

Isaiah 65:17–25 Study

Theme: *Discipleship means continuing in faithful work and witness, even when the world shakes.*

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17–25 (NIV)

Introduction

Isaiah's words were spoken to a people trying to rebuild their lives after the exile. They had come home to rubble, disappointment, and conflict. The temple stood again, but joy was missing. Into their uncertainty, God spoke a word of promise: "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth."

This wasn't an escape from the world but a reminder that God was still creating in the midst of chaos. Faithful discipleship doesn't wait for peace to appear; it works and witnesses *through* the shaking. Isaiah's vision reminds us that even when everything feels unstable, God's promises stand firm. He is still making all things new—and He invites His people to take part in that renewal.

Background

The final chapters of Isaiah (56–66) were written after the exile, around the late sixth century BC. God's people had returned from Babylon, but life was hard and hope was dim. The prophet Isaiah—whose name means *The Lord is salvation*—spoke a message of restoration that reached far beyond Jerusalem. God would not just rebuild a city; He would renew creation itself.

Isaiah 65:17–25 paints that future. It begins with creation language—"I will create"—and ends with peace across all creation. The old pain will pass away. Life will be full and fruitful again. This vision grounds discipleship in hope: even when the world trembles, God's creative Spirit remains at work.

Summary of the Passage

God promises a new heaven and new earth where sorrow gives way to joy. Jerusalem becomes a place of gladness, and God rejoices with His people. Life flourishes again—children thrive, elders live long, and work bears lasting fruit. The curse of Genesis 3 is lifted: no more futility, no more fear.

Before His people even call, God answers. Creation itself joins in the peace—wolf and lamb feed together, serpent no longer threatens, and nothing harms in God's holy mountain. It's a picture of redemption so complete that even nature breathes again.

Wesleyan Perspective

John Wesley would have seen this vision as both *grace and calling*. God takes the initiative—“I will create”—but invites His people to live faithfully in the meantime. The people still build houses and plant vineyards, participating in God’s renewal through steady obedience.

For Wesley, holiness was not withdrawal from the world but transformation within it. Isaiah’s vision shows sanctifying grace reaching every corner of life—work, relationships, and creation itself. Perfect love results in perfect peace, and discipleship means bearing witness to that peace even in a trembling world.

Apologetic Notes

Isaiah’s promise is grounded in the same creative power that shaped the first world. Prophetic hope does not deny reality—it redeems it. The moral coherence of this vision, where justice and joy prevail together, reflects divine authorship. God’s promises are trustworthy not because the world is stable, but because *He* is.

Application

For weary disciples who feel like the world has shaken apart, Isaiah offers this word: keep going. Keep building. Keep witnessing. Your faithfulness matters. The same Spirit who will one day renew creation is already renewing hearts today.

The call of discipleship is not to control outcomes but to remain faithful in the midst of them. Every act of love, every prayer, every piece of honest work is part of God’s ongoing creation. The shaking doesn’t signal His absence—it’s often how He makes space for something new.

God’s story still ends with joy. The former things will not have the final word. He will.

Cross References

- **Genesis 1–3** – Creation, fall, and curse.
- **Isaiah 11:6–9** – The peaceable kingdom.
- **Romans 8:18–25** – Creation’s longing for redemption.
- **2 Peter 3:13** – “We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth.”
- **Revelation 21:1–5** – Fulfillment of Isaiah’s vision.
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** – “Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Key Thought

Even when the world shakes, disciples keep building and believing. God’s creative power has not stopped—and His promise still stands: “*Behold, I am making all things new.*”