

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER SIXTY-FIVE

THEME:

The Redeemer responds to the remnant—their sins have not frustrated His promises and purposes concerning the coming kingdom.

REMARKS:

In the last chapter we note the fervent prayer of the prophet and people pleading with the King to break through all barriers and come to earth. This chapter (65) and the next contain His answer.

God charges them with their sins and unfaithfulness, nevertheless He has preserved a remnant through which He will fulfill all of His promises and prophecies. Again He gives a vision of the Kingdom and a prospectus of the eternal position of Israel in the New Heaven and a New Earth.

This extends over into the next and last chapter.

OUTLINE:

- 1. RESPONSE of the Redeemer to the Prayers of the Remnant and His Reason for the Rejection of the Nation.** Verses 1-7
- 2. RESERVATION of a Remnant Through Which the Promises are Fulfilled.** Verses 8-16
- 3. REVELATION of the New Heavens and the New Earth and Full Kingdom Blessings.** Verses 17-25

COMMENT:

Verse 1—I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

These are the Gentiles to whom the Gospel has now come. Paul says that Isaiah was bold, indeed, as a loyal Israelite, to make such a prediction.

But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me (Romans 10:20).

Verse 2—I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

This is the Jew to whom God first gave the Gospel—“**to the Jew first.**” Paul continues to quote from Isaiah.

But to Israel he saith, All day long have I stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people (Romans 10:21).

God only rejected them after they rejected God.

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said. It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46).

If Jerusalem refuses the gospel, Ephesus will receive it. If Los Angeles rejects the gospel then Bombay will hear. The floodtide of God’s grace will spill over somewhere in this world.

Verse 3—A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

This is the reason that blessings were withheld from Israel.

Verse 4—Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine’s flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

Verse 5—Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

These are a partial list of the reasons for Israel’s rejection.

Verse 6—Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom.

Verse 7—Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom.

They walked in pride, as they practiced the externalities of a God-given religion, but their hearts were far from God. They practiced iniquity as easily as they practiced the rituals of religion.

Verse 8—Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all.

In spite of their sins, God would not totally exterminate them.

Verse 9—And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.

“A seed out of Jacob” could refer to Christ, but more particularly it refers to the remnant out of Israel.

Verse 10—And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

For the sake of the remnant, God will make good His promises.

Verse 11—But ye are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

Verse 12—Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

For the remainder of the nation that went headlong without heeding the Word of God, there remains nothing but punishment.

Verse 13—Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed.

The remnant will survive. God cannot exterminate Himself in sin.

Verse 14—Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

There is a distinction between the nation and the remnant.

Verse 15—And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

The remnant will survive. The nation at large will perish. All sinners who refuse God’s grace will be punished irrespective of nation, race or condition.

Verse 17—For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Here we have the creation of the new heavens and new earth.

They seem to precede, chronologically, the setting up of the Kingdom here. It is equally as clear in Revelation 21:1 that the new heavens and new earth follow the Millennium.

Radical transformation will take place on the earth during the Kingdom which is tantamount to a new earth.

Such radical changes will take place on the earth with the rapture of the Church that it is difficult to be explicit as to the time that the new heavens and new earth come into existence.

I have taken the position that the new heavens and new earth come into existence after the Millennium. (See author's book. *Three Worlds In One*).

Verse 18—But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Here Isaiah definitely returns to Millennial blessings.

Verse 19—And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

What a change for Jerusalem.

Verse 20—There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Longevity of life that predated the patriarchs will be one of the features of the Kingdom.

Verse 21—And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

Prosperity is another feature of the Kingdom.

Verse 22—They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Permanence and stability will likewise mark the Millennium.

Verse 23—They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

No fruitless effort and frustration. All efforts will be blessed.

Verse 24—And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Prayer in that day will receive a new potency and speed in receiving an answer.

Verse 25—The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

The sharp fang and bloody claw will no longer rule animal life. The law of the jungle will be changed to conform to the rule of the King. There will be nothing to hurt, harm or make afraid in the whole world. This is the long looked for Kingdom.

~ end of chapter 65 ~

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