

Is. 65:13-16 (LD 52, Q129) “The God of Amen”

For the Children: What do we mean when we say “Amen”? We mean that God always tells the truth; and we mean that we believe what He is telling us. That includes the promises He makes to us. But it also includes the warnings He gives to those who turn away from Him. For unlike us, He never lies or makes a mistake, or fails to keep His Word. When we say “Amen” at the end of the Lord’s prayer, we are saying that God is willing and able to answer every request. What would be the point of praying if we did not believe that? **Questions:** Why do we say that the Lord Jesus is also the “God of Truth”? What are the promised blessings that Isaiah lists? What are the curses? In light of this, how should we respond to the promises, the commandments and the warnings?

Introduction:

First Point: The God of Truth

- 1) What “Amen” Says about God: The word “Amen” can act as a confession that God is the God of truth – He defines, embodies and speaks truth; also that He is faithful. We can only say “Amen” to anything in the Bible because God is the “God of Amen”
- 2) The Same Is True of Christ: Since the Lord Jesus is God, He is also the Truth (Jn. 14:16), the Faithful (Rev. 3:14) and the “Amen” (Rev. 3:14). All God’s promises are said to be “Amen” in Him (2 Cor. 1:20), since they are all fulfilled by Him.
- 3) We Trust in Him: We can therefore trust all of God’s promises, commandments and warnings. We can say “Amen” to them, showing that we trust the Lord. The “Amen” therefore says something about us as well. Because we base our prayers upon His Word, we are also taught to say “Amen” to close our prayers, as a confession of God’s faithfulness and our trust in Him. Q129 reminds us, though, that what the Scripture says about God comes first – His faithfulness is perfect, ours is far from that.

Second Point: The True Promises

- 1) The “Logic” of the Text: The previous verses state that the Lord will act on behalf of His servants, but act against those who have forsaken Him. Vss. 13-16 then prophesy re some of the covenant blessings that will come to the faithful remnant. V. 16 reiterates the reason for confidence in these coming blessings.
- 2) A Sample of Covenant Blessings: These blessings are covenant-blessings. A sample is given, not a complete list. We could summarize the blessings as: provision (v. 13 with Mt. 5:6); joy (vss. 14-15 with Mt. 5:12); and the giving of a new name (v. 15 with Rev. 2:17, 3:12).
- 3) Reliable Promises: The point is that all the covenant-promises of God are certain, because He is the “God of Amen.” See Josh. 21:45. V. 16 argues that God’s people can be sure they will be blessed by the Lord; and that they will be able to swear in His Name – because He is the God of Truth, who has sworn that He will “forget” the past troubles of His people.

Third Point: The True Warnings

- 1) A Sample of Anti-Blessings: The sample of covenant-blessings in vss. 13-15 are paralleled by a set of covenant-curses for covenant-breaking: deprivation, shame and pain, and a cursed name replace the promised blessings for the covenant-breaker. See Lk. 16:24 and the various images of fire and brimstone, weeping and gnashing of teeth in the Biblical warnings about hell.
- 2) Reliable Curses: These warnings are just as certain as the promised blessings. For they come from the same God of Amen/Truth. This is a warning to all who turn away from Him.

Conclusion: