

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 Sept	Isaiah 01-05	God Comforts
2) 13 Sept	Isaiah 06	God Sends
3) 20 Sept	Isaiah 07-22	God Promises
4) 27 Sept	Isaiah 23-24	God Reigns
5) 04 Oct	Isaiah 25-30	God Saves
6) 11 Oct	Isaiah 31-36	God Protects
7) 18 Oct	Isaiah 37-39	God Listens
8) 25 Oct	Isaiah 40-44	God Renews
9) 01 Nov	Isaiah 45-48	God Acts
10) 08 Nov	Isaiah 49-52	God Comforts
11) 15 Nov	Isaiah 53-57	God Justifies
12) 22 Nov	Isaiah 58-64	God Expects
13) 29 Nov	Isaiah 65-66	God Restores

INTRODUCTION

- These 2 chapters (65 & 66) are essentially God's answer to Israel's questions recorded in the previous two chapters (63 & 64)
- Remember that Israel's and Judah's sins were atrocious to God
 - ♦ Child sacrifice
 - ♦ Sexual sins – adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia
 - ♦ ...and these sins, as all sins, are attributed to IDOLATRY, where people worship anything and everything but the one true God
- God promised to annihilate them – men, women, and children
 - ♦ Survivors would be dispersed as slaves to other nations
- Yet, He also promised to save a remnant and to restore them to their promised land
- Chapter 65 deals with this restoration as seen with God creating new heavens and a new earth for His people to inherit and enjoy
- Chapter 66 backs up a bit from this full and complete restoration and concludes that all unrepentant sinners will be deposed to a place where *"their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."*

Lifeway's ETB Focus Passage: **Isaiah 65:17-25**

OPENING QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- In numerous places we are told the Heavens and the Earth will last forever (**Deut 4:40, Ps 78:69; 104:5; Ecc 1:4**)
- Yet, in other places we are told the Heavens and the Earth will pass away (**Psalm 102:25-26; Mat 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33; Heb 1:10-11; 2Peter 2:10, 13; Rev 21:1**)
- So, how do we answer skeptics with this apparent contradiction?
- **Consider the following:** Like the human body that decays when it dies but will eventually be resurrected in a form that will last forever either in Heaven or in Hell, so too the Heavens and the Earth will also be re-constituted into new forms which will last forever after their fiery demise. So, there is no contradiction, just clarification of their metamorphoses from their temporal forms to their eternal forms.

Passage	Comments
Isaiah 65:1-10	<p>God Has Done Everything Possible to Win His Peeps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. God has allowed His people to seek and find Him, and he has done everything possible to win them without forcing them to believe. What else can He do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How long would you tolerate unrepentant sinners? • vv6-7. But God's patience has its limit. There will come a time of reckoning and for justice to be settled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How long would you allow innocent children to be slaughtered? Or sexual perversion to go unchecked (e.g., pedophilia, homosexuality, bestiality)? • vv8-10. Fortunately, God does guarantee a remnant will survive. Who would the remnant consist of and when would this salvation take place? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In all probability, the gathering of the remnant would be when God establishes the new Heavens & Earth

Passage	Comments	
66:11-16	<p>God Will Destroy Those Who Forsake Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people don't rely on God to get them through their tough existence here on earth, what do they rely on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Day Job? <input type="checkbox"/> Lottery? <input type="checkbox"/> Inheritance? <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing? • v11. Gambling is an indication one prefers to rely on the gods of Fortune and Chance instead of on God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What forms of gambling are prevalent today? Should Christians avoid them? <input type="checkbox"/> Casinos? <input type="checkbox"/> Lotteries? <input type="checkbox"/> Bingo? <input type="checkbox"/> Raffles? <input type="checkbox"/> Others? • Consider the eternal fate of those who choose to trust in God and those who place their trust elsewhere 	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>God-Followers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hunger • No thirst • Rejoiceful • Happy • Inherit a blessing </td> <td> <p>All Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hungry • Thirsty • Shameful • Mournful • Inherit a curse </td> </tr> </table>	<p>God-Followers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hunger • No thirst • Rejoiceful • Happy • Inherit a blessing
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66:17-25	<p>God Creates New Heavens and a New Earth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice the following attributes of this new universe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v17. We won't remember or dwell on past failures ♦ v18. This new universe is created for enjoyment ♦ v19. No more weeping due to death & catastrophes ♦ v20. Longevity is the norm. No more childhood cancers or any cancer..... cf. Rev 21-22 ♦ v21. No financial worries ♦ v22. No more injustices & people live forever ♦ v23. No more wars to send our kids off to ♦ v24. Immediate response from God ♦ v25. Even animals will be vegetarians (Does this mean no more bacon? If so, better enjoy it now!) 	
66:1-24	<p>HEY – I Am Talking to You!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. God puts things into perspective for us – We are nothing. He doesn't need us – We need Him. And He keeps an eye on those who tremble at His word! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How should we tremble at God's word? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read it once in a while? <input type="checkbox"/> Obey it meticulously? • vv3-4. God will choose the punishments of the wicked • vv5-14. God's blessings start at Jerusalem, where He chooses to reside Gen 12:3; Ps 135:21 • vv16-17. God will execute judgement by fire (at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ)..... Rev 20:9 • vv18-21. All nations will be gathered..... Zech 8:23 • vv22-23. There will be Holidays in the new Earth • v24. ...and there will be misery for all the rest 	

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Though it is difficult for us to fully comprehend what time periods are being alluded to in these 2 chapters (contemporary, Millennial, or post-Millennial) it is clear to see that God is in his right to bring about complete justice where the righteous remain with Him for all eternity and the unrighteous are sent to a place of torment away from Him.

NEXT WEEK: Luke 1:1-25. Luke wrote to another Gentile convert, Theophilus, to help confirm his faith with the facts of Jesus being God in the flesh.

