

Isaiah 65:17–25

Joyous New Creatures and Creation

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 • Read Isaiah 65:17–25

Questions from the Scripture text: To what does v17a call our attention? What will this new heavens and new earth do to the effect that the former ones have upon us (v17b)? What idea is peppered throughout v18a–19b as the theme? Whom does God command to rejoice? In what/whom? Who does most of the rejoicing in these verses/this creation? What will no longer be heard where (v19c–d)? What would someone in this new earth conclude about someone who “died young” at one hundred years old (v20)? Who will enjoy a man’s work (v21, 22c–d)? Who won’t enjoy that person’s work (v22a–b)? What metaphor does he use for their longevity (v22c)? What will they do all this time (v22d)? How much of the curse will be repealed (v23)? What relational situation is the climax of this (v24)? How will the creation itself reflect this (v25)?

What will make the trouble of the creation be forgotten? Isaiah 65:17–25 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God will make a new creation that causes the former one to be forgotten.**

God has just declared His intention to form a new Israel in Christ, so that the former state of the church was forgotten (v16).

Now, He tells them that this culminates in an entirely new creation that makes the cursed creation to be forgotten (v17)—a creation not of groaning (cf. Rom 8:19–23) but of rejoicing (v18).

Not only will His people rejoice over the creation (v18), but God Himself will be rejoicing over His people (v19a–b), gladdening them in Himself (v19c–d).

There will be no more death, for death belongs to the accursed (v20), and if someone were to die at the age of a hundred, he would be considered an accursed child cut down in the flower of life.

There will be no curses remaining from the Mosaic covenant (v21–22, cf. Deu 28:15–51).

There will be no curses remaining from the Adamic covenant (v23, cf. Gen 3:16–19).

But greatest of all, there will be no estrangement from God, only perfect fellowship with Him (v24).

And the creation itself will reflect the blessedness of this estate. With the devil (“that ancient serpent”) having licked the dust of defeat (cf. Gen 3:15, Ps 72:9), there will be no death at all, and actual animal serpents will eat dust, just as lions eat straw (v25).

Christ is not just the new Israel of the forever-church and the new Adam of the forever-humanity. He is the everlasting God of the new creation, the covenant God who not only gives us joy but makes us to delight in God, as He, our God delights in us!

This is what the Lord has purposed for those who fear Him. Leave off all empty and useless religious thoughts, and draw near to Him in the way that He has given you to do so: in Christ!

What aspects of the curse do you feel most keenly? What labor has been futile for you? How have you felt the soon-ness and certainty of your death? How have you experienced the loss of the deaths of others? How have you experienced being estranged from God? But how has He given you to enjoy your labor? How has He given you to enjoy the benefits of Christ and His resurrection already? How does He give you to enjoy the fact that while you are speaking, He hears?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for being so satisfied with this groaning, cursed creation, when You have intended for us a new creation. But forgive us, also, for not delighting in the work of Your hands. All that You have made is good, but we have brought sin and death into the world. Forgive us for failing to see that all fruitfulness and enjoyment of our labor is grace and mercy from You. And grant that we would enjoy You Yourself more than any of it, until You bring us to enjoy You more than anything even in the new creation. So, give us to serve You and enjoy You for the rest of this life, and forever in the next, we ask, in Christ’s Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song” or TPH299 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

“(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Isaiah 65 verses 17 through 25. These are God’s words. For behold, I create a new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and Rejoice forever. And what I create for behold? I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing. And her people as a joy.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy in my people. The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her nor the voice of crying. No more shall an infant from there live, but a few days nor an old man who is not fulfilled his taste. For the child shall die.

100 years old at the center being 100 years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them. They shall plant Vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit, they should not plant and another eat. For as the days of a tree. So shall be the days of my people.

My elect shall enjoy the work of their hands. This will not labor in vain or bring forth children for trouble. For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of Yahweh. And their offspring with them. She’ll come to pass before they call. I will answer. And while they are speaking, I will hear The wolf and the lamb shall feed together.

The lion shall eat straw like the ox and doss. Shall be the Serpent’s food. Shall not hurt nor destroy. And all my Holy Mountain. Says y’all. So far the reading of gods inspired and An iron port.

The Lord. Declared that. He is going to bring a day when the former troubles. Of his people are forgotten. Um we just concluded last. Week’s passage with that idea verse 16.

The former troubles. Are forgotten. And, Forgetting a former trouble. Continues. Now, in this passage verses 17 through 25 very specifically with a new creation. That makes the cursiveness of the old creation of this creation that we are in now to be forgotten. So, he proceeds to say, for behold, I create new heavens and a new Earth.

And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. This, Entirely New Creation, then as a creation not of groaning. Like, we heard about in Romans 8 19-23. The creation groans and it’s in bondage to corruption and Decay. not Creation of groaning, but rejoicing That God creates this new heavens and the new Earth and his people.

Are to rejoice in it, be glad and Rejoice forever. And what I create. And because he has created, not just a new heavens and a new Earth, but he makes us to be. A new creation. And the first Mark of the new creature. according to verse 18 is Joy.

For behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing And her people a joy. And so, We are to be a rejoicing people because that’s what God makes us new creatures in Christ to do. And we are to Rejoice over and we will Rejoice over what we see. It will be wonderfully, amazing.

To see the new heavens and the new Earth. And to love our God, who will have made it the way that we ought to love him. Sinlessly and wholeheartedly. Towards him. And therefore, Rejoicing over this new world. That he will have made. With the joy and the Delight that we have in himself.

