

A Trek Through Isaiah 90 - 65:13-25

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The New Heavens and New Earth: Prayers and Promises 63:7 - 66:24

The watcher praying 63:7 - 64:12

The Lord responding 65:1 - 66:24

- In the book of the Conqueror (56 - 66)
 - Question: How will God's people fulfill their promise?
 - Three areas of emphasis
 - The contrast between the ideal community and the actual community
 - God's glorious promises for the faithful.
 - A Conqueror: the third messianic figure who accomplishes God's purpose and fulfills His promises.
- This section: The New Heavens and New Earth: Prayers and Promises 63:7 - 66:24
 - The work is completed. Now what?
 - The watcher praying 63:7 - 64:12
 - The Lord responding 65:1 - 66:24
- Today:
 - The Lord responding (part 2) 65:13-25

Last week

- 65:1-12 Reaching out to the peoples and to the people
 - 65:1 Reaching out to the nations
- 1 I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;
- 65:2-7 Reaching out to Israel
 - V2-5 Appeal and provocations
- 2 I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people,
- V6-7 The LORD's reaction
- 6 Behold, it is written before me: "I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
- 65:8-10 Blessings for the faithful remnant
 - Four pictures of blessing
 - V8 New wine
 - V9 Offspring
 - V9 Possession of the land
 - V10 Devastation restored
 - 65:11-12 Recompense for the wicked

11 But you who forsake the LORD, ...I will destine you to the sword

- 65:13-15 Contrasting ends

- V13a External provision

13 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty...

- Therefore. Because of the previous, here are contrasting ends for the redeemed and for the wicked. Four comparisons, each starting with “Behold”.
- Eat...hungry...drink...thirsty.. Satisfaction of external needs.
- As Is 25:6-9: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
- As Is 55:1-2: ...come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ...delight yourselves in rich food.

- V13b-14 Internal provision

13 ...behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; 14 behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit.

- For the LORD’s people
 - Gladness of heart
- For those who forsake Him
 - Shame
 - Realization of guilt
 - As Adam and Eve in Gen 3:7 ...they knew that they were naked.
 - Pain of heart
 - Internal turmoil.
 - Opposite of internal contentment and peace
 - Breaking of spirit
 - No hope
- Both groups have audible reactions
 - For the redeemed: singing with gladness of heart
 - For the wicked: crying out in pain, wailing

○ V15 Two names and two ends

15 You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death, but his servants he will call by another name,

■ Name. A person's revealed nature and reputation.

■ The unbeliever

- Name is a curse and death.
- Put you to death. Singular. Individual judgment.

■ The redeemed

- My chosen.
 - Not the nation Israel.
 - Those chosen from all nations.
- called by another name. Indicates a new nature.
- By contrasting parallel, a name of blessing and life.

■ As Abram was given a new name in Genesis 17:5 (ESV): No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. Genesis 18:18 (ESV): Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

○ A picture of the end times judgment

■ God's people rejoice in His presence.

■ Those who turned away from Him would like to hide but cannot.

○ Also note the similarity to Ps 23:5: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

■ The enemies are not powerful and raging to get at the believer.

■ Rather they are overcome with shame, heart pain, and a broken spirit.

- 65:16 Blessings of the **redeemed**

16 so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.

- A new name makes a new person with new possibilities.
- Blesses himself.
 - Enter into blessing according to His needs.
- In the land
 - Re the promise to Abraham in Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,
 - Of the whole earth
 - One people, one world, one God
- Takes an oath
 - Swears loyalty, makes a commitment
 - Blessings come from God; the same God is the object of devotion.
- By the God of truth
 - Heb Elohim amen. The God who keeps His promises.
 - As 2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
 - God will keep His promise to Abraham of worldwide blessing.
- Former troubles
 - Sin and all its effects
- Forgotten...hidden from my eyes.
 - Not that God will forget sin.
 - Rather the sin will be cancelled by the cross, and have no further reality.
 - As Col 2:14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
 - Accounting illustration
 - Debt cancelled and set aside by the payment made on the cross
- As 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - A new creation. A new name
 - The old has passed away. The former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes
 - The new has come. To be described in v17-25

- 65:17-25 All things made **new**

- V17-18a New creation

17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create...

