

New Heavens and a New Earth—Isaiah 65:17–25

Open It

1. What, in your opinion, enables a person to reach old age in contentment?

Isaiah 65:17–25 (ESV)

¹⁷“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

¹⁸But 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.

¹⁹I 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.

²⁰No 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.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They 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, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They 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.

²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

Explore It

2. What did God, speaking through Isaiah, promise to create? (65:17)
3. What will happen to the memory of the past? (65:17–18)
4. When God rejoices over Jerusalem, what will be eliminated from it forever? (65:19)
5. How will premature death be redefined when God redeems His people? (65:20)
6. In contrast to invasion and exile in Isaiah’s time, what security will be enjoyed by the people God blesses? (65:21–23)
7. How will the nature of child-bearing and work be different in the new earth? (65:23)
8. When does God promise to hear and answer His people? (65:24)
9. How will the relationships within the natural world reflect the peace of God’s presence? (65:25)
10. What will be totally absent from God’s holy mountain? (65:25)

Get It

11. How does this prophecy of Isaiah reinforce the idea that the blessings we receive are not dependent on us?
12. What sorts of experiences in life would we rather not remember?
13. When has God provided for you before you even asked?

Apply It

14. What promise can encourage you the next time you feel that you’ve worked or labored in vain?