CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 65 — A New Heaven and a New Earth

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 65 is God's answer to the desperate prayer of:

Isaiah 63.

And:

Isaiah 64.

Isaiah 64 ended with God's people asking:

“Will You remain silent?”

Isaiah 65 begins with God:

Speaking.

The people had asked:

Will You answer?

God answers.

They had asked:

Will You remain silent?

God reveals that He has not been:

Silent.

Inactive.

Unavailable.

Instead He says:

“Here I am, here I am.”

The chapter begins with one of the great surprises of grace.

God says He revealed Himself to people who:

Did not ask for Him.

He was found by people who:

Did not seek Him.

At the same time, He describes Israel as a people toward whom He had stretched out His hands:

“All day long.”

God was calling.

They were:

Resisting.

God was inviting.

They were:

Following their own thoughts.

God was reaching.

They were:

Rebelling.

This creates one of the great contrasts of the chapter:

Those who were not looking for God:

Find Him.

Those who had God's revelation:

Reject Him.

Paul later uses this passage in Romans 10 to explain God's grace reaching:

The Gentiles.

And Israel's persistent resistance to:

God's call.

Isaiah 65 therefore shows us that God's grace is:

Unexpected.

Sovereign.

Wide-reaching.

But God's grace does not mean:

Sin is ignored.

Verses 3–7 describe people involved in:

Idolatry.

Forbidden practices.

Religious corruption.

Self-righteousness.

They even say:

“I am holier than you.”

Yet God says such pride is like:

Smoke in His nostrils.

The chapter then makes another important distinction.

God will judge:

Rebellion.

But He will preserve:

A remnant.

The picture is a cluster of grapes.

Someone sees juice still within it and says:

“Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it.”

God therefore promises:

“I will not destroy them all.”

Judgment does not eliminate:

Grace.

Discipline does not erase:

God's covenant purpose.

A remnant remains.

Then Isaiah contrasts:

God's servants.

And:

Those who forsake Him.

God's servants will:

Eat.

Drink.

Rejoice.

Sing.

Those who reject Him will experience:

Hunger.

Thirst.

Shame.

Anguish.

The distinction is not accidental.

God knows:

Those who serve Him.

God knows:

Those who reject Him.

Then the chapter rises toward one of the greatest promises in all of Isaiah:

“For behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.”

The chapter began with:

Rebellion.

It ends with:

Restoration.

It began with:

Idolatry.

It ends with:

Peace.

It began with:

People provoking God.

It ends with:

God delighting in His people.

It began with:

Judgment.

It ends with:

Creation renewed.

The final section pictures:

Joy.

Long life.

Secure homes.

Fruitful vineyards.

Meaningful labor.

Blessed descendants.

Answered prayer.

Peace in creation.

No harm.

No destruction.

The wolf and lamb:

Feed together.

The chapter therefore moves from:

Rebellion.

To:

Renewal.

From:

Judgment.

To:

Joy.

From:

Self-righteousness.

To:

A new name.

From:

Hunger.

To:

Provision.

From:

Crying.

To:

Rejoicing.

From:

Former troubles.

To:

New creation.

From:

A fallen world.

To:

A world where nothing harms or destroys on God's holy mountain.

The central truth of Isaiah 65 is:

The Lord graciously reveals Himself to those who were not seeking Him, patiently reaches toward rebellious people, judges persistent sin, preserves a faithful remnant, distinguishes between His servants and those who reject Him, and ultimately promises a renewed creation characterized by joy, security, fruitful labor, answered prayer, and peace.

I. GOD FOUND BY THOSE NOT SEEKING HIM

Isaiah 65:1 — “Here I Am”

“The Lord says: ‘I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. To a nation not called by My name, I said, “Here I am, here I am.”’”

The chapter begins with:

Grace.

Unexpected grace.

God reveals Himself to:

People who had not asked.

He is found by:

People who had not been seeking.

He speaks to a nation:

Not called by His name.

His words are:

“Here I am.”

Twice.

This reveals:

Divine initiative.

God moves toward people who were not naturally moving toward:

Him.

Cross References

Romans 10:20

Paul directly applies Isaiah's words to God's gracious revelation among those who had not been seeking Him.

Romans 9:30

Gentiles who were not pursuing righteousness nevertheless received righteousness through faith.

Deuteronomy 32:21

God warned Israel that because they provoked Him through false gods, He would provoke them through a people previously regarded as outside His covenant nation.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation begins with:

God's initiative.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace is astonishing because God can say “Here I am” to people who were not even looking for Him.

II. “I REVEALED MYSELF”

God makes Himself:

Known.

Human beings do not discover God merely because they are:

Clever.

God reveals:

Himself.

Spiritual Principle

Knowledge of God depends upon:

Divine revelation.

III. THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK

Grace reaches people who had:

No covenant claim.

No spiritual achievement.

No history of seeking.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's grace can reach a person before that person understands how desperately he needs grace.

IV. THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK

This is not a celebration of:

Spiritual indifference.

It is a celebration of:

Divine initiative.

Spiritual Principle

God is often at work before:

We recognize His work.

V. “HERE I AM, HERE I AM”

God presents Himself as:

Available.

Revealed.

Near.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The tragedy is not that God never reveals Himself; the tragedy is that people can hear “Here I am” and still turn away.

VI. ALL DAY LONG I HELD OUT MY HANDS

Isaiah 65:2 — A Rebellious People

“All day long I have held out My hands to a rebellious people, who walk in ways that are not good, following their own thoughts.”

God's posture is remarkable.

His hands are:

Extended.

Not briefly.

But:

All day long.

Yet the people are:

Rebellious.

They walk:

Wrong paths.

They follow:

Their own thoughts.

Cross References

Romans 10:21

Paul quotes this verse to describe Israel's persistent disobedience despite God's continuing invitation.

Proverbs 1:24

Wisdom describes calling out to people who refused to listen even though the invitation was extended.

Jeremiah 7:13

God repeatedly spoke to His people, but they refused to listen or answer Him.

Spiritual Principle

God's patience does not mean:

Human rebellion is harmless.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The hands Israel rejected were hands that had been reaching toward them all day long.

VII. GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED HANDS

The image suggests:

Invitation.

Appeal.

Patience.

Spiritual Principle

God's warnings are expressions of:

Mercy.

VIII. A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE

Rebellion is not:

Ignorance alone.

It is resistance to:

Known truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Rebellion becomes especially serious when it continues in front of God's outstretched hands.

IX. WALKING IN WAYS NOT GOOD

Wrong belief eventually becomes:

Wrong direction.

Spiritual Principle

A person's path reveals:

What he is following.

X. FOLLOWING THEIR OWN THOUGHTS

Their ultimate authority had become:

Themselves.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One of the oldest forms of rebellion is replacing “Thus says the Lord” with “This is what I think.”

XI. THEY PROVOKE ME CONTINUALLY

Isaiah 65:3 — Religious Rebellion

“They provoke Me continually to My face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick.”

Their rebellion was:

Religious.

They still practiced:

Worship.

But it was worship God had:

Not commanded.

They were religious while:

Rebellious.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 32:16

Israel provoked God to jealousy by turning to foreign gods and detestable practices.

2 Kings 17:17

Israel became involved in forbidden religious practices and gave itself over to evil in God's sight.

Isaiah 1:29

Isaiah earlier warned that the people would be ashamed of the gardens and sacred places they had chosen for idolatrous worship.

Spiritual Principle

Religion is not automatically:

Obedience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Worship does not honor God merely because it is called worship; God must be worshiped according to truth.

XII. TO MY FACE

The rebellion was:

Open.

Defiant.

Persistent.

Spiritual Principle

God sees:

Religious hypocrisy.

XIII. SACRIFICES IN GARDENS

The people adopted:

Unauthorized worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A spiritual practice does not become holy simply because someone attaches religious language to it.

XIV. INCENSE ON BRICK ALTARS

The people created their own:

Places.

Methods.

Objects.

Of worship.

