

Bible Study Questions

The Promise of Christmas in Isaiah: The Promise of a New World

Focus

With the aim that they would repent of their sin and put their trust in Him alone, God promises His people a future new world which will be marked by joy and free from sin, sorrow, and death.

Read

[Isaiah 65:17-25](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in this book of the Bible; the Old Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

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1. This passage provides a description of a new Jerusalem. What features of this new Jerusalem make clear that this isn't just a description of Jerusalem following the return from exile?
2. In what way is it true that Christians today are in exile (see 1 Peter 2:9-12 and Hebrews 11)? What are some of the implications for us of this identity?
3. What aspects of this new creation and this new Jerusalem are shared with that in Revelation 21:1-8?
4. Sunday's sermon made nine observations from this passage about God's new creation. Which of those was most helpful to you and why?
5. Building off the last question, what are you most looking forward to about God's new creation?
6. In what way does this description of the new world to come motivate you to repent of sin? (Is there a particular sin that you currently need to repent of?)
7. In what ways does this description of the new world to come encourage you in your life right now? (Is this what you're hoping for and waiting for?)
8. In what ways do you need to become more heavenly-minded in your life? Consider Sunday's challenge: think of your time, think of your money, think of the skills you have, think of the opportunities before you, think of the energy you have – the challenge is to take all of that (all that God has given you) and to live this next year in light of this ultimate future. How would an increased heavenly-mindedness shape your life this new year?

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?

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2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?

3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?

4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?