

Isaiah 1-5 Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	Isaiah 6-39 New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	Isaiah 40-55 New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	Isaiah 56-66 Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 65:1-25 (NIVUK)

Sunday 10 May 2026

65 ‘I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;
I was found by those who did not seek me.
To a nation that did not call on my name,
I said, “Here am I, here am I.”
² All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people,
who walk in ways not good,
pursuing their own imaginations –
³ a people who continually provoke me to my very face,
offering sacrifices in gardens
and burning incense on altars of brick;
⁴ who sit among the graves
and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;^a
who eat the flesh of pigs,
and whose pots hold broth of impure meat;^b
⁵ who say, “Keep away; don’t come near me,
for I am too sacred for you!”
Such people are smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that keeps burning all day.
⁶ ‘See, it stands written before me;
I will not keep silent but will pay back in full;
I will pay it back into their laps –
⁷ both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,’ says the LORD.
‘Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains
and defied me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
the full payment for their former deeds.’
⁸ This is what the LORD says:
‘As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes
and people say, “Don’t destroy it,
there is still a blessing in it,”
so will I do on behalf of my servants;
I will not destroy them all.

**1. Salvation for seeking servants,
punishment for proud provokers
(65:1-16)**

- ‘I reached out to a stubborn people...’

- ‘...who keep provoking me’

- ‘my final judgement *will* come!’

But why ‘written’?
Isaiah normally writes e.g. ‘thus says the LORD’?
1. Certainty: God’s heavenly notebook
2. Delay: written but no action yet
3. Measured: rather than e.g. impulsive

- ‘...but I won’t destroy everyone’

^a see e.g. Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

^b see e.g. Leviticus 11:7-8; Deuteronomy 14:8



Isaiah 56-66	<u>56:1-8</u>	<u>56:9-57:21</u>	<u>58:1-14</u>	<u>59:1-21</u>	<u>60:1-22</u>	<u>61:1-11</u>	<u>62:1-12</u>
Who gets in?	Any humble 'outsider'	The lowly and contrite, even if extremely wicked	The selfless, not the selfish	Jews who acknowledge their many sins	In wealth, comfort and luxury	With no more sadness	In a secure relationship with God
Where do they end up?							

- 'serve/seek me → rest'

⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah those who will possess my mountains;
my chosen people will inherit them,
and there will my servants live.

¹⁰ Sharon will become a pasture for flocks,
and the Valley of Achor^c a resting-place for herds,
for my people who seek me.

- 'forsake/forget me → violence!'

¹¹ 'But as for you who forsake the LORD
and forget my holy mountain,
who spread a table for Fortune
and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,

¹² I will destine you for the sword,
and all of you will fall in the slaughter;
for I called but you did not answer,
I spoke but you did not listen.

You did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.'

- binary outcomes

¹³ Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
'My servants will eat, but you will go hungry;
my servants will drink, but you will go thirsty;
my servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame.

¹⁴ My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts,
but you will cry out from anguish of heart
and wail in brokenness of spirit.

¹⁵ You will leave your name
for my chosen ones to use in their curses;
the Sovereign LORD will put you to death,
but to his servants he will give another name.

¹⁶ Whoever invokes a blessing in the land
will do so by the one true God;
whoever takes an oath in the land
will swear by the one true God.

For the past troubles will be forgotten
and hidden from my eyes.

^c *Achor* means *trouble*, cf. Joshua 7 where Achan's greed brings *trouble* on the whole of Israel

<u>63:1-6</u> On YHWH's side, after he executes his enemies	<u>63:7-64:12</u> Those who pray like Isaiah's model humble prayer	<u>65:1-16</u> The humble, not the proud	<u>65:17-25</u> In a wonderful New Creation (compilation!)	<u>66:1-6</u> Those with humility, not external religion	<u>66:7-14</u> In YHWH's peace and flourishing	<u>66:15-24</u> On the right side of YHWH's judgement day
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¹⁷ 'See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.^d

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;^c
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ 'Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach^f a hundred
will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.^g

For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labour in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.^h

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,' says the LORD.ⁱ

2. God's new world (65:17)

will have:

a. no more tears (65:18-20)

b. no more injustice (65:21-22)

c. no more danger (65:23-25)

(for YHWH will be there!)

^d cf. Isaiah 61

^c cf. Isaiah 62:4-5

^f Or *the sinner who reaches*

^g cf. Isaiah 62:8-9

^h cf. Isaiah 30:19-21; 58:9a

ⁱ cf. Isaiah 11:6-9

For reflection on Isaiah 65

- 65:1-5
1. What particular imagery did you find striking? Why?
 2. How do you feel about the way God describes his people's sinfulness?
 3. To what extent does the judgement to be described in later verses feel justified?
- 65:6-16
4. Which verses caught your eye, and why?
 5. How do you feel about the binary outcomes of judgement day?
 6. If you were to become more consciously aware of these verses, what differences would that make to your day-to-day life?
- 65:17-25
7. Which verses do you find naturally appealing? Why?
 8. There might be some verses you find less intuitively interesting. How might you grow to appreciate the way Isaiah writes?
 9. Write out 10 things that you find painful or distressing about living in this current, cursed creation:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.

Then write 'NO MORE' before each one. How do you feel about this?

- Prayer
10. Where do you need to repent or pray?
 11. How might your church family help you?

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,'^g for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death"^h or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

^g Isaiah 65:17

^h Isaiah 25:8

Next Sunday (17 May):

- Isaiah 66
- No car parking restrictions