

There Will Be a Day – Is 65:17-25

Is 65:17-25; It's good to be back after several weeks, and it was good to get away

We were able to attend a couple of weddings, I preached at Harvest West Des Moines, we spent a week in WI with Becky's family . . .

And eventually dropped our youngest daughter off at Liberty University

And in the midst of all that, our middle daughter got engaged

So it was quite a time for our family, and we thank God for it

I'm also thankful for those who preached in my stead – both here at the Main Campus, and at the West; Good messages, and food for life

- This week, we turn back to Isaiah, and finish (**Intro**); This is it
And the essence of what he leaves us with, is as needed in our day as it was in theirs
And that's hope; Hope that things will get better someday, and restored, and renewed in our world; B/c heaven knows we need it

I was looking through my Flipboard news app this morning, and was actually depressed
Our world's a mess; And getting worse; Including our own nation
And we need something to look forward to, something good
That's how God designed us, and it's a large part of the Christian life

- In fact, I do best when I have something to look forward to every single *day*
It could be a show, a movie, a ballgame, ice cream – you name it, I *need* it
That's why I sometimes say to Becky – “What are we doing tonight? I need something to look forward to”

And more often than not she says – “Honey, I've told you; We need to go to a school meeting, or the grocery store, or pay some bills”
At which point I usually gesture to my wrinkled forehead, and give a “frowny” face
It's our little sign for not being very happy about something

Hope for what we love, is how we're wired; It fuels us, and keeps us going, and helps us get through the other stuff we *don't* like

- And that's exactly what the purpose of this passage is – to help us get through life
To encourage us to keep on and persevere, until the end of time when God makes all things new – including the world

In fact, that's the first thought we find here; There will be a day . . .

When God destroys this world, and replaces it with a new one (v17a)

[17] “*For behold – For*, indicating that this is the way that God will fulfill his promise of blessing that he's just been talking about; I'm going to bless you he says . . .

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

There's going to come a day when God replaces this world with a new one

- And the Apostle Peter was even more explicit; Saying in **2 Pet 3:7** – *The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

And then in **v10** he says – *The heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

And **v12** – *The heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13] But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. There will be a day*

- And Peter wasn't the only one who picked up on it; The Apostle John did as well, in his vision of the end times – **Rev 21:1**
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.
Just as sure as there was a day when God *first* created the world, there will be a day when he *destroys* it, and replaces it with a new one
It's part of the *eternal weight of glory* that Paul speaks of in 2 Cor 4*****

This light momentary affliction [he says] is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Cor 4:17)

Meaning that the good of what's to come, far outweighs the bad of what's now – both in proportion and length

Giving us a source of hope to keep on; To live holy and godly lives *now* – while we wait for that blessed hope, later (**Summary**)

- But listen, it's not just the world that gets a makeover – we do too
Look at v17 again – *I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*
What things? The things of sin; Things of a fallen nature in our lives; Bad memories; Hurtful experiences; Painful relationships
You name it, it's going to be long forgotten

IOW there will be a day . . .

When our past no longer haunts us, and our memories no longer hurt us (v17b)

That's what it says; *The former things shall not be remembered or come into mind*

It's like our memories will be expunged of all things bad; All things harmful; All things wrong; It's the ultimate of what Paul says in **Rom 12:2**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind

It starts now, and is completed then

And just like every other commandment God has given us, he not only makes a way for us to obey, but in the end, does it for us

In this case, renewing our minds by wiping them clean of even the memory of sin

There *will* be a day; Think of it*****

A day when we no longer have to take our thoughts captive

A day when we no longer have to cast our cares on the Lord; B/c there won't be any

A day when the troubles of our soul no longer affect our mood; Or our health; Or our loved ones; Troubles like PTSD; Or past sins kept secret . . .

Or painful memories suppressed

There's going to be a day when all of that is *literally* – out of sight, out of mind

- I'm reading a book about the Allied invasion of Italy in WWII right now, and it

recounts how some of the soldiers suffered nightmares for years
With dreams of frozen, dismembered bodies; And friends dying right beside them; Or
atrocities committed right in front of them
Or things they did themselves that they wish they hadn't; It haunted them for years
And the same thing happens to us in our spiritual battle; We're often plagued by our
memories or haunted by our past

But when the new earth is ushered in – no more; There *will* be a day, when you no longer
have to fight the memories that hurt, or avoid the past that haunts; It's coming

3rd, there will be a day . . .

When our joy never wanes, and the party never stops (v18-19)

*The former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. [18] But be glad and
rejoice forever in that which I create; 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.*

In order to understand this, you need to realize that God is painting a picture of life in the
future, using imagery from life in the past, life in Isaiah's day
So when he says – *I create Jerusalem to be a joy* in v18; And *I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people*, v19 . . .
They would have taken it to mean that someday, God would re-create a new *physical*
city, to house the community of believers; B/c that's all they knew
Jerusalem was the focal point of God's presence, and the place of God's people

➤ But the New Testament tells us that the new Jerusalem to which Isaiah alludes,
represents the *church*; And I want you to see it for yourself, in Rev 21
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.*
Same thing Isaiah was talking about, as we saw earlier
*[2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Now, at that point, we might legitimately think he's talking about a new physical place as
well; But the last phrase, *prepared as a bride adorned for her husband* . . .
Clues us in that something else is going on
That he's actually talking about the *church*, the worldwide community of believers
B/c the NT repeatedly refers to the church as the bride of Christ

