

**Two Promises, Eternity, and the Millennium  
One for the Faithful  
And One for Everyone Else  
Isaiah 65 8 – 25**

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We started looking at YAHWEH's response to the intercessory prayer of Messiah last time. In that response we saw a peek behind the curtain on what would be fully revealed to us in the New Testament as the church. We also saw the justice of God in His discussion about the why for rejecting His people, the Jews.

Paul would later confirm this for us in Romans 11 in His discussion of the remnant and God's intent to keep all His promises made to the Jews.

Now we come to two promises being made by YAHWEH.

We will see YAHWEH promise blessing for those who remain faithful to Him. For those who follow in name only and have no depth in their faithfulness, a promise of judgment.

First, for the remnant, those who remain faithful.

Isaiah 65:8–10

"This is what the LORD says: "Just as the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, for there is benefit in it,' So I will act in behalf of My servants In order not to destroy all of them. I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, And an heir of My mountains from Judah; My chosen ones shall inherit it, And My servants will live there. Sharon will be a pasture land for flocks, And the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, For My people who seek Me."" (NASB 2020)

Although Judah is still in Jerusalem, they are about to go into exile, but those who are faithful will not only be blessed, but they will also be restored.

Here is the picture, you have a vineyard that is full of rotten grapes. The vineyard is not useful for making wine. But upon examination, there are a few good clusters of grapes but even the clusters have issues. Because of these few good grapes in the clusters, YAHWEH will not destroy the vineyard. There is still hope that the situation can be turned around. "As men do not destroy a juicy cluster of grapes, because they would thereby destroy the blessing of God which it contains; so will Jehovah for His servants' sake not utterly destroy Israel, but preserve those who are the clusters in the vineyard (Isa. 3:14; 5:1-7) or upon the vine (Ps. 80:9ff.) of Israel." (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 617)

We see this and are reminded of the conversation between the Angel of the Lord and Abraham about the pending judgement in Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18. Starting in verse 23 Abraham begins discussing, negotiating, with God at just what point does total judgement take place if there are believers in town. The conversation implies an existing relationship. Abraham stopped at 10 people.

Genesis 18:32-33

"And he said, "Is it anything, Lord, if I may speak yet once more? If ten are found there?" And he said, "I will certainly not destroy on account of the ten." And the Lord departed when he finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place." (Lexham Press 2020, Gen 18:32-33)

Just because there were so few believers in Sodom, He did not zap them because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. God still delivered those believers from the coming judgement by taking them out of there. He will do the same when He takes the church out of here before the Tribulation begins.

Why is that?

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

**"For God has not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (ESV)

We are His adopted kids. We are now part of His family and He has plans for us.

Romans 8:16-17

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with the Messiah—if, in fact, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." (ISV)

Paul also discusses this simple fact about us as believers in his letter to the Galatians. God watches out for those who belong to Him and are faithfully following Him.

Galatians 4:4-7

"But when the appropriate time had come, **God sent his Son, born by a woman, born under the Law, in order to redeem those who were under the Law, and thus to adopt them as his children.** Now because you are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to cry out, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if you are a child, then you are also an heir because of what God did." (ISV)

Ezekiel was provided a view of the final impending judgement that was to fall on Jerusalem. He was a witness to the protection being provided for those who were of the remnant.

Ezekiel 9:4-6

"The LORD said to him, "Go through the city of Jerusalem and **put a mark on the foreheads of the people who moan and groan over all the abominations practiced in it.**" While I listened, he said to the others, "Go through the city after him and strike people down; do not let your eye pity nor spare anyone! Old men, young men, young women, little children, and women—wipe them out! But do not

touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary!" So they began with the elders who were at the front of the temple." (NET)

What we see is the good will not be destroyed because of the bad. But does this mean the bad will be spared because of the good?

