

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**Passage: Isaiah 65:1–16**

Memory Passage: Isaiah 65:1

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 65:1–66:24.** As we enter the final two chapters of Isaiah, read Is 65–66 and take note of the structure, who is speaking, and their primary message.
- (b) **Re-read Is 65:1–16.** How is this passage connected to last week’s passage (Is 63:7–64:12) and next week’s passage (Is 65:17–25)? In other words, describe how Is 65:1–16 fits into the context of this part of Isaiah.
- (c) In Is 65:1, how does Yahweh answer (cf. 64:12) and rebuke or counter (cf. 63:19) Isaiah’s prayer on behalf of his people?
- (d) Of whom does Yahweh speak in 65:1, and what was his stance toward them?

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 65:1–16.** Of whom does Yahweh speak in 65:2a, b, and what was his stance toward them?
- (b) What do these rebellious people do (65:2c–5b), and why do these acts make them rebellious?
- (c) How will Yahweh respond to this rebelliousness (65:5c–7), and why is this response required of him?
- (d) How and why does Paul cite Is 65:1a–b and 2:a–b in Rom 10:20–21 to advance his argument in Rom 9–11?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 65:1–16.** Which two groups of people are described in Isaiah 65:8–12 (see 65:10c–11a)?
- (b) Describe the blessings for those who have sought Yahweh (65:8–10). Who accomplishes this, and for what purpose?
- (c) Describe the consequences for those who forsake Yahweh (65:11–12) and what this forsaking entailed. FYI: the Hebrew words for Fortune and Destiny (65:11c, d) are capitalized in the ESV because they are the names of the Canaanite gods for fortune (Gad) and fate or destiny (Meni). Compare how Paul alludes to this verse in 1 Cor 10:21–23.

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 65:1–16.** Explain how the “therefore” that begins 65:13 connects 65:10–12 with what follows.
- (b) Explain the difference between the destiny of those who sought Yahweh and those who forsake him (“behold” 65:13–14).
- (c) The description of opposing destinies continues in 65:15–16. What name will be left to Yahweh’s chosen as a curse, and why does this lead to death (65:15a, b)?
- (d) What is the other name given to Yahweh’s servants (65:15c; see 62:2, 4, 12), what does this name empower the servants to do (65:16a–d), and why 65:e–f)? Note: “God of truth” is lit. “God of amen” (see 2 Cor 1:20; Rev 3:14).

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is 65:1–16.** List at least three applications from this passage for the church, remembering both believing and unbelieving people can be found in the visible church just as both believing and unbelieving people were found in the nation of Israel.
- (b) In what ways do you reject God’s word and do what is evil in God’s eyes, choosing what he does not delight in (65:12:c–f)? How must you respond to God given your list, and on what basis must you respond? Do so now.
- (c) What new name have you been given, and how has this changed who you are, enabling you to bless yourself by the God of truth? How does this affect your daily walk with Christ?
- (d) What have you learned about Christ in your study of this passage, and how has this helped you fall more in love with him, which will be demonstrated in your obedience to him (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6)?

**DATE: March 10, 2024****PASSAGE: Isaiah 65:1–16***Will You Seek Me or Forsake Me?*