And sure enough, a few verses later, he makes it explicit; Look at v9
*[9] Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last
plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride [the church], the
wife of the Lamb [Jesus]." [10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high
mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from
God*
Come, I will show you the bride, the church, and he showed me Jerusalem

So the new Jerusalem, is the glorified church – the community of believers; Us
Which John goes on to describe using the most lofty/beautiful imagery in all the Bible

➤ But that's not even the point; The point, according to v18-19 of Isaiah 65 – is that *as* the
new Jerusalem, our joy will never wane and the party will never stop
Not only b/c God will create us to *be* a joy, and *be* a gladness like he says in v18b – but
b/c he *commands* us to *be glad and rejoice*; And do so *forever*

And glorified that we will be at that point, we'll obey perfectly; Joining him in *his*
rejoicing and *his* gladness as it says; Not only will we rejoice, but he will too
All of which equals a party; Just like we did with cake and ice cream after Julia's
engagement; And a little line dance around the kitchen island later on
Only here, on the new earth, it's never going to stop; There will be a day

4th, there will be a day . . .

When life is bliss, and our days never end (v20-25)

Which comes from v20-25, where, describing the new heavens and new earth, God says . .
*[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.*

Now, this isn't meant to contradict Is 25:8 where it says that God will *swallow up death
forever*; Rather, it's the first of **4 Examples** . . .
That are meant to illustrate some of the causes of *sorrow* in our life, and assure us that
they will be no more

The first of which is death; On the new earth, there will be . . .

1. No more death, premature or otherwise (v20)

It won't exist; *[20] No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days* [i.e.
who dies prematurely], *or an old man who does not fill out his days*
And then he says – *for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a
hundred years old shall be accursed.*

Again, that's *not* to say that death will *remain* in the new heavens and new earth, or that
sinful people will be present – they won't; The Bible's explicit about that
Rather, God's simply conveying to the people in Isaiah's day, who were accustomed to
death at an *early* age – that the fountain of youth is real
That people will live an *extraordinarily* long time compared to what they're used to;
Forever for all intents and purposes
Saying that a *young* age to die would be a hundred, and the death of a *sinful* person at
that age would show that they were being punished
We won't have to deal with that anymore; No more sin, no more death, and no more
heartache; Just bliss

2nd, there will be . . .

2. No more futility and frustration (v21-23)

That's the 2nd principle he illustrates with an example here
*[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 [as in long and fruitful],
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. [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.* Children of God; Born not of the flesh . . .

Julia, our middle daughter, went to Israel this past summer, and in the course of her time there was able to meet and interact . . .

With a family of Palestinian believers in the West Bank

And in the course of telling about their struggle, they related that the Israeli's had come on to their land the previous week, and cut down 1500 trees

For the sole purpose of trying to compel them to leave, and establish another settlement there; And as you might imagine . . .

It brought an abrupt end to that family's *enjoyment* of the work of their hands

And the same thing is happening all over the world

Like in Iraq, where *Muslims* are forcing Christians from their homes; They build, and others inhabit; They plant, and others eat

Yielding futility and frustration that breeds nothing but hardship and contempt

But not on the *new* earth

3rd, there will be . . .

3. No more waiting (v24)

Imagine that; [24] *Before they call* [God says] *I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.*

Have you ever heard somebody say, "Patience is a virtue" and wanted to slap them?

This one's for you; You'll never hear it again; It won't be necessary; Waiting on the

Lord will no longer be a thing – a means to shape our character and grow our faith

B/c faith will give way to sight, and our character will be perfect

And 4th, there will be . . .

4. No more violence (v25)

[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* [IOW no longer will it strike with its venom and hiss].

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

There's not going to be any more violence – of either the "natural" kind, or manmade

It won't happen; It's just going to be pure bliss (**Summary**)

➤ And, it's going to last forever; B/c Is 66:22 says – "*For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.* And how long is that? Forever – Rev 22:5 is explicit

We will reign with God on the new earth, *forever and ever* it says

And do so in *days* that never wane; Days where the sun never sets, b/c there won't be a sun the Bible says (Rev 21:23)

Just the glory of God himself, with *no night* (Rev 21:24)

All of which equals perfect bliss; It's coming

And last, there will be a day . . .

When we gather with the saints, and worship the Lord (Is 66:23)

Is 66:23 – *From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.*

All flesh; Meaning people from every tribe, tongue, and nation as John says in **Rev 7**

[9] *After this* [as in, after he *heard* about the church being identified, and sealed, and protected] *I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages [all flesh as Isaiah said it], standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes* [a symbol of their purity], *with palm branches in their hands* [a form of worship going all the way back to the OT], [10] *and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* [11] *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures* [angelic beings that represent creation], *and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,* [12] *saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."* Amen and amen

There will be a day when we gather with the saints of *all* the world, and *all* of history – to worship the Lord*****

And not just once a week on Sundays, or once a month on the new moon – but *every* day; That's the idea of v23

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath [as in *every* day], *all flesh shall come to worship* (**Summary**)

And when we do, it'll be our greatest joy, in a life of bliss, that never ends

That's something to look forward to; And way better than a school meeting

Prayer – Father, we love you and worship you, not only b/c of what you've done, but b/c of what you'll do; Thank you for giving us so much to look forward to

We give now out the overflow of our hearts, and the provision of your hand