Just as we saw in Ezekiel, "even if the cluster has some bad grapes, that does not mean the whole cluster will be thrown out; just because the bad grapes will be destroyed does not mean the whole cluster should be. The good grapes will be culled out and spared (cf. 27:2–6). So it will be for God's people: although judgment is coming, and will begin with those who claim to be his, those who demonstrate their faith through joyous obedience have nothing to fear." (Oswalt 1988, 645)

Even though all appears to be lost and the culture has gone into meltdown, even though people are turning away from their faith and no longer remaining faithfully loyal to the Lord; "I still have left in Israel seven thousand followers who have not bowed their knees to Baal or kissed the images of him." (1 Kings 19:18, NET)

This is a message we need to remember today as we are in the last days. The evidence we see around us shows us that faith is disappearing. The number of churches that used to teach the word and have instead turned to teaching other things seems to be growing. Yet there is still a remnant of those who are remaining faithful to the Lord.

Revelation 3:10–11

"Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown." (ESV)

Ever since Genesis, His promises to those who believe and remain faithful have not changed. He loves His own and will remove them from the scene if that becomes necessary. The Bible clearly teaches that it will, and He will remove His own in an event referred to in the scriptures as the rapture of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." (NLT)

This same protection for those who are His, is being demonstrated here in Isaiah 65 as well.

Isaiah 65:9

"I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, And an heir of My mountains from Judah; My chosen ones shall inherit it, And My servants will live there." (NASB 2020)

After reading the first 7 verses of this chapter, we could have easily concluded that the entire nation of Israel was doomed, that is not the case. We have already been given a view of the end of the age where Messiah comes to save His own, here YAHWEH also states the same. There will be a remnant and they are the ones who will ultimately inherit the land. The remnant will be among those who will ultimately possess all of God's promises and see them all take place.

Spoilers.

Isaiah 65:17

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind." (NASB 2020)

The ones who are preserved are His “chosen ones, His “servants.” They will see this in real time.

Psalm 69:35–36

“For God will deliver Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah, and his people will again live in them and possess Zion. The descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who are loyal to him will live in it.” (NET)

The chosen ones are those whom God has chosen to be the heirs of eternal salvation; they will dwell in the land. (Young 1972, 507-508)

It is this remnant, the true Israel, who will inherit all that has been promised and will dwell in the land. But what about those who are not part of the remnant? “The great mass of the people of Israel will be given to the sword and destroyed, because they have refused to harken to the Lord and because they have followed their own evil and idolatrous ways.” (Gingrich 1993, 86)

Isaiah 65:10

“Sharon will be a pasture land for flocks, And the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, For My people who seek Me.” (NASB 2020)

Sharon is to the northwest and the Valley of Achor to the southeast. This is simply a way of saying the entire land, restored and usable for agriculture.

The verse also provides the key as to who this is all for, only true seekers of YAHWEH. “Those who sought the Lord were not necessarily those who engaged in religious activity but those who obeyed His covenant requirements.” (Constable 2003, Is 65:10)

For the faithful remnant, those who have not forsaken their relationship and remained in obedience to YAHWEH, there is a future in the land. A future of peace, safety, and abundance. What about everyone else? What about those who are not so faithful? There is also a promise for them.

This is what is being promised to those who are unfaithful.

Isaiah 65:11–12

“But as for you who abandon the LORD, Who forget My holy mountain, Who set a table for Fortune, And fill a jug of mixed wine for Destiny, I will destine you for the sword, And all of you will bow down to the slaughter. Because I called, but you did not answer; I spoke, but you did not listen. Instead, you did evil in My sight And chose that in which I did not delight.” (NASB 2020)

The Lord first show us clearly who the promise is for. This is for the unfaithful, Jews in name only. There are four things outlined in verse 11 that this unfaithful group has done.

1. They have intentionally embraced a lifestyle that reflects a habitual abandonment of all things pertaining to God. They have intentionally walked away and have no intent of returning.
2. They know what they must do to worship YAHWEH, they just simply don’t want to do it. This is not simply forgetting, it intentional lack of care. Other stuff takes up their time now, so they “forget” to be faithful.
3. They are involved in the worship of local gods like Gad, the god of fortune. So much so that they have fallen into the line of those who prepare meals for this false god.
4. There is one more local false god they are involved with. Yes, the Hebrew word for destiny is the name of another false god. “The Hebrew word for Destiny is “Meni,” which was the name of another local god. He was the god of destiny or fate.” (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 1811)

The Good News Bible or the NET Bible makes it a bit clearer for us.

