

# The Glorious New Creation

**Bible Background • ISAIAH 65**

**Printed Text • ISAIAH 65:17–21, 23–25 | Devotional Reading • ISAIAH 42:1–9**

## Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** that God will usher in a new heaven and a new earth; **TRUST** that God will keep His promise of a new heaven and a new earth; and **PRAISE** God that nothing is going to be the same in the new heaven and new earth.

## In Focus

Some cosmologists—scientists who study the physical universe—believe the universe is finite and has a beginning and an end. They break down the life cycle of the universe into five periods lasting trillions of years. The first began with the “Big Bang” when everything that would exist exploded out of nothing and nowhere.

The second period, the one in which we currently live, is called the Stelliferous period, or the era of starlight. At the end of this period, all the stars will burn out and release their energy into the universe. This will leave the universe with “black holes.” When they have drained the remaining energy, they will cease to exist as well. This time will be the last period called the Dark period, when nothing will exist and the universe will be dead forever.

Theologians study the nature of God and agree with cosmologists that the universe is finite. However, these theologians believe the end is not the end, but leads to a new beginning. At the end of time, God will create a new heaven and earth that will extend into all eternity.

*Today’s lesson is about how believers should look forward to a time of joyful eternal life and make the most of every witnessing opportunity because time is limited.*

## Keep in Mind

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. 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” (Isaiah 65:17–18, KJV).

## Focal Verses

**KJV** **Isaiah 65:17** For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**65:23** 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.

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

**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 People, Places, and Times

**Jerusalem's Prophetic Destiny.** The Old Testament portrays a distinctive future for Jerusalem; it will be the worship center when the promised time of renewal comes. The Messiah will take His waiting throne and the nation will be secure. This future is affirmed by most of the prophets, especially Zechariah in Zechariah chapters 12 through 14.

The New Testament introduces the concept of a heavenly Jerusalem. All that Jerusalem has been in sacred history as a political and religious center has foreshadowed what God intends to do on earth. That perfect center of political and religious life is spoken of as the heavenly or New Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 3:12; 21:2, 10).

## Background

In chapters 60–66, Isaiah addresses his message to the people living in exile, assuring them that they still had a future. Isaiah sees a blessed future for the nation of Israel. The apostle Paul would later add to this prophecy by

revealing the mystery of God's will: to unite Jew and Gentile into one body with Christ as the head (see Ephesians 1:9–13). When that time comes, Isaiah says of Jerusalem, "Though you were once despised and hated, with no one traveling through you, I will make you beautiful forever, a joy to all generations" (Isaiah 60:15, NLT). He tells the people who have been taken captive into foreign lands, "Their descendants will be recognized and honored among the nations. Everyone will realize that they are a people the Lord has blessed" (61:9, NLT). "Jerusalem will be known as 'The Desirable Place' and 'The City No Longer Forsaken'" (62:12, NLT).

In the final chapters, the prophet describes the glorious consummation of history. In chapter 64, he pictures a God-initiated future characterized by joy, the elimination of mourning and fear, the end to death, and communion with God. Although the return from Babylonian exile to Jerusalem resulted in some measure of this blessing for the people, many contend that the full realization of this prophecy will not be fulfilled until Jesus ushers in the new age.

## At-A-Glance

1. The Glorious New Creation  
(Isaiah 65:17–21)
2. The Glorious New Life (vv. 23–25)

### In Depth

#### 1. The Glorious New Creation (Isaiah 65:17–21)

Very early in Israel's history, God revealed to Moses the beginning of time. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the great lawgiver penned these words: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, NLT). This one statement is enough to drive anyone who seriously contemplates it to thrir knees in worship. Consider that the galaxy where we live, called the Milky Way, is only one of millions. Our galaxy is rotating at a speed of about 490,000 miles per hour, and yet it takes about 225 years to make one complete revolution. This gives you some idea of how large the galaxy and the universe are.

After creating the universe, God was pleased with His creation. Everything was virtuous, right, and beautiful. Then Adam and Eve rebelled against God, fell into sin, and all of creation suffered. The wonderful creation of God was scarred by the advent and growth of sin. As a result, God was no longer pleased with His creation. So thousands of years after Moses, God revealed to Isaiah the end of time: "Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore" (Isaiah 65:17, NLT). The original creation will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:12). Time, space, matter, and energy will all be consumed by this great refining blaze, and God will create a new heaven to reveal His glory and a new Earth for redeemed humanity. God's creatures, created in His image, will

again be able to contemplate the wonders of the creation and appreciate His majesty (see Psalm 8:3–4). This new creation will be so beautiful and glorious that no one will even remember the original.

