

**New Wine Assured (Isaiah 65:1–25)**  
**By Pastor Jeff Alexander (8/25/2019)**

**Introduction**

1. The chapter before us is the Lord's response to the prayer for revival and mercy in chapter 64.
  - a. Verses 15 through 19 of chapter 63 are to be included in the prophet's prayer.
  - b. The prophet is concerned that the promises made to the fathers concerning the nation and the land will not be fulfilled because the sins of the nation have brought God's judgment on them.
  - c. His prayer addressed the obvious condition of a stubbornly sinful people whose propensity was to forget the Lord and His ways. Was there the slightest hope that they could be saved?
2. Isaiah understood the gracious nature of their covenant Lord whose promises provided a strong hope for change (64:8–12).
  - a. The Lord's response to Isaiah established His sovereign purpose in all He did (65:1–3). The Hebrew of these verses clearly indicates that Gentiles would discover what Israel disdained, as stated in 63:19. Gentile believers would seek Him and find Him (Romans 10:20, 21, citing 65:1–3).
  - b. The final rejection of apostate Judaism stemmed from their indulging in the occult (65:3–7). Judgment was certain with no hope that God would relent (65:11, 12).
3. The Lord declared that He would act on behalf of the remnant, His servants (65:8–10, 13–16).
  - a. These servants are characterized as My chosen (v. 9), My people who seek Me (v. 10), those called by another name (v. 15), and those blessed by the God of truth (v. 16).
  - b. The text contrasts the blessings and cursings of those who seek Him versus those who forsake Him.

**I. An Eternal Purpose**

1. It has always been the plan of God to save a people from every nation on earth—the holy remnant, "*My servants*" (v. 8).
  - a. The *goal*: Some from every nation on earth would be blessed with salvation through the promise given to Abraham (Genesis 12:3; the fulfillment: Revelation 5:9, 10).
  - b. The *means* to the goal: An offspring of Abraham, Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15) and true Son of Israel (Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15; Galatians 1:3–5; 3:16)
  - c. The *end* result: The church (assembly), a community of believers, a family of God mutually growing together, caring for each other, and presenting a united testimony to the world (v. 10, 18; Matthew 16:18)
2. The character of the remnant, His faithful servants
  - a. They *wait* for Him (Isaiah 64:4; 25:9; 30:18; 40:31).
  - b. They *seek* Him, calling on His name (v. 1, 10; 26:9; 51:1; 55:6).

- c. They are *humble, contrite of spirit*, and *tremble at His Word* (66:2; 57:15).
- 3. They are called by a new name (v. 15).
  - a. The people of the *way* (Acts 9:2; 24:14)
  - b. The *followers* of Jesus (Revelation 14:4)
  - c. *Christians* (little Christs) (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)

## **II. A God Who Acts**

1. God's hidden wisdom (v. 4)
  - a. Isaiah recognized that God had prepared things that no one could imagine or perceive.
  - b. He understood that God would act or work (Hebrew: *'asah*) for those who would wait (Hebrew: *chakah*, "to wait with longing") for Him.
  - c. What the prophet anticipated the Lord affirmed: "*So I will do [Hebrew: 'asah] for my servants' sake*" (65:8).
2. The Lord's glorious plan (vv. 8–10)
  - a. Citing Isaiah 64:4 (1 Corinthians 2:9), Paul addressed the wisdom of God in the glorious gift of Christ:
  - b. The tragedy is that now, after two millennia of Christianity, we find the church in major decline. There has not been a major revival since before World War II. Is there any hope for revival now, or must we be resigned to bad news, hunker down and just endure until we die or Jesus comes again?

## **III. A New Heavens and Earth**

1. Isaiah tells us plainly that the Lord will not destroy the new wine in the cluster but that He acts for His servants who wait on Him to do what He promised. The Lord declared, "*Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth*" (Isaiah 65:17). This is not a mere utopian hope for some future age but a present work in progress. Jesus is ruling now and will continue to do so until all His enemies are subdued (1 Corinthians 15:25).
2. The Lord's people are already victors (1 Corinthians 15:57, 58; Matthew 16:18).
3. We can be assured that God is faithfully working His plan in the background with wisdom unseen by the enemy, and thus, not countered nor opposed (Revelation 13:12b).

### **What Can We Take Away?**

1. Paul warned the Corinthian church, "*Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves*" (2 Corinthians 13:5).
2. How willing are you to prioritize the time you need to seek the Lord for a new outpouring of His Spirit in our day? The truth is that revival is coming. It will come because the people of God will be moved to pray earnestly for it, and, in doing so, they will be prepared and ready for His soon return (Revelation 19:7, 8).
3. Jesus plainly stated that we are to "*seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*" (Matthew 6:33). Sadly, most Christians seek first the things Jesus assured would be added—food, clothing, shelter—leaving little time to seek the greater business of the Kingdom. How do you stand?