■ Create.

- Heb ba-ra. Used in Gen 1:1. Creation by a divine agent out of nothing.

■ New heavens and earth.

- The eternal age (Rev 21, 22)
- Opposites to express the totality of creation

■ the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

- Because they are completely replaced.
- The renewed minds of the redeemed.

■ Be glad and rejoice.

- The response of the redeemed.

■ forever

- The new creation is eternal

■ that which I create.

- Brackets the passage

○ V18b-19 New city

18 ...for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

- for behold, I create Jerusalem
 - The new Jerusalem
 - As Rev 21:1-2 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness
 - Man's attempts to organize into cities started at Babel in Gen 11, continued in the imperial Babylon that Isaiah knew (Is 13-14) and the Babylon principle that continued throughout history (Is 21:1-10), and ended in the destruction of the world city where meaning had ceased to exist (Is 24:1-13)
 - In contrast, God will create a city of joy and gladness
 - Note the repeated emphasis on joy and gladness: v18 twice, v19, v21
- I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people
 - No longer a divided community; all truly devoted to the Lord.
 - The Lord Himself receives joy and gladness from His people.
- no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.
 - Weeping. Felt pain.
 - Cry of distress. From pain inflicted.
 - Both the cause and the feeling will be no more.

○ V20 New life

20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

■ Isaiah using familiar pictures to illustrate new circumstances.

■ What is known from the context

- The new creation is eternal. Re v18 be glad and rejoice forever
- Death will be no more. Re Is 25:8 He will swallow up death forever...
- Sin and sinners will be gone. Re v19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people...

■ The meaning

- Infants will always reach maturity.
- Old men will fill out their days (eternity)
- Young men will come to full maturity
- There will be no sinners. Even if a sinner lived undiscovered for a hundred years, the curse of his sin would catch up with him.

○ V21-24 New society

■ V21-22 Security of tenure

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

- Building and not inhabiting was part of the curse of disobedience. Re Dt 28:30 ...You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. Disobedient Israel experienced continually through their history.
- Building and inhabiting speaks of a life right with God.
- Work continues, and results in continual blessing.
- Days of a tree. Longevity. Permanence. Fruitfulness. As Ps 1:3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
- long enjoy the work of their hands. Eternity. Fulfilling work. Blessing from the results of their labors.

■ V23 Fulfillment in blessing

23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

- They shall not labor in vain
 - For Adam, work was cursed in Gen 3:17b-18 ...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...
 - Here the curse is reversed.
- or bear children for calamity
 - The curse for disobedience fell on the children. Dt 28:32 Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless.
 - Here the curse is reversed.

■ V24 Peace with God

24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

- Sin separated disobedient Israel from their God. As Is 59:2 ...but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
- Also the plaintive cry in Is 64:12: Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD? Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?
- Now the separation is gone.
- God hears and answers immediately.

○ V25 Nature renewed

25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

■ Repeats Is 11:6-9

■ Eden is restored.

■ The nature of animals is changed so that conflict is gone.

■ dust shall be the serpent's food.

- Part of the curse of Eden. Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
- Not reversed.
- May mean that snakes continue get their food in the dust to remind the redeemed of Satan and his defeat

■ Holy mountain. Where God dwells among His people.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

- 1. Internal provision 65:13b-14**
 - a. My servants shall rejoice and sing for gladness of heart**
 - b. [Unbelievers] shall be put to shame, cry out for pain of hear, wail for breaking of spirit**
 - c. As Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns in the Philippi jail in Ph 16:25**
- 2. A new name 65:15-16**
 - a. Unredeemed name: curse and death**
 - b. Redeemed name: blessing and life**
- 3. All things made new 65:17-25**
 - a. New creation**
 - b. Joy and gladness**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week: The Lord responding (part 3) 66:1-13

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