Isaiah 65:11

“But it will be different for you that forsake me, who ignore Zion, my sacred hill, and worship Gad and Meni, the gods of luck and fate.” (GNB)

Isaiah 65:12

“I will destine you for the sword, And all of you will bow down to the slaughter. Because I called, but you did not answer; I spoke, but you did not listen. Instead, you did evil in My sight And chose that in which I did not delight.” (NASB 2020)

Isaiah likes to play with words, so does the Lord. Here we see some word play take place. His response to the people looking to fortune and destiny rather than YAHWEH is simple. “God himself “will determine the destiny” (a word play) of these people, not the pagan gods of destiny. His plan is to deliver these people to the sword so that all of them will be slaughtered.” (Smith 2009, 711-712)

This tells us that there is a military engagement in their future. Gad and Meni will not be able to help them avoid the slaughter that is coming. Their destiny is death, per the God of the Universe, not a false god who wouldn't even show up when placed on trial earlier in Isaiah 41. Fallen divine beings are incapable of helping them from what it is YAHWEH has planned for them.

They refuse to bend the knee to YAHWEH, so YAHWEH says they will indeed bend the knee, to slaughter.

After providing them a glimpse, a promise of their future, YAHWEH explains why and again there are four reasons listed.

YAHWEH called them, shouted at them, invited them; but they did not answer Him. He tried to include them in the number of the remnant, He summoned them, but they were not interested in that.

YAHWEH spoke, promised, threatened even (Deuteronomy 30:19), and more than once through the prophets. But they would not listen. The meaning of the Hebrew word used here implies the bulk of the nation actively refused to hear, refused to listen to what was said, refused to obey, refused to understand, refused to accept. They turned off the receiver and switched the headset to white noise. This was the basis for the word given to Isaiah at the beginning of His ministry.

Isaiah 1:18–20

““Come now, and let us debate your case,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They shall become as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be like wool. “If you are willing and obedient, You will eat the best of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (NASB 2020)

This was an open offer to both Kingdoms, north and south. Israel and Judah. It was like talking to the wall.

This offer is still available today, but we have no idea when it will be withdrawn. How does God withdraw an offer of salvation? Through rejection to the point that He gives you what you want. No more attempts, He stops talking to you (Luke 23:8 & 9). Another way is through death (Luke 16:19 – 31). And then there delaying and putting off what needs to happen today till tomorrow yet tomorrow never arrives because the enemy to yanks the seed away one more time (Matthew 13:2 – 23).

Paul correctly provided us the timeframe in one of his letters to Corinth. Now.

2 Corinthians 6:2

“Hear what God says: “When the time came for me to show you favour I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you.” Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favour; **today is the day to be saved!**” (GNB)

1. What the Lord is saying is truly simple, don't be like most of the nation of Israel and ignore the attempts that are continually taking place to reach you.
2. There is nothing to be done to accept this, it cannot be earned or purchased. It is a gift that is being offered. All that is required is acceptance.

Romans 10:8–10

“What it says is this: “God’s message is near you, on your lips and in your heart”—that is, the message of faith that we preach. If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.” (GNB)

### ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

The nation had the opportunity to repent and return to the Lord. Every opportunity was given to them, but they said no.

Reason number three.

3. The bulk of the nation opted not to follow YAHWEH but instead did evil. This is not simply falling into evil or falling into sin, this is the active pursuit of it. In fact the Hebrew word for did says they actively manufactured, created, acquired and pursued הָרַע (ha ra), “the evil.” This was a choice. This reflects Genesis 3, it is rebellion. Therefore, the Suffering Servant must come.
4. This is a preference for the nation. They prefer evil over righteousness. They are actively examining, testing and deciding in favor of disobedience. Everything God delights in; they will not do. They go out of their way to not love Him or obey Him.

The reality for those who are not of the remnant is simple. The offer was made. “But for the remainder of the nation that went headlong without heeding the Word of God there remains nothing but punishment. I do not understand how intelligent people who believe in the existence of God can fail to realize that there must finally come a judgment and a straightening out of things. If they continue on in sin they will be judged, as surely as God judged the bulk of the nation Israel.” (McGee 1997, 346)

Since the bulk of the nation has decided poorly, YAHWEH will contrast the two sides of the impact of that decision. This way there will be no doubt about what It is they are giving up. God provides a word picture for them.

