

Τη Νεω Χιτψ οφ Πεαχε, Ισαιαη 65:12-25

Βε γλαδ ανδ ρεφοιχε φορεπερ ιν ωηατ Ιχρεατε; φορ βεηολδ, Ιχρεατε θερυσαλεμ φορ ρεφοιχινη, ανδ ηερ πεοπλε φορ γλαδνεσσ. Ισαιαη 65:18

The Text

1. The division of the Old Kingdom. V.13-15a

The ultimate reality of separation from God

- My servants shall eat, drink, rejoice, and rejoice in glad hearts.
- “You”, on the other hand, shall be hungry, thirsty, shameful, and cry with heavy heart and broken spirit.

And why this reality?

- Because of the conscious rejection of God. *Because when I called you did not answer, and when I spoke you did not listen. 65:12.*
- Regardless of rationale or excuse, there is a clear emphasis that those who are “rejected” by God have first rejected him.

2. The servants of God. V.15b-16

- My servants shall have a new name. The implication here is that that the kingdom of God is no longer the exclusive possession of those known as Israel.
- The former troubles are forgotten. A look forward to a time when sin, distress, poverty, and fear shall be banished.

3. The New Kingdom, New Jerusalem. V.17-25

A new historical era

- Former things shall not be remembered. The history of what went before will pale in comparison to life in the new heavens and new earth.
- Still speaking to the ancient middle-eastern mind-set, Isaiah describes the characteristics of perfect human life.
 - No misery, long life, social justice, peace, and the knowledge that one’s children will also be blessed.
 - Divine peace, where even nature is at perfect peace with itself.

- Yet, some characteristics, which we have come to expect, are missing.

The Final Vision of the New Kingdom

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband . . . and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:1,23:4-5

So what is different?

- More people! The membership roll has been opened up to more than just the nation of Israel.
- A still verdant, but now eternal life in the kingdom of God.
- The primary audience issue.
 - The “old” audience.
 - The “new” audience.
- So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. *Romans 5:18*
- And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. *I John 2:2*
- And on what leg do we stand when we smugly condemn others and the world at large for their sins? *For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all. Romans 5:32*

We know the message. Even those of us who are new to the faith or who don’t read their Bibles enough have heard it. Yet perhaps it has grown old in our ears, and maybe even in our hearts; or maybe we haven’t yet grasped the notion that God, despite all the sin and evil in this present world, desires the heart and soul of every human being that walks or has walked on this earth.

There will still certainly be a dividing of “servants” and others at the final judgment. But what will be the dividing factor, sin or self-righteousness?