



Sermon Discussion Questions  
November 19, 2023,  
The Gospel According to Isaiah  
**BEHOLD THE NEW CREATION**  
Isaiah 65:17-25

**1. Opening Discussion Questions**

- a. This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. If meeting in a small group spend time sharing your most memorable Thanksgiving Day experiences. What made those memories stand out in your mind? How much effort would you be willing to put into recreating a similar experience for others (perhaps your children or grandchildren)?
- b. Thanksgiving Day is most commonly associated with food (or maybe football for some). What is your favorite item on the Thanksgiving Day menu? What one item will you try to avoid?

**2. Sermon Outline/Key Points**

- a. Isaiah Ends with Wonderful Promises About the Future (vv17-19)
  - i. A new creation is coming!
  - ii. These blessings are for God's people.
- b. Be Faithful and Courageous - Better Days Are Coming! (Vv20-25)
  - i. This future eliminates the sorrows and agonies of our present life.
  - ii. Sidebar - is this the Millennial Reign or the ultimate new creation?
  - iii. Be encouraged and stay faithful!
- c. Invite Others to Enjoy this Future.
  - i. We live in dark and seemingly hopeless times - people need the hope of Jesus.
  - ii. Urgently invite people into new creation

**3. Study/Discussion Points:**

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
  - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
  - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?

- iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

**b. Monday – Wonderful Promises About the Future (Isaiah 65:17-19)**

- i. The focal passage begins with the word “for” so it may be helpful to read the first 16 verses of the chapter to understand what the “for” is there for (the “for” is left off in the NIV but is implied).
  - 1. When you read Isaiah 65:1 what image is presented of our God?
    - a. How does verse 1 show God’s amazing grace and patience with sinners?
    - b. How does Paul use verse 1 in Romans 10:20 – See Romans 11:1?
  - 2. How does this contrast with the image of the nation presented in Isaiah 65:2-5?
  - 3. In verses 13-16 God contrasts the fate that will befall those that obey and become His servants with those that reject the offer He provides in verse 1. What differences do you see in these verses?
  - 4. What will need to change in order that God’s servants may experience what He is promising?
- ii. Now read Isaiah 65:17-19.
  - 1. How do you see the “for” at the beginning of verse 19 relating to the previous verses?
  - 2. In your own words, how would you describe conditions in the new heaven and new earth God promises to create?

**c. Tuesday – Wonderful Promises About the Future (Isaiah 65:17-19)**

- i. Compare Isaiah 65:17-19 with Revelation 21:1-4.
  - 1. What similarities do you see in these two passages?
  - 2. What is the most notable difference between the two statements (e.g., what does Revelation make a point of saying will be there that Isaiah does not mention)?
- ii. Continue by reading verses 6-8 in Revelation 21.
  - 1. According to this passage who will have access to the new creation described in verses 1-4?
    - a. Compare verse 6b with John 4:10 and 7:37. What is the “spring of the water of life”?

- b. What do you think it means to “conquer” (be victorious in the NIV) in verse 7?
  2. Who will not be present?
    - a. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
    - b. How are we expected to live as Christians?
    - c. While we know we cannot work our way into heaven, what do think is the status of a “Christian” who regularly and unrepentantly practices something from the list in Revelation 21:8?
- d. **Wednesday – Better Days are Coming (Isaiah 65:20-25)**
  - i. Read Isaiah 65:20-25 and compare it with Revelation 21:1-4.
    1. What one thing seems to be present in the description provided in Isaiah but is most definitely not so in the description in Revelation?
    2. According to Isaiah 65:23, what is another thing that seems to occur in the place described in Isaiah? What did Jesus have to say about this in Matthew 22:30?
    3. Given these differences what would you conclude about what is described in the two passages?
  - ii. One frequently suggested explanation for the apparent differences is that Isaiah describes the Millennium and not the final New Heaven and New Earth described in Revelation 21. The Millennium is described in Revelation 20:1-6. What is your reaction to such a suggestion?
  - iii. In Deuteronomy 28:15-68 the Israelites are warned of the curses they will experience if they disobey God’s commands. A great many of these were seen being fulfilled during the capture and deportation by Babylon. Compare verse 30 with Isaiah 65:22. How does this show that God is forgiving and healing the Israelites?
- e. **Thursday – Happy Thanksgiving**
  - i. Read Psalm 136 and 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.
  - ii. Spend time with family and/or friends sharing and praising God for what He has provided.
- f. **Friday – Invite Others**
  - i. Read 2 Peter 3.
    1. How does this passage reassure you as we wait for Christ’s return?
    2. What is the answer to those who “scoff”?
  - ii. Compare 2 Peter 3:10a with Matthew 25:1-13 and Mark 13:32-37.

1. How should we be living our lives in view of these passages?
  2. What does that mean to you from a very practical, day-to-day perspective?
  3. Peter says in verse 14 that we should be found “without spot or blemish” and that we should be “at peace”.
    - a. Read 1 Corinthians 1:8, Philippians 2:14-15a, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, and 1 Timothy 6:11-16. How can we be blameless?
    - b. Read 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 4:8-9, 2 Thessalonians 3:16, Hebrews 13:20-12, and John 14:27. How can we have peace?
- g. Saturday – Invite Others*
- i. 2 Peter 3:9 contains a remarkable statement that sounds very similar to the opening verse of Isaiah 65.
    1. Compare this verse with Romans 2:4 and 1 Timothy 1:16. What is at least one of the main purposes that God is patient with us?
    2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Who does God want to be saved?
  - ii. Finally, read Romans 10:13-15. What responsibility do we have if people are going to call on the name of the Lord?
4. **Application:** This is Thanksgiving week. If you are a Christian the thing you should be most thankful for is captured in the most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Unfortunately, there are over 3 billion people in the world that have never heard that Good News – and, unless something drastic happens, are going to die without ever having the opportunity to hear. In addition to spending time thanking Him for His greatest gift also ask, and spend time listening for His answer, what you can do.

## 5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18  
This week make the Thanksgiving portion of your A.C.T.S. prayer time your primary emphasis!
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3  
Pray that God will open the door for you to share with at least one person during this week.