Spiritual Principle

Human invention cannot replace:

Divine instruction.

XV. AMONG THE GRAVES

Isaiah 65:4 — Forbidden Practices

“They sit among the graves, and spend the night in secret places; they eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their pots.”

The people had crossed:

Spiritual boundaries.

The practices described involve:

Defilement.

Forbidden food.

Occult-like settings.

Secret religious activity.

Cross References

Isaiah 66:17

Isaiah again condemns those who engage in forbidden rituals and eat what God's law declared unclean.

Leviticus 11:7

Under Israel's covenant law, the pig was classified as unclean and forbidden as food.

Mark 5:2

The New Testament account of the demon-possessed man among the tombs provides another picture connecting graves with uncleanness and spiritual darkness.

Spiritual Principle

Rebellion often travels farther than:

The rebel originally intended.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When people reject God's boundaries, they frequently discover that sin has boundaries of its own—and those boundaries become prisons.

XVI. SECRET PLACES

Sin often prefers:

Darkness.

Secrecy.

Isolation.

Spiritual Principle

What cannot survive exposure to truth should be:

Examined carefully.

XVII. UNCLEAN FOOD

The people were deliberately violating:

Covenant commands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Persistent disobedience eventually treats what God calls unclean as though His judgment no longer matters.

XVIII. “I AM HOLIER THAN YOU”

Isaiah 65:5 — Religious Pride

“They say, ‘Keep away from me, do not come near me, for I am holier than you.’ These are like smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.”

Perhaps the greatest irony appears here.

People involved in:

Disobedience.

False worship.

Forbidden practices.

Still considered themselves:

Superior.

They said:

“I am holier than you.”

This is:

Self-righteousness.

Cross References

Luke 18:11

The Pharisee thanked God that he was not like other people and compared himself favorably to those he considered sinners.

Luke 18:9

Jesus told the parable specifically to people who trusted in their own righteousness and looked down on others.

Galatians 6:3

Paul warns that anyone who thinks he is something when he is nothing deceives himself.

Spiritual Principle

Pride can exist even inside:

Religion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One of the clearest signs of spiritual blindness is feeling morally superior while openly resisting God.

XIX. KEEP AWAY FROM ME

Self-righteousness separates:

People.

Spiritual Principle

True holiness produces:

Humility.

Not:

Arrogance.

XX. HOLIER THAN YOU

They measured holiness by:

Comparison with others.

God measures according to:

His standard.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can always find someone who makes you look righteous by comparison, but comparison will never make you righteous before God.

XXI. SMOKE IN GOD'S NOSTRILS

God finds their pride:

Offensive.

Persistent.

Provoking.

Spiritual Principle

Religious pride does not impress:

God.

XXII. GOD REPAYS SIN

Isaiah 65:6 — It Is Written Before Me

“See, it is written before Me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay—yes, I will repay into their lap—”

God has:

A record.

Nothing has been:

Forgotten.

The people asked in Isaiah 64:

Will You remain silent?

God answers:

“I will not keep silent.”

But His answer includes:

Judgment.

Cross References

Revelation 20:12

At final judgment, books are opened and people are judged according to what has been recorded concerning their deeds.

Jeremiah 17:1

Judah's sin is described as deeply engraved, emphasizing that their rebellion is not hidden from God.

Romans 2:6

God will repay each person according to his deeds.

Spiritual Principle

God's silence should never be interpreted as:

Forgetfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who appears silent may still be keeping perfect account.

XXIII. “IT IS WRITTEN BEFORE ME”

God remembers:

Perfectly.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing escapes:

Divine knowledge.

XXIV. I WILL REPAY

God's judgment is:

Just.

Measured.

Certain.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace should never be twisted into the belief that God has stopped caring about justice.

XXV. THE SINS OF THE ANCESTORS

Isaiah 65:7 — Generational Rebellion

“Both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,” says the Lord, “because they burned incense on the mountains and mocked Me on the hills. I will measure into their lap the full payment for their former deeds.”

The present generation stood within:

A history of rebellion.

They continued patterns established by:

Previous generations.

Cross References

Exodus 20:5

God warns that persistent hatred and rebellion can have consequences extending through generations.

Jeremiah 32:18

Jeremiah acknowledges both God's steadfast love and His righteous dealings with entrenched generational sin.

Leviticus 26:39

Israel is warned that covenant rebellion could result in people suffering under both their own iniquity and the inherited consequences of ancestral rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

A sinful pattern can become:

Generational.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You do not have to repeat every spiritual failure you inherited. A family pattern can explain temptation without excusing continuation.

XXVI. MOCKED ME ON THE HILLS

Their worship became:

Insult.

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry gives God's glory to:

Another.

XXVII. FULL PAYMENT

God's judgment is not:

Random.

It is measured according to:

Truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never underestimates sin, but neither does He judge unjustly; His measurement is perfect.

XXVIII. A BLESSING IN THE CLUSTER

Isaiah 65:8 — The Remnant Preserved

“This is what the Lord says: ‘As new wine is found in a cluster, and someone says, “Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it,” so I will do for the sake of My servants—I will not destroy them all.’”

This verse introduces:

Hope.

A cluster of grapes may appear:

Ready for destruction.

But someone discovers:

Good juice.

Therefore:

Do not destroy it.

There is:

A blessing within.

God applies the picture to:

His people.

He will judge.

But:

Not destroy everyone.

A remnant will remain.

Cross References

Joel 2:24

God promises restored abundance with threshing floors full of grain and vats overflowing with wine and oil.

Romans 11:5

Paul teaches that even in a time of widespread unbelief, God preserves a remnant according to grace.

Genesis 18:32

Abraham intercedes for Sodom, asking whether God would spare the city for the sake of a small number of righteous people.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment does not cancel:

God's preserving grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can look at a cluster others would throw away and say, “Do not destroy it; there is still blessing there.”

XXIX. NEW WINE IN THE CLUSTER

Not everything in the cluster is:

Worthless.

Spiritual Principle

God knows how to distinguish:

The faithful.

XXX. FOR THE SAKE OF MY SERVANTS

The remnant is identified as:

Servants.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In a generation of rebellion, God still sees those who belong to Him.

XXXI. I WILL NOT DESTROY THEM ALL

Judgment is:

Real.

But preservation is:

Real.

Spiritual Principle

God's covenant purpose survives:

Human failure.

XXXII. DESCENDANTS FROM JACOB

Isaiah 65:9 — My Chosen Ones Will Inherit

“I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will inherit My mountains. My chosen ones will inherit it, and My servants will dwell there.”

God's promise continues through:

A preserved people.

They will:

Inherit.

Dwell.

Possess.

Cross References

Genesis 28:13

God promised Jacob the land and declared that his descendants would receive the inheritance.

Romans 9:8

Paul explains that God's promise is not fulfilled merely through natural descent but through the children of promise.

Ezekiel 37:25

God promises His restored people that they will dwell in the land associated with His covenant promises.

Spiritual Principle

God's promises are not destroyed by:

Human rebellion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can preserve a promise through a remnant when the majority walks away.

XXXIII. MY CHOSEN ONES

God distinguishes:

His servants.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord knows:

Those who are His.

XXXIV. MY SERVANTS WILL DWELL THERE

The promise includes:

Security.

Belonging.

Rest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's servants may pass through displacement, but His purpose moves toward dwelling.

XXXV. SHARON A PASTURE

Isaiah 65:10 — The Valley of Trouble Becomes Rest

“Sharon will be a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for My people who seek Me.”

The land once associated with:

Trouble.

Becomes:

Rest.

The Valley of Achor recalls:

Judgment.

Yet God promises:

Restoration.

Cross References

Hosea 2:15

God promises to transform the Valley of Achor—a valley associated with trouble—into a door of hope.

Joshua 7:26

The Valley of Achor received its name through the judgment connected with Achan's sin.

Song of Solomon 2:1

The imagery of Sharon is associated with beauty and flourishing life.

