

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 17, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 65:17–25

Memory Passage: Isaiah 65:17

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 65:17–25.** Read the following passages, the only other places the phrase “new heaven(s) and new earth” is mentioned in Scripture, and write down what you learn: Is 66:18–24, 2 Pet 3:1–18, and Rev 21:1–8.
- (b) Read the following passages and write down what you learn and how it further explains the ideas found in the new heaven and new earth passages: Ps 102:25–27, Is 34:1–4, 51:6–8, Matt 5:18, 24:35, Rom 8:18–22, and Heb 1:10–12.
- (c) Compare the description of the “new Jerusalem” in Rev 3:12 and 21:2–22:5 (the only two passages containing the phrase) with the description of the Jerusalem Yahweh will create (Is 65:18–25). Is Isaiah describing the same reality as Revelation? On what do you base your answer?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 65:17–25.** How does this section connect with 65:1–16 (notice it begins with “For behold”)?
- (b) What Good Questions (both Basic and Powerful) do you have about this text?
- (c) All major millennial positions claim these verses as support. Some claim these verses describe life in a millennial kingdom over which Christ reigns for a thousand years (literal or figurative) after he returns, and then the new heavens and new earth are created. Some claim these verses speak of a time at the end of the millennium (either a literal or figurative thousand years), and then the new heavens and new earth are created. Others think these verses describe the eternal state in either literal or figurative terms. All positions have weaknesses when explaining this passage as support, so the most straightforward reading with the best explanation for its difficulties must rule the day.
- (d) What did God create (note that create is repeated three times in vs. 17–18), for what purpose did he create, and how long will this purpose continue (v. 18)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 65:17–25.** How are Jerusalem and Yahweh’s people related (note the parallelism in vs. 18c–19b; see Rev 21:2)?
- (b) What is Yahweh’s response to his creation (v. 19a–b)?
- (c) Why will there be no more weeping or crying in this new creation (v. 19c–d, see also 25:8 and Rev 21:4)?

- (d) What is the connection between Yahweh rejoicing and his people rejoicing (vs. 18–19), and why is this important?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 65:17–25.** Explain the language of v. 20, given that there will be no death in the eternal state of the new heaven and new earth (25:8; Rev 21:4).
- (b) What does the imagery of building houses and eating from our vineyards convey about life in the eternal state?
- (c) Will children be born in the eternal state (see Matt 22:30)? If not, explain the meaning of v. 23 (for help, see Lev 26:16, Ps 78:32–33, Is 59:21, and Jer 15:8).
- (d) What does v. 24 teach you about our relationship with God when living in the eternal state on the new earth?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 65:17–25.** What does v. 25 reveal about the quality of life in the eternal state?
- (b) In what ways do these promises concerning our eternal life in the age to come cause you to be glad and rejoice (v. 18)?
- (c) How do these promises encourage you to fight sin? How do they fuel your worship and love for God?
- (d) Write down at least three ways you can practice living today to prepare for how you will live forever.

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New Heavens and a New Earth