

10 Questions from ISAIAH 65

I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Q1: Throughout CH65, God addresses two kinds of people in Judah: "My Servants" and "You who forsake the LORD."

- What are some of the characteristics of those who forsake the LORD? (esp v1-5 and v11-12)
- What are some of the characteristics of God's servants? (esp v8-10)

Q2: Can we say confidently and universally that *God spreads out His hands all the day* to sinners (v1-2) – inviting *everyone* to repent of their sin and trust Him for salvation (through Christ)?

- Consider where this text is quoted in Romans 10:11-21 (and other related scriptures).
- How is this congruent with Isaiah 6:8-13 and Matthew 13 (especially v10-17)?

Q3: What does CH65 teach about:

- The Sovereignty of God in salvation?
- The Responsibility of Man in salvation?
- Is one of these doctrines emphasized?

Q4: Do you see the chiasm in 65:8-25 (below)? What might be the author's intent in writing it this way?

Q5: What does 65:8-16 teach about Judgment?

Q6: What does 65:17-25 (as well as 8-16) teach about Salvation?

Q7: What seems to be the main message God is communicating to "you who forsake the LORD"?

Q8: What seems to be the main message God is communicating to "My servants"?

Q9: When God speaks of what He will do for His servants in 65:8-25, we understand that (along with all the promises in Isaiah/OT) to be fulfilled in and through the Gospel of Christ.

- Have the specific promises of CH65 *already* been fulfilled or are they *not yet* fulfilled?
- Is there some sense in which those "in Christ" already possess these promises – if so, what would that mean for your everyday life?

Q10: What are a few things you take away from this scripture?

MY MOUNTAIN v8-10

8 Thus says the LORD: “As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, ‘Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,’ so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy them all. **9** I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of MY MOUNTAINS; my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there. **10** Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me.

CALL v11-12

11 But you who forsake the LORD, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny, **12** I will destine you to the sword, and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter, because, when I CALLED, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen, but you did what was evil in my eyes and chose what I did not delight in.”

JOY AND GLADNESS v13-14

13 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall REJOICE, but you shall be put to shame; **14** behold, my servants shall sing for GLADNESS of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit.

FORMER v15-16

15 You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death, but his servants he will call by another name, **16** so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the FORMER troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.

NEW v17a “For behold, I create NEW heavens and a NEW earth,

FORMER v17b

17b and the FORMER things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

JOY AND GLADNESS v18-23

18 But be GLAD and REJOICE forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a JOY, and her people to be a GLADNESS. **19** I will REJOICE in Jerusalem and be GLAD in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. **20** No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. **21** They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. **22** They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. **23** They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

CALL v24

24 Before they CALL I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

MY MOUNTAIN v25

25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all MY HOLY MOUNTAIN,” says the LORD.