Isaiah 65:13–16

“Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: “Behold, My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. Behold, My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. Behold, My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. “Behold, My servants will shout joyfully with a glad heart, But you will cry out from a painful heart, And you will wail from a broken spirit. “You will leave your name as a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord GOD will put you to death. But My servants will be called by another name. “Because the one who is blessed on the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And the one who swears an oath on the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!” (NASB 2020)



The Remnant (Godly)	Everyone Else (Ungodly)
All food needs met, satisfied	Starvation
All water needs met, satisfied	Thirsty, unsatisfied (Luke 16:24)
Rejoicing, merry, happy dance	Shamed, humiliated, embarrassed, ruined
Shouting and singing with joy from a glad heart	Desperately screaming, crying, and wailing from a broken heart and spirit. (Gnashing and wailing)
Shall be called another name	Their name shall be a curse to the Godly
Shall live	Shall be destroyed, killed

There is a contrast between the blessings to be given to the remnant and the curses to be given to the rest of the nation. For the remnant, all basic needs are continually met while there is nothing for those who have abandoned YAHWEH. They believed that their false gods could provide for them, and here we see that they are incapable of doing so. YHAWEH provides more than enough, the false gods...nada.

The remnant will experience what Peter also revealed was in the future for the believer.

1 Peter 1:7–9

“Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold—gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away—and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and **so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.**” (NET)

YAHWEH is making it as clear as possible the results of poor decision-making regarding faithfulness to Him. “The faithful shall be perpetually happy; but you, who forsook Me, shall be shamed and frustrated.” (Paul 2012, 601)

The differentiation will be so strong that names will be changed. This name change has already been promised in Isaiah 56:5 and 62:2. “They will not have a name associated with a curse, for when God transforms a person’s life and directs them on a new path, he often gives them a new name that points to their new destiny.” (Smith 2009, 714)

Isaiah 65:16

“Because the one who is blessed on the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth; And the one who swears an oath on the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!” (NASB 2020)

Everything changes for the remnant. Actions of the majority, asking for a blessing in the name of a false god becomes a thing of the past. The blessing is so real, all will know the source. Those who have been cursed and are now gone, the source will also be just as real.

For the remnant, “one who invokes blessings on himself does so in the name, or in the personal attributes, of the true God. He neither needs nor desires any blessing except as the God of truth is willing to bestow it. Calling for a blessing in the name of an idol is invoking a curse. So then, every oath made, or any good asked for, is valid, is acceptable, only as it is made or asked in the name of the God of truth.” (Bannister and Hemenway 1886, 260)

For the remnant, the promise of blessing is one that is so incredibly real, that as they bask in their new names and realize that the rest of the nation made a poor decision, they now fully realize the source of the curse that was experienced by the majority of the nation.

The troubles brought on by the disobedience and failures of those who chose to be faithless is now a thing of the past. He is the God of the amen, translated in the NASB as the God of truth. “For every one of God’s promises are “Yes” in him; therefore also through him the “Amen” is spoken, to the glory we give to God.” (2 Corinthians 1:20, NET)

God of truth is (lit.) 'the God of (the) Amen' (explained by 2 Cor. 1:20), the God who says 'amen' to all his promises, affirming their reality and his trustworthiness to keep them: the God who promised of old in Abraham that a worldwide people would find the blessing they needed and who will keep his word. (Motyer 1999, 449)

He is a promise making and a promise keeping God.

So the text declares that, in those days that are yet to come, the whole earth shall be filled with men whose eyes have been purged from ignorance and sin, and from the illusions of sense and the fascinations of folly, and who have learned that only in the God of the Amen is the blessing of their life to be found. (MacLaren 2009, 241)

Only the God of the Amen can then follow up with the picture of what not only the remnant will enjoy, but all of us who have chosen to remain faithful to Him. A new heaven and a new earth. Promises kept.