Spiritual Principle

God can transform:

A place of trouble.

Into:

A place of rest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace can turn yesterday's Valley of Trouble into tomorrow's pasture of peace.

XXXVI. MY PEOPLE WHO SEEK ME

Verse 1 described:

People who did not seek God.

Verse 10 describes:

People who now seek Him.

Spiritual Principle

Grace creates:

Seekers.

XXXVII. JUDGMENT ON THE UNFAITHFUL

Isaiah 65:11 — Forsaking the Lord

“But as for you who forsake the Lord, who forget My holy mountain, who prepare a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,”

The people replaced:

The Lord.

With:

False spiritual powers.

Fortune.

Destiny.

They abandoned:

God.

And attempted to secure their future through:

Idolatry.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 10:21

Paul warns that believers cannot participate in the Lord's table while also participating in idolatrous worship.

Jeremiah 7:9

Jeremiah condemns people who commit serious sin and then continue religious activity as though worship could excuse rebellion.

2 Kings 21:5

Manasseh built altars for heavenly powers in the courts of the Lord's temple.

Spiritual Principle

People who abandon God often look for another power to:

Control the future.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When people forsake the Lord, they rarely stop worshiping; they simply give their trust to something else.

XXXVIII. FORGET MY HOLY MOUNTAIN

Spiritual forgetting leads to:

Spiritual replacement.

Spiritual Principle

What we stop remembering about God eventually affects:

What we worship.

XXXIX. FORTUNE AND DESTINY

The irony is strong.

They worship:

Fortune.

Destiny.

But God says He will determine:

Their destiny.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The future does not belong to Fortune or Destiny; it belongs to the sovereign Lord.

XL. WHEN I CALLED, YOU DID NOT ANSWER

Isaiah 65:12 — Chosen Rebellion

“I will destine you for the sword, and all of you will bow down to the slaughter. For when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen. You did evil before My eyes and chose what displeased Me.”

Judgment has a stated reason.

God:

Called.

They:

Did not answer.

God:

Spoke.

They:

Did not listen.

They:

Chose evil.

Cross References

Matthew 22:7

Jesus' parable describes severe judgment upon those who rejected and mistreated the king's messengers.

Jeremiah 15:2

Jeremiah describes differing forms of judgment coming upon a people who persistently reject God.

Proverbs 1:28

Those who repeatedly rejected wisdom eventually call after consequences arrive, but find that the opportunity they despised has passed.

Spiritual Principle

Repeated refusal eventually has:

Consequences.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The most frightening words in verse 12 may not be “sword” or “slaughter,” but “I called, and you did not answer.”

XLI. GOD CALLED

Judgment came after:

Invitation.

Spiritual Principle

God's warnings reveal:

Patience.

XLII. YOU DID NOT LISTEN

Hearing sound is not the same as:

Listening.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can hear God's Word repeatedly while training your heart not to listen.

XLIII. YOU CHOSE WHAT DISPLEASED ME

The verse emphasizes:

Choice.

Spiritual Principle

Rebellion involves:

Moral responsibility.

XLIV. MY SERVANTS WILL EAT

Isaiah 65:13 — Two Different Outcomes

“Therefore this is what the Lord God says: ‘My servants will eat, but you will go hungry; My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty; My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame.’”

The contrast becomes:

Sharp.

My servants:

Eat.

Others:

Hunger.

My servants:

Drink.

Others:

Thirst.

My servants:

Rejoice.

Others:

Experience shame.

Cross References

Luke 6:21

Jesus pronounces blessing upon those who hunger now because God's kingdom will bring satisfaction.

Luke 6:25

Jesus also warns those who live satisfied without God that their condition will ultimately be reversed.

Matthew 5:6

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are promised satisfaction from God.

Spiritual Principle

God distinguishes between:

Faithfulness.

And:

Rebellion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Present appearances do not tell the whole story; God can reverse hunger and fullness, sorrow and joy, shame and honor.

XLV. MY SERVANTS

Repeatedly the faithful are called:

Servants.

Spiritual Principle

Belonging to God includes:

Serving God.

XLVI. THEY WILL REJOICE

The destiny of God's servants includes:

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Service to God may involve hardship now, but shame does not have the final word over God's servants.

XLVII. SINGING AND WAILING

Isaiah 65:14 — Joy of Heart

“My servants will sing out of joy of heart, but you will cry out from anguish of heart and wail from a broken spirit.”

Two sounds fill the verse:

Singing.

And:

Wailing.

One arises from:

Joy.

The other:

Anguish.

Cross References

John 16:20

Jesus teaches that the sorrow of His disciples would be transformed into joy.

Psalm 126:5

Those who sow in tears are promised a harvest accompanied by songs of joy.

James 5:1

James warns the wealthy oppressor to weep and mourn because judgment is coming.

Spiritual Principle

God can produce:

Joy after sorrow.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The final song belongs not to rebellion but to the servants of God.

XLVIII. JOY OF HEART

Biblical joy is deeper than:

Circumstances.

Spiritual Principle

God can create joy:

Within.

XLIX. ANGUISH OF HEART

Rebellion has an:

Inner consequence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin promises pleasure but ultimately produces a broken spirit when its final wages arrive.

L. ANOTHER NAME

Isaiah 65:15 — God Renames His Servants

“You will leave your name as a curse for My chosen ones; the Lord God will put you to death, but He will give His servants another name.”

Names again become important.

Isaiah 62 spoke of:

A new name.

Isaiah 65 again promises:

Another name.

The rebellious identity ends.

God's servants receive:

New identity.

Cross References

Jeremiah 29:22

The names of those judged for wickedness became proverbial examples of divine judgment.

Revelation 2:17

Christ promises the faithful a new name known in connection with His personal covenant reward.

Acts 11:26

The disciples at Antioch came to be known by the new public designation:

Christians.

Spiritual Principle

God has authority to:

Define identity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The name rebellion gives you does not have to be the name grace leaves you with.

LI. THE OLD NAME BECOMES A WARNING

Some names become:

Examples.

Spiritual Principle

A life can become either:

Testimony.

Or:

Warning.

LII. GOD GIVES ANOTHER NAME

New name represents:

New identity.

New relationship.

New future.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely change circumstances; He can change the identity attached to them.

LIII. THE GOD OF TRUTH

Isaiah 65:16 — Former Troubles Forgotten

“Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; and whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth. For the former troubles will be forgotten and hidden from My eyes.”

False gods disappear.

Truth remains.

God is called:

The God of truth.

The past troubles no longer dominate:

The future.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who is in Christ belongs to a new creation in which the old has passed and the new has come.

2 Corinthians 1:20

Every promise of God finds its ultimate “Yes” in Christ.

Psalm 41:13

The God of Israel is praised from everlasting to everlasting.

Spiritual Principle

God's future can become greater than:

Former trouble.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God creates the new, the old no longer has authority to define everything that follows.

LIV. GOD OF TRUTH

In contrast with:

Fortune.

Destiny.

Idols.

The Lord is:

Truth.

Spiritual Principle

Faith rests upon:

Reality.

Not:

Superstition.

LV. FORMER TROUBLES FORGOTTEN

This does not mean God loses:

Knowledge.

It means former troubles no longer dominate:

Experience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can bring His people into a future where yesterday's pain is no longer today's controlling reality.

LVI. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

Isaiah 65:17 — God Creates Again

“For behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”

This is one of the greatest promises in:

Scripture.

God declares:

“I will create.”

The Creator of:

Genesis.

Will create:

Again.

New heavens.

New earth.

Cross References

Revelation 21:1

John sees a new heaven and a new earth after the former creation has passed away.

2 Peter 3:13

Peter says believers look forward to new heavens and a new earth characterized by righteousness.

Isaiah 66:22

Isaiah again speaks of the new heavens and new earth God will make and connects them with the enduring future of His people.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan ends not merely with:

Repair.

But:

Renewal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Bible begins with God creating heaven and earth and moves toward God declaring, “I will create new heavens and a new earth.”

