

Isaiah 65 — “Behold, I Create All Things New”

1) God’s Surprising Mercy and Our Stubborn Resistance (Isaiah 65:1–7)

*“I was sought by those who did not ask for Me;
I was found by those who did not seek Me.
I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’
To a nation that was not called by My name.
I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people,
Who walk in a way that is not good,
According to their own thoughts;
A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face;
Who sacrifice in gardens,
And burn incense on altars of brick;
Who sit among the graves,
And spend the night in the tombs;
Who eat swine’s flesh,
And the broth of abominable things is in their vessels;
Who say, ‘Keep to yourself,
Do not come near me,
For I am holier than you!’
These are smoke in My nostrils,
A fire that burns all the day.”*

— Isaiah 65:1–5

The Lord answers the remnant’s prayer (Isaiah 64) with a surprising declaration: He has been found by those not seeking Him (a preview of His mercy reaching the nations), while His covenant people resisted Him, inventing their own spirituality and exalting themselves in false holiness.

*“Behold, it is written before Me:
I will not keep silence, but will repay—
Even repay into their bosom—
Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,” says the Lord...*

— Isaiah 65:6–7

Balanced emphasis: God sovereignly extends Himself (“I have stretched out My hands”), yet people are truly responsible for their response. Grace is real; accountability is real.

Application: Where have I been walking “according to my own thoughts” instead of God’s Word? Where has pride (“I am holier than you”) kept me from repentance and renewal?

2) The Preserving Mercy: A Remnant and a Future (Isaiah 65:8–10)

*“Thus says the Lord:
‘As the new wine is found in the cluster,
And one says, ‘Do not destroy it,*

*For a blessing is in it,
So will I do for My servants' sake,
That I may not destroy them all.
I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
And from Judah an heir of My mountains;
My elect shall inherit it,
And My servants shall dwell there.
Sharon shall be a fold of flocks,
And the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down,
For My people who have sought Me.”*

— Isaiah 65:8–10

Even in judgment, God preserves a faithful remnant. He keeps a blessing “in the cluster” and promises inheritance to “My elect... My servants... My people who have sought Me.” God’s sovereignty does not cancel seeking; it creates and honors it.

Application: Do not despise “small clusters.” God loves to preserve a blessing in what looks broken. Seek Him; He keeps those who keep seeking.

3) Two Paths and Two Outcomes (Isaiah 65:11–16)

*“But you are those who forsake the Lord,
Who forget My holy mountain,
Who prepare a table for Gad,
And who furnish a drink offering for Meni.
Therefore I will number you for the sword...
Because when I called, you did not answer;
When I spoke, you did not hear,
But did evil before My eyes,
And chose that in which I do not delight.”*

— Isaiah 65:11–12

Idolatry (then and now) rebrands itself as “options,” but God calls it forsaking. The contrast is stark:

*“Behold, My servants shall eat,
But you shall be hungry;
Behold, My servants shall drink,
But you shall be thirsty;
Behold, My servants shall rejoice,
But you shall be ashamed;
Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart,
But you shall cry for sorrow of heart...”*

— Isaiah 65:13–14

*“So you shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen;
For the Lord God will slay you,*

*And call His servants by another name;
So that he who blesses himself in the earth
Shall bless himself in the God of truth;
And he who swears in the earth
Shall swear by the God of truth;
Because the former troubles are forgotten,
And because they are hidden from My eyes.”*
— Isaiah 65:15–16

Balanced emphasis: God calls; we must answer. The joy of His servants is not luck—it’s the fruit of responding to His voice.

Application: Which table am I setting—one for the living God, or one for “Gad and Meni” (modern fortunes and destinies)? Choose whom you will serve—your future depends on it.

4) Far Horizon: New Heavens and New Earth (Isaiah 65:17)

*“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”*
— Isaiah 65:17

God promises the ultimate renewal—a creation so new that the old sorrows will not even come to mind. He alone can create (“bara”) out of nothing; He will make all things new. This points beyond the millennial peace to the final state where righteousness dwells.

Application: Live for what lasts. If God will unmake and remake the cosmos, order your loves toward the eternal—truth, holiness, people, the gospel.

5) Near Horizon: Kingdom Joy and Restored Shalom (Isaiah 65:18–25)

*“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;
For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing,
And her people a joy.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
And joy in My people;
The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her,
Nor the voice of crying.”*
— Isaiah 65:18–19

*“No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.”*
— Isaiah 65:20

*“They shall build houses and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

*They shall not build and another inhabit;
They shall not plant and another eat;
For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people,
And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
Nor bring forth children for trouble;
For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord,
And their offspring with them.”*
— Isaiah 65:21–23

*“It shall come to pass
That before they call, I will answer;
And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”*
— Isaiah 65:24

*“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
The lion shall eat straw like the ox,
And dust shall be the serpent’s food.
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,”
Says the Lord.*
— Isaiah 65:25

God pictures a redeemed order: longevity, justice, fruitful labor, unhindered communion with God, and even creation at peace. It is a foretaste of the King’s righteous reign and, beyond that, the everlasting harmony of the new creation.

Application: Let tomorrow’s peace shape today’s priorities. Build, plant, reconcile, pray—live now as citizens of the kingdom that is coming.

Practical Application (for us, now)

1. Answer when God calls: “When I called, you did not answer...” (Isaiah 65:12). Make a fresh habit of immediate obedience.
2. Seek as His servant: Hunger, thirst, joy, and song are promised to “My servants” (Isaiah 65:13–14). Serve Jesus where you live, work, and worship.
3. Repent of self-made religion: Lay down “my own thoughts” (Isaiah 65:2) and return to Scripture-directed devotion.
4. Pray with expectancy: “Before they call, I will answer” (Isaiah 65:24). Keep asking—God delights to meet His people.
5. Live toward the new creation: Invest in what will survive the fire—holiness, the gospel, and love.

A Challenge to Believers

- From hearing to heeding: Do not just admire truth; act on it.
- From pride to humility: Drop the “holier than you” pose (Isaiah 65:5). Put on Christlike lowliness.
- From idols to allegiance: Clear the “tables” set for lesser gods (Isaiah 65:11). Jesus alone deserves your worship.
- From cynicism to hope: Rehearse God’s promises of renewal (Isaiah 65:17–25) until hope reorders your habits.

Set a seven-day rhythm: read Isaiah 65 aloud daily, confess one misplaced allegiance, perform one act of humble service, and pray for one person outside the kingdom.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

God says, “I have stretched out My hands all day long” (Isaiah 65:2). He has reached for you—ultimately in Jesus Christ, who died for your sins and rose again. You cannot save yourself; but the Savior who will make new heavens and a new earth can make you new today.

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” — Romans 10:13

If you are ready to turn from sin and trust Jesus, pray from your heart:

*“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God.
You stretched out Your hands for me at the cross and rose from the dead.
I turn from my sin and my self-rule.
Forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new.
I receive You as my Savior and my Lord.
Teach me to live as Your servant, until the day You make all things new.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

If you prayed sincerely, tell a mature believer, be baptized, and join a Bible-teaching church. Welcome to a new life—one that begins now and points to the day when the King makes **everything** new.