And not only that, but he will Rejoice. He will be rejoicing in us. He says verse 19. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy. In my people, he will rejoice. And because we are his people and because his work in us, will have been completed. The people of the rejoicing, God will be, not only a greatly rejoicing people, but an only rejoicing people And diverse 19.

The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her. Nor the voice of cry. To take away misery and sorrow. And there will be no more death. Death belongs to the accursed. The Everlasting life of the new heavens and the new Earth. Is that if someone died at 100 years old, they would wonder Why they had been so accursed to die?

It's such a baby age of a is the way the the poetry puts it together. in verse 20. Now there will be no death death belonged to the curse. There will be no curses remaining from. The Mosaic Covenant. There are There's a long list of. curses that.

Maybe a year or so away from. Hearing about in the afternoon preaching. On the Lord's days in Deuteronomy chapter 28. And this idea of Building houses that someone else inhabits and planting Vineyards that someone else eats. Etc is one of the things that is threatened as a curse against Israel.

As a covenant people. if they should be unfaithful to God in their land, He was blessing them with houses. They didn't build and Vineyards. They didn't plant. It was part of his punishment on the Canaanites. That he would give those things to Israel. And he had threatened against them, which was about to come true.

And had been coming true in smaller ways but was about to come true and the Exiles of the northern kingdom and which is complete by this time in Isaiah and the coming Exile also of the Southern Kingdom. And so verses 21 to 23. Describe how sorry 21 to 22.

Describe how these Covenant curses from the Mosaic Covenant will no longer remain. God will take all of that curse away. And not only the Covenant curses from the Mosaic Covenant for Israel as a church and as a nation. But there will be no Covenant curses from the adamic Covenant or the Covenant of Works.

You see, in verse 23 reference to Genesis 3, 16-19 the curse on the woman. Bringing forth, children in grief. And bringing forth children who are sinners? Who themselves will agree. And then the Earth. refusing to give its increase. He says, they shall not labor in vain. Nor shall they bring forth children for trouble?

They shall be the descendants and of the Blessed of Yahweh and their offspring. With. There will be in glory. Many Covenant families whom God saved multiple Generations of Who all rejoice in the Lord together. And that which had been A part of the curse will be turned on its head for.

We'll enter Glory together and we will enjoy Glory together forever, and it will be exactly the opposite of what Adam had deserved for us. And his wife had deserved for her children. Because we will receive according to What Christ deserves forever? And so this means not just the repealing of the Mosaic curse and the adamic curse.

But especially the complete restoration of fellowship with God. Verse 24 shall come to pass before they call. I will answer while they are speaking still speaking. I will hear We will be. Completely sinless. In our interaction with the Lord, that will no longer be any use for suffering, or chastening or difficulty.

all of the things that build perseverance, and character, and hope, and those things. there will just be Immediate unhindered. Um,

Unspotted blessed, interaction. With God himself even now the Believers who walk most nearly with him will often have seasons of Of struggling and striving. after him with the heart and having to wait, Upon him. but then even the inclination towards him will be so immediately, or even it will seem preemptively answered verse 24.

And the blessedness of the one who is made in God's image. To enjoy him and have fellowship with him. and as I had over all the other creatures will be reflected in the blessedness of the creation, the creatures. The Lesser creatures themselves verse 25. This. Demonstrate.

That animal death is indeed part of the Fall. As God describes. The blessedness of even the Inanimate creation. The unsentient creation. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together. The lion shall eat straw like the ox. And dust shall be the Serpent's food. that ancient serpent that Dragon, the devil who is not related to The reptiles that crawl on their bellies, he will have eaten the dust metaphorically.

On your belly. You shall go and dust. You shall eat the Lord. Had told him Genesis 3 15. This is one of the Outcomes of the kingship of Christ. Psalm 72, verse 9. His enemies shall go on their bellies and lick dust It doesn't mean that one of the punishments of unbelievers is that they're Yeah, turn into man snake creatures that eat dust all their days.

It's a metaphor. But, in the new heavens and the new Earth. there will be blessed reptiles that are blessed to be under the new Humanity that is under Christ. And rather than eating the other creatures, they will be able to eat and get nutrition even from dirt just like lions will eat straw.

According to verse 25. Um now whether that's exactly reptiles and exactly lions, eating this sort of dirt and straw that we think of it's a new heavens and a new Earth, we don't know. the point is that there will not be Animal death. And animals abusing and taking advantage of each other as part of a groaning creation, because there will be a rejoicing Creator with rejoicing image, bearers?

And a rejoicing creation that no longer groans. But enjoys its participation in the Glorious freedom of the children of God. like Romans 8 have talked about So, new heavens and the new Earth. A world of Jo. With all curse of every kind. Removed and so far removed. And so dwarfed, by the jo.

That as the passage begin with. It will cause the misery to be forgotten. All together. Oh, may the Lord set that before you and me. before me so that we will not satiate ourselves on lesser Joys and Pleasures. We're designed for something better and something. Greater, Let's pray.

Our Father in heaven. Thank you. For what you have. Planned for us in Christ from before the world began. And we pray that you would Grant to us. To look forward to it with a hope and joy. And to follow you and Obey, you Now, and To count ourselves privileged and honored.

Not just to know what you will have done at the end. But to participate in The time and the place that you have appointed to us Make us to know you and love you. Delight in. To the extent that we may now. And make us to walk with you and look forward.

To this. Unimaginable extent to, which we will do so later. We ask it all in, Christ's name. Amen.