LVII. “BEHOLD”

Pay attention.

Look.

Consider.

Something extraordinary is:

Coming.

Spiritual Principle

Hope looks forward to:

God's promised future.

LVIII. I WILL CREATE

The future depends upon:

God's creative power.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who created something from nothing is not intimidated by what sin has ruined.

LIX. NEW HEAVENS

Creation itself participates in:

Renewal.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption has:

Cosmic dimensions.

LX. A NEW EARTH

Biblical hope is not merely:

Escape.

It includes:

Creation renewed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's final answer to a fallen world is not abandonment but renewal.

LXI. FORMER THINGS NOT REMEMBERED

The new reality will be so:

Complete.

Joyful.

Glorious.

That former sorrow will no longer dominate:

Consciousness.

Spiritual Principle

God's future overwhelms:

Former pain.

LXII. BE GLAD AND REJOICE FOREVER

Isaiah 65:18 — Jerusalem a Delight

“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create; for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.”

God commands:

Rejoicing.

Not temporarily.

But:

Forever.

Why?

Because of what:

He creates.

Jerusalem becomes:

A delight.

Its people:

A joy.

Cross References

Zechariah 8:3

God promises to return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem, transforming the city into a place characterized by truth and holiness.

Psalm 48:2

Zion is described as beautiful and as a source of joy.

Nehemiah 12:43

At Jerusalem's dedication, God's people rejoiced so greatly that their joy could be heard from far away.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration produces:

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God finishes His work, ruins do not get the final word—rejoicing does.

LXIII. REJOICE FOREVER

This is not:

Temporary relief.

Spiritual Principle

God's final restoration produces:

Enduring joy.

LXIV. I WILL CREATE JERUSALEM

The city once:

Desolate.

Becomes:

Delight.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can take the place that once made people weep and make it a place of joy.

LXV. GOD REJOICES OVER HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 65:19 — No More Weeping

“I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in My people. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more.”

Isaiah 62 said:

God rejoices over His people.

Isaiah 65 repeats:

The Lord Himself rejoices.

God delights in:

His people.

Weeping disappears.

Crying disappears.

Cross References

Revelation 21:4

God wipes away every tear, and death, mourning, crying, and pain belong to the former order that has passed away.

Isaiah 25:8

God promises to swallow up death and wipe tears from His people's faces.

Jeremiah 31:12

God's restored people rejoice in His goodness, and their sorrow is replaced by gladness.

Spiritual Principle

God's final purpose for His people is not:

Endless mourning.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who hears His people weep is preparing a future where the sound of weeping is no longer heard.

LXVI. I WILL REJOICE

God is not presented as:

Reluctantly tolerating.

His people.

He:

Rejoices.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration produces:

Divine delight.

LXVII. NO MORE CRYING

Sorrow has:

An expiration date.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

For God's redeemed people, tears are real—but they are not eternal.

LXVIII. EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY

Isaiah 65:20 — Life Without Premature Loss

“Never again will there be in it an infant who lives only a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.”

Isaiah pictures extraordinary:

Longevity.

Premature death becomes:

Unusual.

The imagery communicates a world transformed by:

Blessing.

Cross References

Zechariah 8:4

Zechariah pictures elderly men and women once again sitting safely in Jerusalem because of their advanced age.

Job 5:26

Long life is compared to grain being gathered at full maturity.

Genesis 25:8

Abraham dies at a good old age, full of years, presenting long life as a sign of completed earthly blessing.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration reverses:

Premature loss.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah pictures restoration so abundant that what now seems like exceptional longevity becomes ordinary.

LXIX. LIFE FLOURISHES

Death no longer dominates:

Daily existence.

Spiritual Principle

God is the giver of:

Life.

LXX. BUILD HOUSES AND LIVE IN THEM

Isaiah 65:21 — Secure Labor

“They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.”

Work becomes:

Meaningful.

Secure.

Enjoyable.

People build:

And stay.

Plant:

And eat.

Their labor is not:

Stolen.

Cross References

Amos 9:14

God promises restoration in which His people rebuild ruined cities, live in them, plant vineyards, and enjoy their produce.

Deuteronomy 28:30

Under covenant judgment people could build a house and lose it to someone else; Isaiah reverses that curse.

Jeremiah 29:5

Exiles were told to build houses, live in them, plant gardens, and eat their produce even during displacement.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration reconnects:

Labor.

With:

Enjoyment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In God's restored order, the person who builds enjoys the house and the person who plants enjoys the vineyard.

LXXI. BUILD AND DWELL

Security.

Spiritual Principle

God's blessing includes:

Stability.

LXXII. PLANT AND EAT

Fruitfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God cares not only that His people labor but that their labor reaches its proper fruit.

LXXIII. OTHERS WILL NOT TAKE IT

Isaiah 65:22 — The Work of Their Hands

“They will not build and others inhabit, they will not plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of My people; My chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.”

The curse of:

Exploitation.

Is reversed.

No longer:

Build for someone else.

Plant for someone else.

Lose what you worked for.

Instead:

Enjoy the work.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 28:30

Covenant judgment included building a house only for another person to possess it.

Leviticus 26:16

Disobedience could result in enemies consuming what God's people planted.

Psalm 92:12

The righteous are compared to flourishing trees, especially palms and cedars.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom includes:

Justice.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Restoration means the enemy does not always get to eat the harvest.

LXXIV. LIKE THE DAYS OF A TREE

A tree suggests:

Longevity.

Rootedness.

Stability.

Fruitfulness.

Spiritual Principle

God's people are pictured as:

Established.

LXXV. ENJOY THE WORK OF THEIR HANDS

Work is no longer:

Meaningless.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's redemption does not treat meaningful work as an enemy; it rescues work from futility.

LXXVI. THEY WILL NOT LABOR IN VAIN

Isaiah 65:23 — Blessed Generations

“They will not labor in vain, nor bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them.”

Two great frustrations disappear:

Meaningless labor.

Fear for future generations.

God's blessing reaches:

Children.

Descendants.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 15:58

Because of Christ's resurrection, believers know their labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Philippians 2:16

Paul desires to know that his spiritual labor was not empty or wasted.

Deuteronomy 28:4

Covenant blessing included God's favor upon both children and the fruit of the land.

Spiritual Principle

In God's purposes, faithful labor is:

Not meaningless.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's future removes two deep human fears: “Was my work wasted?” and “What will happen to my children?”

LXXVII. LABOR NOT IN VAIN

God gives:

Meaning.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness matters.

LXXVIII. CHILDREN BLESSED

The blessing reaches:

Generations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's vision of restoration includes not merely individuals but households and generations.

LXXIX. BEFORE THEY CALL

Isaiah 65:24 — God Answers

“Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

What a contrast with:

Isaiah 64.

There the people asked:

Will You remain silent?

Now God says:

Before they call:

I will answer.

While they speak:

I will hear.

This pictures:

Intimacy.

Nearness.

Immediate fellowship.

Cross References

Daniel 9:23

While Daniel was praying, the answer was already being sent from God.

Matthew 6:8

Jesus teaches that the Father knows what His children need before they ask Him.

Psalm 91:15

God promises to answer when His faithful servant calls and to be with him in trouble.

Spiritual Principle

God knows our need before:

We finish explaining it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who seemed silent in Isaiah 64 promises in Isaiah 65 to answer before His people finish calling.

LXXX. BEFORE THEY CALL

God's knowledge precedes:

Our prayer.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer informs us of:

Dependence.

Not God of:

Information.

LXXXI. WHILE THEY ARE SPEAKING

God is:

Near.

Attentive.

Responsive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Prayer is never sent toward a distracted God.

LXXXII. THE WOLF AND THE LAMB

Isaiah 65:25 — Peace in Creation

“The wolf and the lamb will feed together, the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain,” says the Lord.

The chapter ends with:

Peace.

Predator and prey:

Feed together.

The lion's nature is pictured as:

Transformed.

Violence ends.

Harm ends.

Destruction ends.

God's holy mountain becomes:

A place of peace.

Cross References

Isaiah 11:6

Isaiah earlier pictured the wolf dwelling with the lamb and predators living peacefully with animals they would ordinarily attack.

Isaiah 11:9

Nothing will hurt or destroy on God's holy mountain because the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

Hosea 2:18

God promises a covenant of peace involving creation and safety for His people.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration reaches beyond:

Human society.

It affects:

Creation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Bible's story moves from violence entering creation to God declaring, “They will neither harm nor destroy.”

LXXXIII. WOLF AND LAMB TOGETHER

Natural enemies:

Reconciled.

Spiritual Principle

God can establish:

Peace.

Where hostility once seemed:

Natural.

LXXXIV. LION EATING STRAW

The imagery describes:

Radical transformation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's final peace is not merely enemies restrained; it pictures creation itself transformed.

LXXXV. THE SERPENT

The serpent remains associated with:

Humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

Evil does not receive:

Final victory.

LXXXVI. NO HARM OR DESTRUCTION

The chapter ends with:

Safety.

Peace.

Holiness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's holy mountain becomes the place where harm and destruction finally lose their authority.

LXXXVII. ISAIAH 65 AS A GRACE CHAPTER

Verse 1:

God reveals Himself to people who were not:

Seeking.

Spiritual Principle

Grace takes:

Initiative.

LXXXVIII. ISAIAH 65 AS A REBELLION CHAPTER

All day long God reaches.

The people:

Resist.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The persistence of God's invitation makes persistent rebellion more tragic, not less.

LXXXIX. ISAIAH 65 AS A JUDGMENT CHAPTER

God says:

I will repay.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is:

Accountable.

XC. ISAIAH 65 AS A REMNANT CHAPTER

“Do not destroy it.”

“A blessing is in it.”

“I will not destroy them all.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When everything appears spiritually ruined, God may still have a remnant hidden in the cluster.

XCI. ISAIAH 65 AS A SERVANT CHAPTER

Repeatedly God says:

“My servants.”

They:

Inherit.

Dwell.

Eat.

Drink.

Rejoice.

Sing.

Receive another name.

Enjoy their labor.

Spiritual Principle

Serving God is connected with:

Belonging to God.

XCII. ISAIAH 65 AS A SEPARATION CHAPTER

Two groups.

The rebellious.

The servants.

Two responses.

Two futures.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah 65 does not allow us to erase the distinction between those who seek God and those who forsake Him.

XCIII. ISAIAH 65 AS A NEW CREATION CHAPTER

New heavens.

New earth.

New Jerusalem.

New joy.

New conditions.

Spiritual Principle

God's redemption moves toward:

Renewal.

XCIV. ISAIAH 65 AS A JOY CHAPTER

Rejoice forever.

Jerusalem a delight.

People a joy.

God rejoices.

Servants sing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The final atmosphere of God's restored creation is not mourning but joy.

XCV. ISAIAH 65 AS A PRAYER CHAPTER

Before they call:

God answers.

While they speak:

He hears.

Spiritual Principle

God desires:

Fellowship.

XCVI. ISAIAH 65 AS A PEACE CHAPTER

Wolf.

Lamb.

Lion.

Ox.

No harm.

No destruction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's final restoration is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of deep creation-wide peace.

XCVII. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT GRACE

Grace reaches:

Outsiders.

Grace reveals:

God.

Grace preserves:

A remnant.

Grace gives:

A new name.

Grace creates:

A new world.

Spiritual Principle

Grace accomplishes what:

Human merit cannot.

XCVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT REBELLION

Rebellion follows:

Its own thoughts.

Rejects God's call.

Creates false worship.

Chooses what displeases Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Rebellion is not merely breaking rules; it is choosing our own voice over God's voice.

XCIX. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

“I am holier than you.”

God describes this attitude as:

Offensive smoke.

Spiritual Principle

True holiness produces:

Humility.

C. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

It is:

Recorded.

Measured.

Repayed.

Just.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's judgment is never careless because God's record is never inaccurate.

CI. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT THE REMNANT

Not all are:

Destroyed.

God preserves:

Servants.

Chosen ones.

Seekers.

Spiritual Principle

God keeps:

His people.

CII. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S SERVANTS

They will:

Eat.

Drink.

Rejoice.

Sing.

Receive a new name.

Dwell securely.

Enjoy their labor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows the difference between those who merely carry religious language and those who truly serve Him.

CIII. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S FUTURE

New heavens.

New earth.

Joy.

Peace.

Security.

Fruitfulness.

Answered prayer.

Spiritual Principle

The future of God's people is:

Hopeful.

CIV. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT WORK

Build.

Dwell.

Plant.

Eat.

Enjoy.

Not in vain.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In God's restored creation, work is freed from futility and reunited with joy.

CV. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT PRAYER

Before calling:

Answer.

While speaking:

Hearing.

Spiritual Principle

God is intimately aware of:

His people's needs.

CVI. WHAT ISAIAH 65 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Predator and prey:

Together.

No harm.

No destruction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The peace God promises is deeper than a cease-fire; it reaches the structures of creation itself.

CVII. “HERE I AM”

Availability.

Spiritual Principle

God reveals:

Himself.

CVIII. OUTSTRETCHED HANDS

Patience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before focusing only on how far the sinner wandered, remember how long God's hands were extended.

CIX. THEIR OWN THOUGHTS

Self-rule.

Spiritual Principle

Human wisdom must submit to:

Divine truth.

CX. GARDEN SACRIFICES

False worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A worship experience can be emotionally powerful and still be spiritually wrong.

CXI. “HOLIER THAN YOU”

Pride.

Spiritual Principle

Comparison feeds:

Self-righteousness.

CXII. WRITTEN BEFORE GOD

Record.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Nothing we successfully hide from people becomes hidden from God.

CXIII. I WILL REPAY

Justice.

Spiritual Principle

God judges:

Righteously.

CXIV. BLESSING IN THE CLUSTER

Remnant.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not destroy what God says still contains blessing.

CXV. MY CHOSEN ONES

Divine preservation.

Spiritual Principle

God retains:

A people.

CXVI. THE VALLEY OF ACHOR

Trouble transformed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can place cattle at rest in the valley once named Trouble.

CXVII. THOSE WHO SEEK ME

Faithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Seek the Lord:

Earnestly.

CXVIII. FORTUNE

False trust.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Luck is a poor substitute for providence.

CXIX. DESTINY

False sovereignty.

Spiritual Principle

God determines:

The future.

CXX. I CALLED

Invitation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before judgment came, there was a voice calling.

CXXI. YOU DID NOT ANSWER

Rejection.

Spiritual Principle

God's call requires:

Response.

CXXII. YOU DID NOT LISTEN

Hardness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Repeated exposure to truth does not automatically soften the heart; truth must be received.

CXXIII. MY SERVANTS WILL EAT

Provision.

Spiritual Principle

God cares for:

His servants.

CXXIV. MY SERVANTS WILL REJOICE

Joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The servants who may appear forgotten now are not forgotten in God's future.

CXXV. ANOTHER NAME

Identity.

Spiritual Principle

God can:

Rename.

CXXVI. GOD OF TRUTH

Reliability.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every false god eventually fails because only the true God possesses the future.

CXXVII. FORMER TROUBLES

Past sorrow.

Spiritual Principle

God can move His people:

Beyond.

CXXVIII. NEW HEAVENS

Cosmic renewal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's plan of redemption is larger than individual rescue; He intends renewal on a cosmic scale.

CXXIX. NEW EARTH

Restored creation.

Spiritual Principle

Creation has:

A future.

CXXX. REJOICE FOREVER

Enduring joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The sorrow of the present age is temporary; the joy of God's completed work is permanent.

CXXXI. GOD DELIGHTS IN HIS PEOPLE

Relationship.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration includes:

Affection.

CXXXII. NO MORE WEEPING

Comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God counts the tears of this age while preparing an age where tears disappear.