God will give His people cause to rejoice. Nature will fulfill its original potential for perfection: "Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise" (Psalm 96:11–12, NLT). The causes of human misery will be destroyed. "Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. ... Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10, 14, NLT). God will rule in the midst of His people, and we will finally see His face. "No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship him. And they will see his face" (Revelation 22:3–4, NLT). Not only will God's people rejoice in Him, but the Lord proclaims, "I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people" (Isaiah 65:19, NLT; see 62:5). Because death and the grave will be eliminated, people will live eternally with the Lord, and crying and weeping will never again be heard.

One day God will purify the heavens and the earth with fire and recreate them. Don't withhold your praise until the blessed event occurs; praise Him today and thank Him for making you a new creature worthy of His new creation.

#### 2. The Glorious New Life (vv. 23–25)

The climax of the new creation is the removal and reversal of the curse of Genesis 3. Adam and Eve's sin caused humanity to fall from grace and from God's gracious presence. Their sin affected all of creation. It caused the descendants of Adam and Eve to be born under

the curse of sin. Because of the curse on nature, Adam, Eve, and their descendants experience physical hardship as they struggle through life for necessary provision (see Genesis 3:17–19). Mothers bear their children in pain, and watch in sorrow as sickness, hardship, and death affect and eventually end the lives of their offspring. In the new creation Isaiah foresees, “They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune” (Isaiah 65:23, NLT). Just as God provided work for Adam in the original creation, humanity will have work to do in the new creation. However, since sin has been eliminated and the curse of sin reversed, all human effort will be fruitful and eternally significant without the worry of daily provision. In the new creation, the children of the cursed will become “blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them” (65:23). The greatest blessing of all will be the restoration of our original fellowship with God. We will experience the loving nearness of the everlasting Father who is sensitive to our every need: “I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!” (v. 24, NLT).

The original order of things will return. God never intended for violence to be the rule of nature. Animals were not created to eat other animals, and men were not created to make war on or murder other men. In the new creation, the wolf and the lamb will feed in the same pasture. The mighty, flesh-eating lion will eat grass like a cow. The snake, who was cursed to travel on its belly in the dust as a sign of humiliation, and the dust as its sustenance.

The advent of sin in the Earth caused changes in the planet and the rest of creation, but God never changed. He maintained His eternal love for humanity and His desire to provide a place for us. He never alters in His desire for us to have dominion over the Earth. In the end, God will recreate the world as pure, uncorrupted,

and good. The redeemed of humanity will rule and reign with Christ.

### Search the Scriptures

1. God promises to create a new heaven and a new earth. What will be a key emotion in the new creation (Isaiah 65:18)?
2. How will God respond to the needs and desires of His people in the new creation (v. 24)?

### Discuss the Meaning

Do you believe that the conditions of our world will get better or worse? As believers wait patiently for God to usher in the new age, what are our obligations to the present world?

### Liberating Lesson

The people of Israel received the promise of the new creation while they were in captivity as a result of turning away from God. Believers today are often just as rebellious as the ancient Israelites. We fail to share the Good News of Christ with others, reach out to the needy, and obey God’s Word. We should live each day making the most of every opportunity to do all of those things.

### Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

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### Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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**Sources:**

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## Say It Correctly

Jerusalem.  
juh-ROO-suh-luhm.

## Daily Bible Readings

### MONDAY

The Handiwork of God  
(Psalm 19:1-6)

### TUESDAY

The Guidance of God  
(Psalm 19:7-14)

### WEDNESDAY

No One Is Righteous  
(Romans 3:9-20)

### THURSDAY

Sin, Death, Sacrifice, and Salvation  
(Romans 5:6-14)

### FRIDAY

New Things Springing Forth  
(Isaiah 42:1-9)

### SATURDAY

God Makes All Things New  
(Revelation 21:1-7)

### SUNDAY

New Heavens and a New Earth  
(Isaiah 65:17-21, 23-25)

## Notes

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