

## Isaiah 65

Read Isaiah 65: verses 1-7: God's plan was to create a holy nation through Abraham (the Jews). Those people were selected by God to communicate the scriptures to the world. God revealed himself to all nations through the Jews. God did not choose the Jews because they were a great nation.

The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:7-9)

The prophets that spoke the words of God were Jews. Jesus is the only means of salvation; and he is a Jew. The scriptures tell us that salvation is from the Jews. God has identified himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Despite this, the Jews took a left turn, and they have been off track from the beginning. The Jews became idol worshipers and wrose than the surrounding pagans in their practices. The Jews became more godless than their heathen neighbors. God turned to the Gentiles (all non-Jews) to save them when the Jews rejected Jesus.

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Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:1-4)

For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bear not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Be not high minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. (Romans 11:15-21)

God wins even when we fail. The Jews rejected their god Jehovah. They also rejected Jesus when he came in the flesh. Like the unfaithful Jews, the success of the gospel does not depend on us. God's will is always done one way or another. The Gentiles received the gospel and the filling of the Holy Spirit when the Jews rejected and crucified Christ. The Church has expanded during the time that Israel had no faith. The Jews have been dormant in faith for a long time. During the last 2,000 years the church has been growing. We are the only ones affected by disobedience.

God uses the disobedient to teach us. We are all billboards proclaiming the wisdom or folly of our choices. Our lives are filled with forks in the road. If you take too many left turns you will become a spectacle to all who know you. They will be reminded why they do not follow your lead. If you make consistent good decisions, you will be a living blessing to copy.

Our mistakes have an effect on all around us. Even so, we all are culpable only for our own actions.

The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the

wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them. (Ezekiel 18:20)

Read Isaiah 65 verses 8-10: God will not entirely wipe out Israel. He will save a tiny remainder from generations of holocausts. The remnant is a Biblical concept that relates to salvation.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, ‘Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.’’ But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he \*said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

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**“But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he \*said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:1-14)**

God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? “Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.” But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.” In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice. (Romans 11:2-5)

Read Isaiah 65, Verses 11-16: Those who were judged and destroyed became a blessing in the end to God’s people. God knows how to separate his true believers from the walking dead.

and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, (2 Peter 2:7-10)

These verses list ways that the faithful and faithful end up in different places.

### The unfaithful:

- forsake the LORD,
- forget about heaven,
- are destined for destruction,
- refuse to answer when God calls,
- refuse to listen to God
- have evil involvements

- make bad decisions
- shall go hungry
- shall go thirsty
- shall be ashamed
- leave a legacy of a curse
- shall be slain
- shall be cursed
- shall live in vexation of spirit

The faithful:

- shall be fed
- shall drink
- shall rejoice
- shall sing with joy
- shall have a new name in heaven
- shall forget past sorrows
- shall be forgiven

Read Isaiah 65 verse 17:

There will be a new heavens and a new earth one day.

Then 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 I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10)

Here is the remaining progression according to the scriptures:

1. A rapture of all believers on earth directly to heaven; and a concurrent beginning of a seven-years of hell on earth upon all unbelievers known as the tribulation
2. The return of Jesus and beginning of his 1,000 year millennial reign from Jerusalem. This will include all believers who have died along with believers still living at his return. The Devil will be thrown in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years
3. Satan is released from prison; and gathers a massive army to march against Jerusalem. They are all destroyed.
4. The great white thrown judgment where hell is emptied out and all unbelievers stand before God's thrown before being thrown into the lake of fire
5. The heavens and earth are destroyed and God takes us to a new heaven and earth.

Read verses 18-25 of Isaiah 65: The millennial reign of Christ will be peace on earth and good will toward men. Most Christmas songs are actually describing the millennial reign; no the birth of Christ.