

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## “Such Joy that We Won’t Even Remember the Pain”

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** Is 65:17-25; Is. 48:6-7; Is. 43:18-19; Is. 55; Is. 56:1; Is. 65:17-25; Is. 25:7-8; Is. 63:10; Matt. 23:37; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; Rev. 21:1-4

So much of life in this world is marked by sorrow. Every one of us carries memories that can suddenly “ascend upon the heart.” A song, a date on the calendar, a passing headline, or an unexpected reminder can bring grief rushing back in a moment. This world is stamped by loss, tragedy, death, injustice, and the painful consequences of sin. Sometimes the weight of it feels impossible to escape. Isaiah understood that reality, and yet in the closing chapters of his prophecy, God lifts our eyes beyond the brokenness of this present world and gives us a breathtaking promise: a day is coming when sorrow itself will be swallowed up by joy.

In Isaiah 65:17, the Lord declares, *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered or come to mind.”* The phrase “For behold” carries the sense of, “Because, look at Me.” God is saying, “Fix your eyes on what I am about to do.” The hope of redemption is not rooted in human effort, but in the creative power of God Himself. The same God who created the heavens and the earth in the beginning is able to remake what sin has destroyed. He is not simply patching up the old world—He is making all things new.

### 1. GOD IS CREATING A COMPLETELY NEW WORLD

Isaiah says, *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.”* This is not merely a slight improvement of the present world. It is total renewal. God had already told His people in Is. 43, *“Do not remember former things... Here I am, doing a new thing.”* Throughout Isaiah, the Lord called His people to forsake their own ways, abandon idolatry, and trust Him because He was preparing something entirely beyond human imagination. The brokenness of this world is not the final chapter. God Himself will intervene to remake creation and restore what sin has distorted.

The Lord says the former things “will not be remembered or come to mind.” The old pains, fears, losses, and scars of this world will no longer dominate the heart. Right now, conflict and sorrow shape so much of human existence that we can barely imagine life without them. Yet God promises a future so filled with His goodness that the grief of the former world will lose its hold entirely. Revelation echoes this promise: *“He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more.”* The God who created the universe has the power to banish sin, sorrow, and death forever—and He will do it.

### 2. GOD IS CREATING A FUTURE OVERFLOWING WITH JOY

Isaiah 65:18 says, *“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.”* The Lord does not merely promise relief from pain; He promises overflowing joy. The language Isaiah uses carries the idea of rejoicing with abandon—rolling with gladness, overflowing with delight. The joy of God’s coming kingdom will be so complete that it will blot out every memory of sorrow. In this life, happiness often feels fragile and temporary. Joy comes and goes. But the joy God is preparing is eternal, steady, and unshakable.

What is even more remarkable is that God says He is creating Jerusalem itself “for rejoicing” and her people “for joy.” Joy is not just an emotion in the coming kingdom—it is woven into the very nature of God’s restored creation. Even more, the Lord says, “*I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people.*” For generations, humanity’s rebellion grieved the heart of God. Yeshua Himself wept over Jerusalem because of its unwillingness to turn to Him. But the day is coming when God’s people will finally be fully restored, holy, righteous, and complete in Him. The Lord Himself will rejoice over His people with gladness.

### **3. GOD IS REMOVING EVERY CAUSE OF SORROW**

Isaiah closes this section with picture after picture of complete restoration. No infant will die young. No elderly person will fail to fulfill their days. Houses will be built and enjoyed. Vineyards will be planted and their fruit fully enjoyed. Labor will no longer end in frustration or futility. God is reversing the effects of the curse. Throughout Scripture, one of the consequences of sin was that people labored without satisfaction, planted without harvest, and built without security. But in God’s kingdom, there will finally be fulfillment, peace, and lasting joy.

The restoration even reaches creation itself. “*The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat straw like the ox.*” Nature itself will be healed. Fear, hostility, destruction, and death will no longer reign. Isaiah points all the way back to Eden, showing that God’s plan has always been restoration. The serpent that brought destruction in the garden will ultimately be defeated, and the curse will finally be broken. The Lord declares, “*They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain.*” Everything sin shattered will be restored by the power and goodness of God.

### **CONCLUSION**

The world we live in now is full of reminders that something is deeply broken. We experience loss, grief, disappointment, sickness, conflict, and death. Sometimes the pain feels overwhelming. Yet Isaiah reminds us that this present world is not the end of the story. God is not absent from our suffering, nor is He untouched by it. Scripture says our rebellion grieves His Spirit. His heart overflows with compassion, and He continually calls humanity to turn back to Him and receive the life He offers.

The Lord’s promise is certain: a day of total restoration is coming. The joy He is preparing is beyond what we can currently comprehend. One day, the former things will pass away forever. Death will be swallowed up. Tears will be wiped away. Creation will be restored. And the people of God will rejoice forever in His presence. Until that day, we are called to trust Him, walk in His ways, and fix our eyes on the One who says, “Look at Me—I am creating all things new.”

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does Isaiah’s promise of a “new heavens and a new earth” reveal about the heart and character of God?
2. Why do you think the Lord repeatedly tells His people to “look at Me” throughout Isaiah?
3. What are some “former things” that still tend to rise upon your heart and affect your walk with God today?
4. How does the promise that God Himself will rejoice over His people change the way you view your relationship with Him?
5. In what practical ways can believers live now in anticipation of the coming restoration God has promised?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu*, Our Father, Our King, thank You that this broken world is not the end of the story. Thank You that You are the God who makes all things new. When grief, fear, and sorrow weigh heavily upon our hearts, help us to lift our eyes and look to You. Teach us to trust Your promises even when we cannot yet see their fulfillment.

Lord, prepare our hearts for Your kingdom. Remove the things in us that grieve Your Spirit, and shape us into the people You created us to be. Fill us with the joy, peace, and hope that come from Your presence. Strengthen us to walk faithfully until the day when every tear is wiped away and all creation is restored in Your glory.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.