Isaiah 56:1

"This is what the LORD says: "Guard justice and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come And My righteousness to be revealed."" (NASB 2020)

For those of His people and of us who read that and agreed to what it is we were being asked to do, guard justice and do righteousness, now we find out why we would want to do that. Because He is the God of the Amen and He will fulfill His promises.

Isaiah 65:17–18

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness." (NASB 2020)

Why do righteousness? "The people should do righteousness in anticipation of this manifestation of divine power; they should abandon idolatry for this reason; they should believe in God's revelation of his glory in them because of this; they should listen to the voice of the Servant/Messiah when he says he will open their prison doors because of this.

The one who created the heavens and the earth (i.e., the whole universe or cosmos) in the first place certainly has the ability to do something new." (Oswalt 1988, 655)

YAHWEH is the Creator. He has chosen to have a relationship with His creation and those who turned to Him, He has promises he will keep for them. For those who rejected Him, He also has promises He will keep for them as well.

The promise here reaches its culminating point, which had already been seen from afar in Isa. 51:16. Jehovah creates a new heaven and a new earth, which bind so fast with their glory, and which so thoroughly satisfy all desires, that there is no thought of the former ones, and no one wishes them back again. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 621)

In Genesis 1:1 we read that God created the universe out of nothing. He spoke it into existence.

God is the one who preexisted everything, and it was by His word He spoke everything into existence. "...creation from nothing does not mean creation by nothing. It means, rather, that God created the universe without the aid of any preexisting matter or substance. He did it simply by His own infinite omnipotence. Someone who used absolutely nothing else caused the entire creation to come into being "by his powerful word" (Heb. 1:3; cf. Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26)." (Geisler 2003, 434)

The same Hebrew word, bara, that was used in Genesis 1:1 is also used here. God will create, out of nothing, a new heaven and a new earth. "The use of bara here in Isaiah means that God is going to



create something entirely new. It won't be a matter of simply remodeling the earth and the heavens, for in 2 Peter 3:10, we read that this earth will be done away with entirely. In a millisecond flash of unbelievable energy and fervent heat, things will cease to be." (Courson 2006, 467)

When? We do have an idea of sequence, unlike the Jew who was reading this around 700BC. From a high level:

- Rapture
- Unknown period of time
- Tribulation
- Great Tribulation
- Second Coming of Christ/Armageddon
- Sheep and Goats Judgment
- Millennium
- Final rebellion
- Great White Throne
- **New heaven and new earth**

He will create, out of nothing, a new heaven and a new earth. This new creation will be so magnificent that all before it becomes a dim memory.

After telling the remnant what He intends to do, He answers the next question...how long?

Isaiah 65:18

"But be glad and **rejoice forever in what I create**; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness." (NASB 2020)

There are two imperatives here in verse 18, two commands which all of us who will be there will have no difficulty being obedient to. "The doubling of the imperatives is itself a guarantee of total joy, as if saying it two ways encompassed every possible joyful feeling. For ever indicates the final difference: the fickleness and uncertainty of 'earth's joys' now will not be so then." (J. A. Motyer 1996, 530)

There will also be a new Jerusalem created solely for rejoicing. The new Jerusalem has a unique characteristic, something that will never happen in it.

Isaiah 65:19

"I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there **will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying.**" (NASB 2020)

Revelation 21:2-4

"And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: "Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them. **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more—or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.**" (NET)

The description we are reading here in Isaiah 65 is a description of the eternal state. A new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem. One which we know from Revelation 21 is a giant cube.

Revelation 21:16-17

"The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements." (NASB95)

Where have we seen a cube with the same measurements before? We saw it in the measurements of the Holy of Holies in the Temple in 1 Kings 6:20 where we see the measurements of 20x20x20 cubits.

This particular shape would immediately remind the Jewish reader of the inner sanctuary of the temple (a perfect cube, each dimension being twenty cubits; 1 Kgs 6:20), the place of divine presence. (Mounce 1997, 392)

So how big is the footprint of this city? This city is 1500 miles by 1500 miles, and it is 1500 miles tall. Those are some very tall buildings.