CXXXIII. BUILD HOUSES

Security.

Spiritual Principle

Restoration produces:

Stability.

CXXXIV. PLANT VINEYARDS

Fruitfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Planting makes sense when God promises a future long enough to enjoy the harvest.

CXXXV. OTHERS WILL NOT TAKE IT

Justice.

Spiritual Principle

Exploitation ends.

CXXXVI. LABOR NOT IN VAIN

Purpose.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

In God's hands, faithful labor has meaning beyond what the worker can presently see.

CXXXVII. DESCENDANTS BLESSED

Generational blessing.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoration reaches:

Families.

CXXXVIII. BEFORE THEY CALL

Divine knowledge.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's answer can already be moving before the first sentence of the prayer is finished.

CXXXIX. I WILL HEAR

Attention.

Spiritual Principle

God listens to:

His people.

CXL. WOLF AND LAMB

Reconciliation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can create fellowship where nature itself once predicted conflict.

CXLI. NO HARM

Safety.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom moves toward:

Peace.

CXLII. NO DESTRUCTION

Restoration completed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Bible's final direction is away from destruction and toward God's holy peace.

CXLIII. ISAIAH 64 AND ISAIAH 65

Isaiah 64:

“Will You remain silent?”

Isaiah 65:

“I will not keep silent.”

Key Truth

God answers:

The prayer.

But His answer includes both:

Judgment.

And:

Restoration.

CXLIV. ISAIAH 64 AND THE POTTER

Isaiah 64:

God is:

Potter.

Isaiah 65:

God says:

“I will create.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Potter of Isaiah 64 becomes the Creator of new heavens and a new earth in Isaiah 65.

CXLV. ISAIAH 62 AND ISAIAH 65

Isaiah 62:

God gives His people:

A new name.

Isaiah 65:

God gives His servants:

Another name.

Spiritual Principle

Redemption changes:

Identity.

CXLVI. ISAIAH 11 AND ISAIAH 65

Isaiah 11:

Wolf with lamb.

Nothing harms on:

God's holy mountain.

Isaiah 65:

Wolf and lamb feed together.

Nothing harms or destroys.

Key Truth

Isaiah's vision of Messianic peace reaches forward toward:

Creation restored.

CXLVII. REVELATION 21 AND ISAIAH 65

Isaiah 65:

New heavens.

New earth.

No more crying.

Jerusalem rejoices.

Revelation 21:

New heaven.

New earth.

Holy city.

No more tears.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The final chapters of the Bible echo promises God was already speaking through Isaiah centuries earlier.

CXLVIII. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 65

1. **Not Seeking God → God Revealing Himself**
2. **Outstretched Hands → Rebellious People**
3. **True Worship → False Worship**
4. **Humility → "I Am Holier Than You"**
5. **Judgment → Preserved Remnant**
6. **Forsaking God → Seeking God**

7. **Hunger → Eating**
8. **Anguish → Singing**
9. **Former Troubles → New Creation**
10. **Harm and Destruction → Peace**

Key Truth

Isaiah 65 contrasts two ways of life and two outcomes:

Rebellion ends in:

Judgment.

God's servants move toward:

Joy.

Inheritance.

Restoration.

Peace.

CXLIX. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 65

1. God Takes the Initiative in Grace

Principle:

He reveals Himself even to those who were not seeking Him.

2. God Is Patient with Rebellious People

Principle:

His hands remain extended before judgment falls.

3. Religion Without Obedience Is Empty

Principle:

Religious activity cannot replace faithfulness.

4. Self-Righteousness Offends God

Principle:

True holiness creates humility.

5. God Judges Sin

Principle:

Nothing is forgotten or hidden from Him.

6. God Preserves a Remnant

Principle:

Even in judgment, grace remains active.

7. God Transforms Trouble into Hope

Principle:

The Valley of Achor can become a resting place.

8. God's Call Must Be Answered

Principle:

Repeatedly refusing His voice has consequences.

9. God Distinguishes His Servants

Principle:

He knows those who seek and serve Him.

10. God Will Create a New Heaven and New Earth

Principle:

The ultimate future is renewal.

11. God Hears His People

Principle:

He can answer before the prayer is finished.

12. God's Kingdom Ends in Peace

Principle:

Harm and destruction do not have the final word.

CL. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

To whom did God reveal Himself?

To people who had not asked for Him.

Question 2

Who found God?

Those who had not been seeking Him.

Question 3

What did God say to the nation not called by His name?

“Here I am, here I am.”

Question 4

How long had God held out His hands to rebellious Israel?

All day long.

Question 5

What were the rebellious people following?

Their own thoughts.

Question 6

How did they provoke God?

Through false worship and disobedient religious practices.

Question 7

What attitude did they display in verse 5?

Self-righteousness and spiritual pride.

Question 8

What did they say?

“I am holier than you.”

Question 9

How did God describe their self-righteousness?

Like smoke in His nostrils and a continually burning fire.

Question 10

Was their sin forgotten?

No. It was written before God.

Question 11

What did God promise to do?

Repay according to their deeds.

Question 12

What picture illustrates God's preservation of a remnant?

New wine remaining within a cluster of grapes.

Question 13

What does God say about the cluster?

“Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it.”

Question 14

Would God destroy everyone?

No. He promised not to destroy them all.

Question 15

Who would inherit God's mountains?

His chosen ones.

Question 16

Who would dwell there?

His servants.

Question 17

What would the Valley of Achor become?

A resting place for herds.

Question 18

For whom would this restoration be given?

God's people who seek Him.

Question 19

What had the unfaithful done?

Forsaken the Lord and forgotten His holy mountain.

Question 20

Why was judgment coming upon them?

Because God called and they did not answer, He spoke and they did not listen, and they chose what displeased Him.

Question 21

What would God's servants do?

Eat, drink, rejoice, and sing.

Question 22

What would the rebellious experience?

Hunger, thirst, shame, anguish, and brokenness.

Question 23

What would God give His servants?

Another name.

Question 24

How is God identified in verse 16?

The God of truth.

Question 25

What would happen to former troubles?

They would be forgotten and hidden from view.

Question 26

What does God promise to create?

New heavens and a new earth.

Question 27

What would Jerusalem become?

A delight.

Question 28

How would God respond to Jerusalem?

He would rejoice over it and delight in His people.

Question 29

What sounds would disappear?

Weeping and crying.

Question 30

What would God's people do with the houses they built?

Live in them.

Question 31

What would they do with the vineyards they planted?

Eat their fruit.

Question 32

Would others take the results of their labor?

No. God's people would enjoy the work of their own hands.

Question 33

Would they labor in vain?

No.

Question 34

Who would share in God's blessing?

His people and their descendants.

Question 35

When would God answer their prayers?

Before they called.

Question 36

When would He hear?

While they were still speaking.

Question 37

Which animals are pictured feeding together?

The wolf and the lamb.

Question 38

What would the lion eat?

Straw like the ox.

Question 39

What would no longer occur on God's holy mountain?

Harm and destruction.

Question 40

What is the main message of Isaiah 65?

God graciously reveals Himself, patiently calls rebellious people, judges persistent sin, preserves a faithful remnant, distinguishes His servants from the unfaithful, and promises a renewed creation filled with joy, security, answered prayer, fruitful labor, and peace.

CLI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 65 asks several searching questions.

Do I understand that my relationship with God began with:

Grace?

Am I grateful that God revealed Himself rather than waiting for me to become:

Worthy?

Can I look back and see times when God was saying:

“Here I am”

before I understood:

What He was doing?

Have I ignored:

God's outstretched hands?

Is He calling me about something I continue to:

Resist?

Has He spoken through:

Scripture?

Conviction?

Wise counsel?

Circumstances?

And have I refused to:

Listen?

Am I following:

God's thoughts?

Or:

My own thoughts?

Have I ever substituted:

Religious activity.

For:

Obedience?

Do I assume something is acceptable to God merely because it feels:

Spiritual?

Am I involved in anything that contradicts:

His Word?

