about the city in Revelation are amazing:

- 1) It will be a city of brilliant light. Rev. 21:11b - It will be the "zenith of beauty"
- 2) It will be a city surrounded by an impressive wall. Rev. 21:12a
- 3) It will be a city that has twelve gates. Rev. 21:12b-13
 - A. Each has a specific angel
 - B. Each is named after one of the twelve tribes of Israel
 - C. Each has a specific location
- 4) It will be a city that has twelve foundation stones. Rev. 21:14 - each with the name of an apostle
- 5) It will be a city of precise measurements. Rev. 21:15-17 - a perfect cube of 1500 miles

- 6) It will be a city surrounded by a beautiful wall 72 yards high - Rev. 21:17
- 7) It will be a city of amazing wealth and beauty. Rev. 21:18-20 - stones are costly
- 8) It will have twelve gates made out of pearls . Rev. 21:21a
- 9) It will have one major street made of gold . Rev. 21:21b
- 10) It will be a city where God , Himself, will live. Rev. 21:22-23
- 11) It will be a city of visited by believers of all nationalities. Rev. 21:24
- 12) It will be a city that will never shut down. Rev. 21:25
- 13) It will be a city where God will receive glory and honor. Rev. 21:26
- 14) It will be a city that no unbeliever will ever enter. Rev. 21:27

This will be a spectacular city to see and visit. It will be the greatest city in all of history and it is a joyful thought to consider the fact that we will see it.

ESCHATOLOGICAL FACT #4 – God will create a wonderful life for Jewish people.
65:19b-25

There are six wonderful realities brought out in these verses that describe an amazing life which none of us have ever known.

(Wonderful Reality #1) - It will be a wonderful life emotionally . **65:19b**

No longer will there be any weeping or crying. Israel has never known this type of existence.

(Wonderful Reality #2) - It will be a wonderful life physiologically . **65:20**

There will be longevity to life that is unprecedented. No more nursing homes or senior citizen homes because there will be no senior citizens. We will all be young and hopefully, speaking for myself, better looking. God will extend the lifespan of people during the Millennium. The ages that are mentioned here are staggering. If one were to die at age 100, he would be considered to have been a young person. Someone who dies at a young age will be considered having been cursed by God. Notice at the end of **verse 22** it is stated that during this time a life span will be like that of a tree.

We did some research this week just to see how old trees can be. There is somewhat of a contentious debate as to just exactly what is the oldest tree. In the United States, the oldest trees are the Great Basin Bristlecone Pine trees which are found in California and Nevada. By counting tree rings, it has been calculated that some of these trees are 4000 to 5000 years old. There is one of these trees which is still growing in a “secret location” of the White Mountains of California which has been given the name “Methuselah” because it is almost 4800 years old (*List of Oldest Trees*, p. 1).

So, obviously, life in this age will be lengthened to incredible years. I am kind of glad I’ll be in my new body because I don’t feel or look the greatest at 60, so I don’t have any desire to be a teenager at 100 and then live to be 1000 to 4000. I visit some people who complain about getting older when they are in their 70’s, so imagine how they would complain if they were 500 to 600 years old. Since this will be a happy place, we will have to have a new body or else some of the whiners and complainers wouldn’t be able to live there.

Many older people will tell you, “As you get older you have a lot more physical problems,” which is undoubtedly true. We so appreciate you sharing this bit of depressing news with us. If some didn’t point that out to us, we would just assume we get better and better until we are about 900. Truth is, when God creates a new heaven and new earth and New Jerusalem, 900 years old will be nothing.

(Wonderful Reality #3) - It will be a wonderful life economically . **65:21-22**

People in the Kingdom are not going to sit around in bed sheets and do nothing. They will enjoy life and enjoy work and God will bless His people’s work.

When they build houses they will live in those houses, and no enemy will ever dare run them out. When they plant their fruit trees they will see them grow and eat the fruit. They will harvest and will have all the food they want and no enemy anywhere in the Promised Land will ever take one thing. There will be prosperity, permanence, and stability in Israel. Life for the Jewish people will be wonderful.

(Wonderful Reality #4) - It will be a wonderful life of human posterity . **65:23**

Jewish people will flourish. Babies will be born and all of the offspring of the Lord will be blessed. One generation of Jews will see another generation of Jews all enjoying the blessings of God.

(Wonderful Reality #5) - It will be a wonderful life prayerfully . **65:24**

We saw previously that it would be a long time until God would answer Isaiah’s prayer. But life in this Kingdom will be totally different. Prayers will be answered instantly. God will answer His people’s prayers as they are asking Him.

(Wonderful Reality #6) - It will be a wonderful life of animal tranquility. **65:25**

God did not initially design this world to be a bloodthirsty place. Don’t be deceived; the animal world is a vicious world. There is no peace among the animal world right now. You will never see a lamb grazing next to a wolf, coyote, lion, or grizzly. One commentator pointed out that if a wolf and lamb are lying down together now, it is because the wolf is feeding on the lamb.

God originally designed the world to be a place that was beautiful, gentle, and peaceful. God will once again create this kind of world. During this blessed time, the carnivorous nature of the predator animal will be lifted. During our time you will not find a lion that is interested in eating grass like a grazing animal.

I just saw a program on various grizzly attacks in the area I used to hunt in Wyoming which is southeast of Yellowstone National Park. This elk hunter had moved in on some elk and he spotted a grizzly and her cubs about 40 yards away. He decided to get out of there and started to move out. He said he heard the brush crackling and thought the grizzlies were after the elk, but it turned out the grizzly was after him. His partner had bear spray and sprayed it right in the mouth and eyes of the bear and she took off. The survivor said that he was shocked because he thought the bear was trying to kill an elk for food and not him.

There will come a day when there will be no fear of any predator animal for they will not eat meat. They will become grazers.

I find it intriguing that Isaiah makes it clear that one animal, the serpent, will continue to eat dust. All throughout the Millennium, the serpent will eat dust as a sign to all that Jesus Christ crushed Satan.

There is one way to get into this amazing world and it is by faith in Jesus Christ. If you believe on Jesus Christ, you may be happy knowing you have a great future in store.