

I. A Place of Joy - Isaiah 65:17-20

1. Create new heaven and a new earth (**verse 17**)
 - the creator, creates again
- Rea
 - discuss God as creator, and what does that mean? Discuss people who are “creative.”
 - Revelation 21:1ff says the same thing
2. Your response to God’s creation (**verse 18**)
 - rejoice
- Rea
 - “rejoice” because it is good news - we as believers have a lot of good news. Take some time in your lesson today to discuss all the good news that comes because of Jesus. Also, discuss the idea that bad news on TV/ politics does not take away the good news of the gospel, but only makes it sweeter.
3. The new creation is “forever” and rejoicing is forever
 - Jerusalem will be “re-created” (**verse 19**)
 - a dwelling place of joy
- Rea
 - Jerusalem stood for the presence of God dwelling with the people of God - a place
4. Grief will be no more
5. A time is coming when: (**verse 20**)
 - infants don’t die young
 - an old man who dies young will be unusual
 - specifically 100 year olds will be normal
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Long life is promised - Jesus gives “eternal” life
 2. All things will be new - 2 Cor. 5
 3. All the “gloom and doom” of Isaiah’s prophecy is balanced by this promise of good things
 4. Note that this happens because “I” will create - God does this in His sovereign time and power

II. A Place of Prosperity - Isaiah 65:21-23

1. People will build houses (**verse 21**)
 - plant vineyards
 - dwell in them
 - a settled, prosperous lifestyle
2. The days will be gone, when they built houses only to have others steal them (**verse 22**)
3. The analogy of a “tree” is given in this verse
- Rea
 - a tree of life?
 - compare with Psalm 1 - a psalm of the prosperous tree
- Rea
 - trees are figures/ illustrations of stability and long life
4. They will be “blessed” (**verse 23**)
 - he defines “blessed”
 - no young death

- they will enjoy the fruits of their labor
- they will enjoy life with their descendants
- Rea -prosperity is defined as many children/ and grandchildren
- 5. The reason? - they are “blessed”
- the curses will be removed
- Rea 6. Jesus bore our curse for us on the cross
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. How might you define “blessed?”
 2. He will dry every tear
 3. We are most cursed if we live to see the death of our own children
 4. Again, all this is based on something that God will do
 5. Our culture pulls all these ideas together in the idea of “heaven”

III. A Place of Peace - Isaiah 65:24-25

1. God will answer (**verse 24**)
 - Rea -the lines of communication are open
 - it is implied that God will take action
 - Rea -access - God opens lines of access by taking down the wall/ veil - allowing access to the Holy of Holies and into His presence (through Jesus)
2. The wolf and lamb and lion will lie down together (**verse 25**)
 - lion will eat straw
 - they will not destroy
 - the image is world peace
3. The dust will be the serpent’s food
 - reference to Gen. 3:14
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Natural predators will not be natural predators
 2. Does he refer to literal animals or is this an analogy of peace between peoples and nations?
 3. Heaven will be different (big time)
 4. In our world it is “kill or be killed”
 5. No violence, no death
 - no stealing from one another (literally life)
 6. In this world, these are daily occurrences (thought of as “only natural”) - understandable - we use the term “human nature” sometimes to describe these things
 7. Don’t forget!!! - this forever life is made possible by Jesus dying on the cross
 - removing the curse
 - removing death