Do I compare myself with:

Other people?

Do I secretly think:

“I am holier than you”?

Has spiritual pride made me:

Critical?

Superior?

Judgmental?

Do I remember that holiness should produce:

Humility?

Do I live as though God:

Sees everything?

Do I remember that nothing is:

Hidden from Him?

Am I trusting God's:

Grace.

Without treating His:

Justice lightly?

Do I believe God can preserve:

A remnant?

When the culture seems:

Dark.

When churches seem:

Compromised.

When faith appears:

Weak.

Do I remember God's words:

“Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it”?

Could there still be:

A blessing in the cluster?

Am I one of those who:

Seek Him?

Has my Valley of Achor become:

A place of trouble?

Do I believe God can transform:

Trouble into hope?

Restlessness into:

Rest?

Have I placed my confidence in:

Fortune?

Luck?

Chance?

Destiny?

Money?

Government?

Influence?

People?

Or:

God?

When God calls:

Do I answer?

When God speaks:

Do I listen?

Or have I become skilled at:

Hearing sermons.

Reading verses.

Receiving conviction.

And doing:

Nothing?

Am I living as:

A servant of God?

Would the word:

Servant

accurately describe:

My life?

Do I look forward to:

God's future?

Do I believe He can give:

A new name?

Do I believe former troubles do not have to:

Define eternity?

Do I believe God is:

The God of truth?

Am I looking toward:

The new heavens.

And:

The new earth?

Does eternal hope affect:

How I live now?

Do I understand that God Himself intends to:

Rejoice over His people?

Have I allowed present sorrow to convince me:

Sorrow is permanent?

Do I believe:

Weeping has an ending?

Am I doing meaningful work for:

God?

Do I believe my labor in Him is:

Not in vain?

Am I praying for:

My children?

Grandchildren?

Future generations?

Do I believe God cares about:

Their future?

Do I believe God hears:

My prayers?

Do I understand that before I even:

Call—

He knows?

While I am still:

Speaking—

He hears?

Where do I need:

Peace?

In my heart?

Home?

Family?

Church?

Relationships?

Do I believe the God who promises peace between:

Wolf.

And lamb.

Can bring reconciliation where I see only:

Conflict?

And most importantly:

Which group in Isaiah 65 describes me?

Those who:

Forsake the Lord?

Or:

His servants?

Those who:

Do not answer?

Or:

Those who seek Him?

Those who follow:

Their own thoughts?

Or:

Those who listen to:

His voice?

CLII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Grace Says ‘Here I Am’ Before We Know Enough to Seek”

God says:

I revealed Myself.

I was found.

I said:

“Here I am.”

Principle:

Salvation begins not with humanity successfully finding a hidden God but with God graciously making Himself known.

CLIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Never Ignore the Hands That Have Been Reaching Toward You All Day”

God says:

“All day long I have held out My hands.”

Principle:

Every repeated invitation from God should soften the heart rather than train it to resist one more time.

CLIV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Following Your Own Thoughts Can Become Rebellion”

The people walked according to:

Their own thoughts.

Principle:

Personal sincerity does not make a wrong path right when God's Word points another direction.

CLV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Religion Cannot Cover Rebellion”

They sacrificed.

Burned incense.

Practiced religious rituals.

Yet:

Provoked God.

Principle:

Religious activity becomes dangerous when it allows us to feel close to God while refusing to obey Him.

CLVI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Self-Righteousness Is Smoke, Not Incense”

They said:

“I am holier than you.”

God called it:

Smoke.

Principle:

What smells like holiness to a proud person may smell like smoke to God.

CLVII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“There May Still Be Blessing in the Cluster”

The cluster looked ready for:

Destruction.

Someone said:

Do not destroy.

There is:

Blessing.

Principle:

Never assume God has nothing left to preserve simply because you see widespread failure.

CLVIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God Can Turn the Valley of Trouble into a Place of Rest”

Achor meant:

Trouble.

God makes it:

Pasture.

Rest.

Principle:

The location of yesterday's judgment can become the location of tomorrow's restoration.

CLIX. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Voice You Continually Ignore May One Day Become the Voice Explaining Your Judgment”

God said:

I called.

You did not answer.

I spoke.

You did not listen.

Principle:

Respond to God's voice while His call is inviting you to return.

CLX. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Gave You Your First Name Can Give You Another Name”

God promises:

Another name.

Principle:

Your past identity does not have authority over the new identity God creates through redemption.

CLXI. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God's Final Answer to Ruins Is Creation”

Isaiah 64:

Ruins.

Isaiah 65:

“I will create.”

Principle:

When human beings see what cannot be repaired, God can speak the language of creation.

CLXII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Future God Creates Is Greater Than the Trouble We Remember”

Former things:

Fade.

God creates:

New.

Principle:

The believer's future is determined more by God's creative promise than by yesterday's painful history.

CLXIII. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Heard ‘Will You Remain Silent?’ Answers ‘Before They Call, I Will Answer’”

Isaiah 64 asked:

Will You remain:

Silent?

Isaiah 65 answers:

Before they call:

I will answer.

Principle:

God's apparent silence in one chapter should never make us forget that another chapter may already contain His answer.

CLXIV. ANOTHER CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God's Story Ends with Peace, Not Destruction”

Wolf.

Lamb.

Lion.

Ox.

No harm.

No destruction.

Principle:

The final direction of redemption is toward a creation where violence no longer defines life on God's holy mountain.

CLXV. ISAIAH 65 AS A WHOLE

The chapter begins:

“Here I am.”

God reveals:

Himself.

Then:

Outstretched hands.

Yet people:

Rebel.

They follow:

Their own thoughts.

They practice:

False worship.

They become:

Self-righteous.

God says:

Their deeds are:

Recorded.

Judgment will:

Come.

But then:

A cluster.

A blessing.

A remnant.

God says:

“I will not destroy them all.”

Then:

Chosen ones.

Servants.

Seekers.

Pasture.

Rest.

Then another contrast:

Those who forsake God.

And:

Those who serve Him.

One group:

Hunger.

One:

Eats.

One:

Thirsts.

One:

Drinks.

One:

Wails.

One:

Sings.

One name becomes:

A curse.

Another name is:

Given.

Then the horizon opens.

God says:

“I will create new heavens and a new earth.”

From there the chapter becomes increasingly filled with:

Joy.

Delight.

Life.

Homes.

Vineyards.

Fruit.

Work.

Children.

Blessing.

Prayer.

Peace.

And finally:

No harm.

No destruction.

What a journey.

From:

Rebellious people.

To:

A renewed creation.

From:

“I am holier than you.”

To:

God delighting in His people.

From:

False Fortune and Destiny.

To:

The God of truth.

From:

Judgment written before God.

To:

Former troubles forgotten.

From:

Crying.

To:

Joy.

From:

Futility.

To:

Fruitfulness.

From:

Prayer unanswered in appearance.

To:

“Before they call, I will answer.”

From:

Predator and prey.

To:

Wolf and lamb feeding together.

Key Truth

Isaiah 65 reveals the God who patiently reaches toward rebels, righteously judges sin, graciously preserves a remnant, faithfully blesses His servants, powerfully creates a new heaven and new earth, and ultimately establishes a world characterized by joy, meaningful labor, answered prayer, security, and peace.

CLXVI. TEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 65

1. God Reveals Himself

He says:

“Here I am.”

Grace begins with:

God.

2. God Reaches Toward Rebels

His hands remain extended:

All day.

3. Rebellion Becomes Religious

The people combine:

Idolatry.

Disobedience.

Pride.

4. God Announces Judgment

Their deeds are:

Written.

God will:

Repay.

5. God Preserves a Remnant

A blessing remains:

In the cluster.

6. God's Servants Inherit

His chosen people:

Seek Him.

Dwell.

Receive provision.

7. God Separates Servants from Rebels

Eat versus:

Hunger.

Drink versus:

Thirst.

Joy versus:

Shame.

Singing versus:

Wailing.

