

# Isaiah 65

2-22-06

## “Rebels, the Remnant, & the Regeneration!”

### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Outline:** The Rebels; The Remnant; The Regeneration.<sup>1</sup>
  - 1.1.1. 1<sup>st</sup> **Punishment**; then **Perfection!**
- 1.2. Remember the last chapter & a half was a prayer...now God answers!

### 2. **YOU CHOSE WHAT I HATE! (1-16)**

- 2.1. **THE REBELS!** (1-7)
- 2.2. **Here I am, here I am!** (1)
  - 2.2.1. God is revealing himself to **non-Jewish people**; & for awhile he is choosing **saved Gentiles** instead of **Israel** to perform his will.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.3. If the Lord is found by those that **seek him not**, **how much more surely** He will be found by those who seek Him!
  - 2.3.1. How much more to he who cries, “**God be merciful to me, a sinner.**”
- 2.4. **Idolatry** (2,3)
  - 2.4.1. **Q: Why was God unable to answer the prophet’s prayer? ask**
  - 2.4.2. He starts to **enumerate the reasons** that forced the Lord to turn aside from the Chosen People & call in the Gentiles to **occupy the place & perform the mission** which they had despised & fortified.<sup>3</sup>
  - 2.4.3. **God pleaded** w/His people to turn from their sins & come back to Him, but they refused.
    - 2.4.3.1. **Q: What picture of God is unfolded here? ask**
      - 2.4.3.1.1. **w/outstretched hands...** “please take my mercy!”
    - 2.4.3.2. **Q: Ever have something you thought was good but others didn’t want it?** (Good food to your toddler, *try it!*) (Ever pass out tracks?)
  - 2.4.4. When the **Jews** rejected God’s call, the **Gentiles** responded in their stead.
    - 2.4.4.1. Paul remembers this in **Rom.10:20,21**.
- 2.5. **Witchcraft** (4)
  - 2.5.1. They practiced necromancy(*attempt to comm to the dead*) in the graveyards & ate swine flesh.
  - 2.5.2. **[Swine flesh? Yes Jews did, thus scorning the Mosaic Law]**

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Is.65 With the Word.

<sup>2</sup> Willmington; Outline Bible.

<sup>3</sup> F.B.Meyer; Bible Commentary.

- 2.6. Hypocrisy (5)
- 2.7. Paid in Full for their Sins (6,7)
- 2.8. **THE REMNANT!** (8-16)
- 2.9. **God's Faithful Remnant!** (8-10)
- 2.10. Preserved & made prosperous!
- 2.10.1. God always has his **faithful remnant** like a few grapes after the harvest – see Deut.24:21.
- 2.10.2. And he uses them as the nucleus of a new beginning.
- 2.10.3. Did he not spare & use “Noah, Lot, Caleb, etc.” – his **faithful remnant becomes the seed germs of a new nation.**
- 2.10.4. Ponder vs.8-10 then ask that **your life** would be like the *new young grapes* on which the *blessing* of God rests!
- 2.11. **Sharon** – (sounds like Ariel Sharon) fertile coastal plain from Joppa to Mt. Carmel. (It was known for its floral beauty, still is)
- 2.12. **Valley of Achor**—[10 m so. of Jericho, proverbial for hope/blessing] See Hos.2:14,15
- 2.12.1. Only God can give **new meaning** to old names, & wipe out painful associations w/old places.
- 2.12.2. The **Valley of Achor** (*valley of trouble*), was where Achan was stoned (Joshua 7:24-26) but it became a **door of hope!** (a valley of hope)
- 2.13. **Cut Down by the Sword!** (11-12)
- 2.14. The **rebels** will be judged but the **remnant** (*my servants*) will be blessed.
- 2.15. **Their chosen deities? Gad**(גַּד) & **Meni**(מְנִי) – the Syrian gods of *fortune & destiny*. (Today we know them by a different name, the Latin...“Lotto”) ☺
- 2.15.1. Play on words with **number/destine** in vs.12.
- 2.16. Destroyed because they did not listen (12)
- 2.17. **Q: Do you ever choose what God hates?**
- 2.17.1. Yes, we all do...but I bet we don't look at it that way!
- 2.17.1.1. We see it as 2<sup>nd</sup> best; an alternative; etc.
- 2.18. **Becoming a Curse!** (13-16)
- 2.19. **Another Name!** (13-15)
- 2.19.1. Great contrasts:
- 2.19.2. **Hunger, thirst, sorrow of heart, grief of spirit.** {phys, emotional, sp.}
- 2.19.3. Finally we get to truly “eat, drink, & be merry”...& *never die!*

