

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Sermon on Isaiah 65:17-25, November 16, 2025

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Conflict. Sadness. Frustration. Death. These are the words that describe so much of human life. None of us can escape the difficulties of this world. You don't have to turn on the news to see tragedy — just talk to a friend, a neighbor, or even reflect on your own life. Life can be beautiful, yes — but it can also be harrowing.

This reality was no different in the days of the prophet Isaiah. The people of Israel had returned from exile in Babylon, and though they were free from captivity, life was far from what they had hoped. They lived under Persian rule. The glorious days of David and Solomon were long gone. Many wondered: *“Has God forgotten us?”* They cried out in chapter 64, “Will you keep silent, Lord, and punish us beyond measure?” And in answer to that cry, God gives a word — not of judgment, not of despair — but of **hope**. God says, *“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.”*

1. God's Promise of Renewal

What a promise! God does not simply patch up the old world; He speaks of *creating anew*. The “new heavens and new earth” are not just a change of scenery, but a complete transformation of reality.

In Genesis, God created the heavens and the earth — and here, in Isaiah, He speaks again like a Creator at work, renewing His masterpiece. It's as if God says, "The story is not over. I am still creating. I am still redeeming." This vision tells us that no matter how broken our world seems — no matter the wars, injustices, sicknesses, or losses — God is not finished. He is making all things new.

2. A Vision of Joy and Peace

Isaiah's vision is astonishing. He says, "*The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more.*" Can you imagine a world without tears? Without mourning? Without funerals? In this new creation, babies will not die at birth. People will live full lives — even one who dies at a hundred will be thought young! Work will no longer be in vain. People will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. In other words, everything that sin and suffering have stolen from humanity will be restored. God paints a picture of a world made whole again — not just spiritually, but physically, socially, and emotionally. This is not just a dream; it is a divine *promise*.

3. The Heart of the Promise: God Dwells With His People

At the center of this vision is not just a perfect world — it's the presence of a perfect God. God says, "*Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.*" The new heaven and new earth are not simply about streets of gold or endless

sunshine; they are about **relationship** — a renewed, unbroken fellowship with God. Humanity, once separated from its Creator by sin, will finally live in unbroken communion with Him. This is what makes heaven *heaven* — not the place, but the presence of God.

4. Living Toward the New Creation

So, what does this mean for us today? Isaiah's vision is not only about the distant future — it is also a call to faith today. The new world begins in the heart that believes God's promises.

The prophet's vision invites us to live as people of **faith, hope, and love**:

- **Faith** — believing that what God has promised, He will do. As 1 John 5:1 says, “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”
- **Hope** — trusting that the pain of this present world will not have the final word. Hope keeps us going when we see darkness around us, because we know that dawn is coming.
- **Love** — the mark of all who belong to the new creation. Love anticipates that future world where harmony reigns, and it begins living that reality here and now.

Faith believes in the new creation. Hope looks forward to it. Love starts living it.

5. A Word for Our World Today: Caring for God’s Creation

But friends, this promise also challenges us to live responsibly in *this* world. The “new heaven and new earth” are not an excuse to neglect the present one. Rather, they call us to join God’s work of renewal now.

Today, we see God’s creation, that is, nature, in despair—polluted rivers, changing climates, fires and floods, species disappearing from the earth. God declared His creation when He saw them as “very good.” Isaiah’s vision reminds us that God’s salvation is not only for souls but for all of creation.

To follow Christ means to care for what He has made — to live gently on the earth, to protect the vulnerable, to plant seeds of life where others see only decay. Every time we recycle, reduce waste, support sustainable living, or advocate for justice for those most affected by environmental harm, we bear witness to the coming new creation. The “new earth” begins wherever God’s people act with love and responsibility toward this one.

6. A Word for Today’s Society

And beyond the earth itself, our world is filled with the same struggles Isaiah saw — conflict, division, violence, and despair. Yet God’s vision calls us to imagine something better: a world where no one goes hungry, where children grow up safe, where work brings dignity, where peace replaces hatred.

In a society torn by racial tension, political hostility, and economic inequality, the people of God are called to live as signs of the world that is coming. Every act of kindness, every effort for justice, every prayer for peace is a foretaste of the new creation.

Conclusion

So, beloved, the message of Isaiah 65 is both comfort and calling. God promises to make all things new — and God invites us to begin living that renewal right now. Yes, this world knows conflict, sadness, frustration, and death — but God’s final word is life, joy, and peace. Until that day when heaven and earth are truly made new, let us live as citizens of that coming kingdom: faithful in our worship, hopeful in our waiting, and active in our love — for one another, and for the world God so loves. And as we go forth today, may our lives proclaim that same promise: “Behold, God is making all things new.” **Amen.**