8. God Gives His Servants Another Name

Old identity gives way to:

New identity.

9. God Creates New Heavens and a New Earth

Former troubles no longer dominate:

The future.

10. Peace Fills God's Holy Mountain

No harm.

No destruction.

Key Truth

Isaiah 65 moves from God's outstretched hands toward rebellious humanity to God's creation of a world where rebellion, futility, sorrow, violence, and destruction no longer dominate His people.

CLXVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 65 begins with:

God speaking.

The previous chapter ended with people asking:

“Will You remain silent?”

And now God answers.

His first words reveal:

Grace.

“I revealed Myself.”

“I was found.”

“Here I am.”

Maybe that describes your own testimony.

Before you knew everything about:

God—

He was already:

Working.

Before you understood:

Grace—

He was already:

Calling.

Before you knew how to:

Pray—

He was already:

Near.

Before you fully knew:

What you needed—

God was saying:

“Here I am.”

Salvation is a story of:

Grace.

But then God says something heartbreaking:

“All day long I have held out My hands.”

Picture that.

God's hands:

Extended.

Morning:

Still extended.

Noon:

Still extended.

Evening:

Still extended.

But the people:

Walked another way.

That raises a serious question:

What are you doing with:

God's outstretched hands?

Maybe God has been:

Convicting.

Calling.

Correcting.

Inviting.

Warning.

And you keep saying:

Later.

Not now.

I know better.

I have my own plan.

Isaiah says they followed:

“Their own thoughts.”

That sounds remarkably modern.

People say:

My truth.

My feelings.

My life.

My choice.

My way.

But God's question remains:

What does:

He say?

Your thoughts matter.

But they are not:

Lord.

Then these people become:

Religious.

They offer:

Sacrifices.

Burn:

Incense.

Yet God is:

Angry.

Why?

Because religion did not produce:

Obedience.

You can:

Attend church.

Read Scripture.

Sing songs.

Know theology.

Talk about God.

And still resist:

God.

Religion cannot replace:

Surrender.

Then perhaps the ugliest sentence in the chapter appears:

“I am holier than you.”

What irony.

People openly violating God's Word still thought:

They were superior.

Be careful.

Spiritual pride can make you:

Blind.

You may notice:

Everyone else's sin.

While ignoring:

Your own.

You may compare yourself with:

Someone worse.

And conclude:

I am fine.

But God does not grade holiness:

On a curve.

Then God says:

It is:

Written.

Judgment matters.

Sin matters.

Choices matter.

But just when the chapter becomes:

Dark—

A cluster appears.

Someone looks at it and says:

“Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it.”

What a statement.

Maybe you look at:

A church.

A family.

A community.

A generation.

A nation.

And think:

Nothing good is left.

God may say:

There is still:

A blessing in the cluster.

There is still:

A remnant.

There are still:

Servants.

There are still:

People seeking Me.

Never confuse:

Majority.

With:

Totality.

God always knows:

His servants.

Then comes:

The Valley of Achor.

The Valley of:

Trouble.

A place associated with:

Judgment.

But God says:

It will become:

A resting place.

God can transform:

The geography of your memories.

The place you remember only as:

Trouble—

can become:

Testimony.

The place associated with:

Failure—

can become:

Grace.

The place associated with:

Judgment—

can become:

Rest.

Then God warns:

“When I called, you did not answer.”

That may be one of the most sobering sentences in Isaiah.

God:

Called.

But they:

Ignored.

God:

Spoke.

But they:

Would not listen.

Never become so accustomed to:

God's voice—

that you stop:

Responding.

Every sermon ignored.

Every conviction postponed.

Every command resisted.

Can gradually teach the heart:

Not to listen.

If God is calling today:

Answer.

Then God describes His servants.

They will:

Eat.

Drink.

Rejoice.

Sing.

And receive:

Another name.

Maybe your old name has been:

Failure.

Addict.

Rejected.

Broken.

Hopeless.

Unwanted.

Sinner.

God specializes in:

New names.

Isaiah 62 already taught us:

Forsaken becomes:

Delighted in.

Desolate becomes:

Married.

Isaiah 65 says:

God will give His servants:

Another name.

Grace changes:

Identity.

Then everything expands.

God says:

“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.”

Look at those first words:

“I will create.”

Isaiah 64 had:

Burned temple.

Desolate Jerusalem.

Ruins.

Now God responds:

“I will create.”

Human beings look at:

Ruins.

God talks about:

Creation.

People say:

Impossible.

God says:

“I will create.”

People say:

Too broken.

God says:

“I will create.”

People say:

Too damaged.

God says:

“I will create.”

That is hope.

The God who created the first heaven and earth has not lost:

Creative power.

Then comes:

Joy.

“Be glad and rejoice forever.”

Notice:

Forever.

Not:

Until the next tragedy.

Not:

Until another enemy rises.

Not:

Until another exile.

Forever.

Then God says something beautiful:

“I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in My people.”

God's people are not merely:

Happy with God.

God takes:

Delight in His people.

Then:

No more sound of:

Weeping.

Think of every tear shed through:

History.

War.

Disease.

Death.

Broken families.

Persecution.

Betrayal.

Grief.

Loss.

God promises a future where:

Crying is no longer:

The soundtrack.

Then people:

Build.

And live there.

Plant.

And eat.

Work.

And enjoy.

No enemy steals:

The harvest.

No invader takes:

The house.

No one labors:

In vain.

Maybe you have wondered:

Does anything I do matter?

Paul later says:

Your labor in the Lord is:

Not in vain.

God does not forget:

Faithful work.

Then:

Children.

Descendants.

Generations:

Blessed.

Then comes one of the chapter's most beautiful promises:

“Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Isaiah 64 asked:

God—

Are You:

Silent?

Isaiah 65 says:

Before you call:

I answer.

While you speak:

I hear.

Maybe you are praying and wondering:

Does God hear?

Yes.

Maybe your words feel:

Weak.

God hears.

Maybe your prayer seems:

Unpolished.

God hears.

Maybe you cannot find:

The right words.

God already knows.

Before:

You call—

He knows.

While:

You speak—

He hears.

Then the chapter ends:

Wolf.

Lamb.

Lion.

Ox.

Peace.

No harm.

No destruction.

The chapter started with:

Rebellion.

It ends with:

Peace.

It started with:

God reaching toward sinners.

It ends with:

Creation resting beneath God's rule.

That is the direction of:

Redemption.

God is taking His creation from:

Rebellion.

Toward:

Restoration.

From:

Violence.

Toward:

Peace.

From:

Weeping.

Toward:

Joy.

From:

Futility.

Toward:

Meaning.

From:

Brokenness.

Toward:

Wholeness.

From:

Death.

Toward:

Life.

From:

Old creation.

Toward:

New creation.

So Isaiah 65 asks:

Have I responded to:

God's outstretched hands?

Am I listening when:

He speaks?

Am I following:

His thoughts?

Or:

My own?

Have I replaced obedience with:

Religion?

Am I carrying:

Spiritual pride?

Am I among those who:

Forsake Him?

Or:

Seek Him?

Am I serving:

God?

Do I believe there is still:

Blessing in the cluster?

Can I trust God to turn:

A Valley of Trouble.

Into:

A place of rest?

Do I believe:

Former trouble.

Does not determine:

Final reality?

Am I living with the hope of:

New heavens.

And:

A new earth?

Do I believe:

My labor is not in vain?

Do I believe:

God hears prayer?

Do I believe the story ends with:

Peace?

Isaiah 65 begins:

“Here I am.”

And ends:

“They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain.”

Between those two statements stands:

Grace.

Judgment.

Remnant.

Servants.

New identity.

New creation.

Joy.

Prayer.

Peace.

And at the center of it all:

God.

Final Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who says “Here I am” to those who were not seeking Him, stretches His hands toward rebels, preserves blessing in the remnant, gives His servants another name, creates new heavens and a new earth, answers before His people finish calling, and moves all creation toward the day when nothing will harm or destroy on His holy mountain.