The base of it would stretch from furthest Maine to furthest Florida, and from the shore of the Atlantic to Colorado. It would cover all Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Prussia, European Turkey, and half of European Russia, taken together! (Seiss 1900, 409)

So if the New Jerusalem center point comes down to the approximate center of Jerusalem today, what do the dimensions look like?

This is a city that stretches as far as Libya to the west, Iran to the east, Bulgaria to the north and the Sudan to the south.

And yes, someone has considered what that means in terms of people and mansion square footage.

If this figure is used, then the new Jerusalem would have to accommodate 20 billion residents. Also, assume that 25 percent of the city is used for the “mansions” of these inhabitants (John 14:2), with the rest allocated to streets, parks, public buildings, etc. Then the average space assigned to each person would be:

$$(1380(1380)(1380))/(4(20)(1,000,000,000))=(1 \text{ cubic mile})/30$$

This would correspond to a cubical “block” with about seventy-five acres on each face. Obviously, there is adequate room in the holy city for all who will be there. Another way of measuring the size would be that the average length (or width, or height) of each person’s block would be a little over a third of a mile in each direction. Some, no doubt, would have larger amounts, some smaller, but this would be about the average size. (Morris 1983, 451)

Isaiah then backs up a thousand years and begins telling us the conditions of what it will be like to live on the earth after Messiah has come and taken over. We looked at the take over earlier with the word picture provided by Isaiah in Isaiah 63:1 – 3.

This is not unusual for prophecy to go forward and then back. Quickly—as is the prophetic habit—Isaiah shifts gears, and now speaks not of the eternal state, but of the millennial earth. There will be death in the millennial earth, but in the transformed biology and ecology of the world under the reign of Jesus Christ, people will live incredibly longer, as they did in the days before the flood. (Guzik 2000, Is 65:20-25)

Isaiah 65:20–25

“No longer will there be in it an infant who lives only a few days, Or an old person who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of a hundred, And the one who does not reach the age of a hundred Will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will fully enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, Or give birth to children for disaster; For they are the descendants of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them. It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will listen. The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm on all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

Under the rule and reign of Messiah, the earth will become like Eden. The entire planet will be arable supporting crops. Massive geological change, environmental change, biological change and sociological change will be the order of the day.

The list of changes is astounding.

- No more disease seen in:
  - An end to infant mortality
  - Long healthy life with an active old age
  - Extended life spans with someone considered a youth at 100
- Righteousness ruling the planet seen in:
  - Death of the young prior to 100
  - Peace with God and peace between men seen in:
  - An end to war and disasters
- Long life
- Work will have meaning and be worthwhile

All will have a close real time relationship with God. “Their relationship with God will be so close that He will anticipate their requests and have the answer for them even before they call, and when they do speak, God will hear before they finish.” (Horton 2000, 462)

So much for the old complaint that God was not listening to their prayers. That was a problem caused by their sin and hypocrisy. Now, we see perfect communication with God.

The alienation caused by sin is over. As Paul reported, all of creation has been waiting for this day. “For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” (Romans 8:19–22, NASB 2020)

Jesus is on the throne, and peace extends now to all of creation.

The omniscient, omnipotent God had a great and holy, eternal, and unchangeable purpose for His creation, established in His heart before the world began. The temporary intrusion of sin and death can never thwart or deter that purpose. Finally, in the counsels of God, the time has come to renew and fulfill that purpose. The great curse has been removed from the creation, and the kingdom of God has come. (Morris 1983, 463)

*If we go back to our Old Testament, we think of, again, the whole situation like an Israelite would. God loves us; He made us to be a part of His family. This was normal. He chose to create a world that we could live in as embodied beings; He chose to come there to live with us; He chose to have heaven, His domain, intersect with ours, to be part of our life, and have our life be part of His life.*

*This should’ve been normal, and when it blows up because of rebellion—both divine rebellion and human rebellion—what God is about is restoring not only the relationship and taking us to some ethereal thing called “heaven,” where it’s even hard for us to imagine what that is; the plan is actually to bring heaven back to earth in a*

*global capacity and have humanity to live on an earth that is Edenic in its fullness and have God there with us. All of these ideas are packed into things like the tabernacle, the temple, Zion, Sinai, and again, our relationship with God as believers where God actually indwells us. (Heiser 2019)*

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