

***International Bible Lessons Commentary***  
***Isaiah 65:17-25***

***International Bible Lessons***

**Sunday, June 23, 2013**

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, June 23, 2013**, is from **Isaiah 65:17-25**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* (formerly, *Bible Lesson Forum*) below. **Study Hints for Thinking Further** discuss the five questions below to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion; these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website. For additional **International Bible Lesson Commentaries**, see the complete and comprehensive **International Bible Lessons Commentary Index**. The weekly **International Bible Lesson** is posted each Saturday before the lesson is scheduled to be taught at **<http://InternationalBibleLessons.org>** and in **The Oklahoman** newspaper.

***International Bible Lesson Commentary***

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

**(Isaiah 65:17) For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

Isaiah wrote not only about the first coming of Jesus Christ, about His virgin birth and His suffering as a servant, but also about the results of Jesus' Second Coming. These verses in chapter 65 should be interpreted in the light of Jesus' promise to return. When Jesus returns, He will so create or re-create the heavens and the earth that they will be new – the pain, the evil, the temptations we experience now will be no more and everything will be so wonderful that we will not even think of past troubles or sins.

**(Isaiah 65:18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.**

On the one hand, Jesus began creating the new heavens and earth when He made repentant sinners who came to faith in Him a new creation. On the other hand, Jerusalem is not yet the joy and its people not yet the delight that God plans for them to become. When Jesus Christ returns as visible King of kings, He will remake Jerusalem and all those who live there will delight Him.

**(Isaiah 65:19) I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound**

**of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.**

As long as people live in sinful rebellion against God, people will weep and cry in distress – both the afflicted and those who afflict them – both those who love God and those who hate God and His commandments. When Jesus Christ returns visibly to earth, He will rejoice over those who love and follow Him and who obey His commandments.

**(Isaiah 65:20) No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.**

When Jesus returns, He will bring a moral, spiritual, and physical renewal. No longer will sin or the results of sin shorten anyone's life – whether the unborn, infants, for the elderly. Physical diseases and the consequences of some hereditary traits that shorten life will be no more. People will live long, and delightfully long, lives.

**(Isaiah 65:21) They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.**

Some (perhaps many) do not own or possess a home or live in a home that they can call their own. When Jesus returns, people will work and enjoy the fruits of their labors, and they will sleep in safe and secure homes. They will not need to fear anyone who might steal their homes or the results of their labors.

**(Isaiah 65:22) They 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.**

Isaiah prophesied that because of the Israelites' sinful rebellion against God, because of their idol worship and disobedience, because they did not love God but had made the worship of God a mere formality, that God would lead the Babylonians to defeat them and carry them into exile. When Jesus returns, His people will not rebel against Him, and they will live a long life in their homes as they enjoy their labors and the results of their labor.

**(Isaiah 65:23) They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.**

We do not know all that God plans for those on earth or those in Jerusalem when Jesus returns. We do know that God plans a special future for those who are

alive at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Those who love Him will perform satisfying and productive work and their children will be blessed and never suffer from accidents or tragedies.

**(Isaiah 65:24) Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.**

God hears the prayers of His people and answers them many times before they pray. While people are praying, God has sometimes sent His answer to their prayers in advance. When Jesus Christ comes again, the surprising timing of God that we experience today will be an obvious common occurrence among God's people.

**(Isaiah 65:25) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.**

As the result of sin entering our world nature changed. Not all of the animals remained the friends of one another or human beings. Some animals began to eat their neighbors; similar to sinners taking unholy advantage of others. All this will return to normal and all will be friends after the return of Jesus Christ. The devil appeared to Eve as a servant and it will be punished.

## **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

1. When God creates a new heaven and earth, what are some of the things that will be different from this old heaven and earth?
2. What are some of the best things you can think of regarding God's new creation?
3. What would you like to change in your behavior that would delight God?
4. Will you pray that God will help you change the behaviors you need to change and trust in Jesus Christ to help you change?
5. What does God say about hearing the prayers of His children?

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