- 2.20. **Forgiven** (16)
- 2.21. **God of truth** – or God of amen! [ 1 0 8 ]

### 3. **NEW CREATION! (17-25)**

- 3.1. A reference to the glorious Millennium.
- 3.2. **THE REGENERATION!** (17-25)
  - 3.2.1. This is what Jesus called the Kingdom God has prepared for His people.
  - 3.2.2. Mt.29:28 “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
  - 3.2.3. (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon) The word often used to denote the **restoration** of a thing to its **pristine state**, its **renovation**, as a **renewal** or **restoration** of life after death. 1B the renovation of the earth after the deluge. 1C the renewal of the world to take place after its destruction by fire,<sup>4</sup>
- 3.3. **Jerusalem Rebuilt!** (17-19)
- 3.4. (17) In **Revelation 21:1** the new heavens and new earth *follow* the Millennium.<sup>5</sup>
  - 3.4.1. Isaiah likely **merges the concepts** of the millennial kingdom & the eternal state.
  - 3.4.2. The Millennium, *though 1000 years in duration*, will be a mere pinpoint of time compared with the eternal state.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.5. Probably won't **come to mind** because the new is so fantastic!
- 3.6. (18,19) It will be a time of joy, when the blessings of God flows!
  - 3.6.1. The *Faith Teachers* aren't wrong about *health & wealth*...just wrong time period!
- 3.7. **Joy** – What's God all about?
  - 3.7.1. Often isn't most our thoughts on God about His Holiness, righteousness, doing the right thing. Yes, but God is all about **JOY!**
  - 3.7.2. We often only think in **moralistic terms**: “*relating to issues of right & wrong*”.
    - 3.7.2.1. **Q: So what's heaven all about then?**
    - 3.7.2.2. **Q: If we are all perfected & can't do wrong...is that it?**

<sup>4</sup>Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G3824). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

<sup>5</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures.* Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>6</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures.* Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- 3.7.2.3. What about **Joy, Delight, Happiness, Pleasure, Bliss, Gratification, Elation?**
- 3.7.2.4. I thought the chief end of man was “to **Glorify God & ENJOY Him forever!**”
- 3.7.2.5. Didn’t the Psalmist say, “**In His presence is the fullness of Joy!**”
- 3.7.2.6. This starts here on earth once we recognize that this Joy isn’t found **from** God, but **only in God!** Piper-*Christian Hedonism*
  
- 3.8. **Longevity!** (20-23)
- 3.9. The **blessings** that are named are **in contrast** to the **judgments** listed in **Deut.28:15**.
  
- 3.10. (20a) No infant deaths. (SIDS)
- 3.11. (20b) All but the rebellious live to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.
  - 3.11.1. Only sinners die young.
  - 3.11.2. Since there is no sickness or suffering, weeping nor crying, there will be longevity.
- 3.12. (21-23) A time of great prosperity.
  - 3.12.1. Live in their own house (**A little real estate advice:** “dump your rentals before the Mill!”)
  - 3.12.2. Eat from their own vineyards.
  - 3.12.3. Are blessed by God.
- 3.13. (22) **Days of a tree** – it appears that believers will not die in the millennium. (if so where would they go?)
- 3.14. **Peace, Peace!** (24,25)
- 3.15. (24) Prayers are instantly answered!
  - 3.15.1. Verizon, ATT, Pac Bell, **none** can offer this on your cell plan!
  - 3.15.2. **Before prayers are spoken, God answers.**
  - 3.15.3. If there is a need, they will call, God will respond.
- 3.16. (25) The wolf, lamb, lion, & ox dwell in perfect harmony.
- 3.17. **Not hurt or destroy** – I guess there is no “*News Stations*” in the Millennium then...cuz they’re all about hurt & destruction.
  - 3.17.1. **Imagine the News** – **The weather tomorrow?**...well, perfect again; & **Now for the local news in Jerusalem?**...well, no crime again to report; no traffic; everyone’s enjoying themselves, just peace, peace, peace...**back to you Jim!**
- 3.18. **Charles F. Kettering** said, “**We should all be concerned about the future** because we all will have to spend the rest of our lives there.”