

The Glorious New Creation
Lesson Text: **Isaiah 65:17-25**
Bible Background: **Isaiah 65**
Devotional Reading: **Isaiah 42:1-9**

Keep in Mind: *“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 forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.”*
(Isaiah 65:17-18 KJV)

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** God will usher in a new heaven and a new earth; **TRUST** God will keep His promise of a new heaven and a new earth; and **PRAISE** God nothing is going to be the same in the new heaven and new earth.

In Focus

“Today’s lesson is about how believers should look forward to a time of joyful eternal life and make the most of every witnessing opportunity because time is limited.

Lesson Text

Isaiah 65:17-25~NKJV

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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 Lesson

The People, Places and Times

Jerusalem's Prophetic Destiny. The Old Testament portrays a distinctive future for Jerusalem; it will be the worship center when the promised time of renewal comes. The Messiah will take His throne, and the nation secured. This future is affirmed by most of the prophets, especially Zechariah, in Zechariah chapters 12 through 14.

The New Testament introduces the concept of a heavenly Jerusalem. Jerusalem has been sacred history; as a political and religious center it foreshadowed what God intends to do on earth. This perfect center of political and religious life is spoken of as the heavenly or New Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 3:12; 21:2, 10).

Background: In chapters 60–66, Isaiah addresses his message to the people living in exile, assuring them they still had a future. Isaiah sees a blessed future for the nation of Israel. The apostle Paul later added to this prophecy by revealing the mystery of God's will: to unite Jew and Gentile into one body with Christ as the head (see Ephesians 1:9–13). When it happens, Isaiah says of Jerusalem, *“Though you were once despised and hated, with no one traveling through you, I will make you beautiful forever, a joy to all “generations”* (Isaiah 60:15, NLT). He tells the people who have been taken captive into foreign lands, *“Their descendants will be recognized and honored among the nations. Everyone will realize they are a people the Lord has blessed”* (Isaiah 61:9, NLT). *“Jerusalem will be known as ‘The Desirable Place’ and ‘The City No Longer Forsaken’”* (Isaiah 62:12, NLT).

In the final chapters, the prophet describes the glorious consummation of history. In chapter 64, he portrays a God-initiated future characterized by joy, the elimination of mourning, fear, the end to death, and communion with God. Although the return from Babylonian exile to

Jerusalem resulted in some measure of this blessing for the people, many contend the full realization of this prophecy will not be fulfilled until Jesus ushers in the new age.”

I. In Depth

1. The Glorious New Creation (Isaiah 65:17–21) Very early in Israel’s history, God revealed to Moses the beginning of time. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the great lawgiver penned these words: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1, NLT). Consider the galaxy where we live, called the Milky Way, is only one of millions. Our galaxy is rotating at a speed of about 490,000 miles per hour, and yet it takes about 225 years to make one complete revolution. This gives you some idea of how large the galaxy and the universe are.

After creating the universe, God was pleased with His creation. Everything was virtuous, right, and beautiful. Then Adam and Eve rebelled against God, fell into sin, and all of creation suffered. God’s wonderful creation was affected by the introduction of sin. As a result, God was no longer pleased with His creation. So, thousands of years after Moses, God revealed to Isaiah the end of time: “Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore” (Isaiah 65:17, NLT). The original creation will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:12). Time, space, matter, and energy will all be consumed by this great refining blaze, and God will create a new heaven to reveal His glory and a new Earth for redeemed humanity. God’s creatures, created in His image, will again be able to contemplate the wonders of the creation and appreciate His majesty (see Psalm 8:3–4). This new creation will be so beautiful and glorious that no one will even remember the original.”

God will give His people reason to rejoice. Nature will fulfill its original potential for perfection: “*Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise*” (Psalm 96:11–12, NLT). The causes of human misery will be destroyed. “*Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. ... Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire*” (Revelation 20:10, 14, NLT). God will rule His people, and we will finally see His face. “*No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship him. And they will see his face*” (Revelation 22:3–4, NLT). Not only will God’s people rejoice in Him, but the Lord proclaims, “*I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people*” (Isaiah 65:19, NLT; see 62:5). Because death and the grave will be eliminated, people will live eternally with the Lord, and crying and weeping will never again be heard.

One day God will purify the heavens and the earth with fire and recreate them. Don't withhold your praise until the blessed event occurs; praise Him today and thank Him for making you a new creature worthy of His new creation.

2. The Glorious New Life (Isaiah 65:23–25) The climax of the new creation is the removal and reversal of the curse of Genesis 3. Adam and Eve's sin caused humanity to fall from God's gracious presence. Their sin affected all of creation. It caused the descendants of Adam and Eve to be born under the curse of sin. Because of the curse on nature, Adam, Eve, and their descendants experience physical hardship as they struggle through life for necessary provision (see Genesis 3:17–19). In the new creation Isaiah foresees, "They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune" (Isaiah 65:23, NLT). However, since sin has been eliminated and the curse of sin reversed, all human effort will be fruitful and eternally significant without the worry of daily provision. In the new creation, the children of the cursed will become "blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them" (65:23) The greatest blessing of all will be the restoration of our original fellowship with God. We will experience the loving nearness of the everlasting Father who is sensitive to our every need: *"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!"* (v. 24, NLT).

The original order of things will return. God never intended for violence to be the rule of nature. Animals were not created to eat other animals, and men were not created to make war on or murder other men. In the new creation, the wolf and the lamb will feed in the same pasture. The mighty, flesh-eating lion will eat grass like a cow.

The advent of sin in the Earth caused changes in the planet and the rest of creation, but God never changed. He maintained His eternal love for humanity and His desire to provide a place for us. He never alters His desire for us to have dominion over the Earth. In the end, God will recreate the world as pure, uncorrupted, and good. The redeemed of humanity will rule and reign with Christ.

II. Take Aways

III. Closing Prayer



Our Read-Ahead for: 25 June 2023

Glorious New Creation

Monday: The Handiwork of God (**Psalm 19:1-6**)

Tuesday: The Guidance of God (**Psalm 19:7-14**)

Wednesday: No One Is Righteous (**Romans 3:9-20**)

Thursday: Sin, Death, Sacrifice, and Salvation (**Romans 5:6-14**)

Friday: New Things Spring Forth (**Isaiah 42:1-9**)

Saturday: God Makes All Things New (**Revelations 21:1-7**)

Sunday: New Heavens and a New Earth (**Isaiah 65:17-21, 23-25**)