

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 65

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 65

Theme: "Replacing Jews with
Gentiles!"

THEME VERSES

Isaiah 65:1 (KJV) "I am sought of
them that asked not *for me*; I am found
of *them that* sought me not: I said,
Behold me, behold me, unto a nation
that was not called by my name."

INTRODUCTION

Serving and testifying for the LORD on this earth is the highest of all callings on this earth. The measure of this standard is not monetary. It is not based upon fame or any of the philanthropic ideals defined by the world. The reason for this highest standard has to be the reason of permanency. The accolades and ideals of this world are all temporal even though men have tried their utmost to ensure eternity by means of huge monuments made of the toughest materials that they could find on this earth. But all these are nothing but vain attempts. He has as much chance of succeeding as a man trying to keep an ice cube in the palms of his hands from melting while standing in

the middle of the Sahara Desert under the direct heat of the noon day sun.

But when the believer testifies for the LORD, his efforts are used by the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and salvation. Sinners are turned to the Christ through their testimonies. They become saints the moment they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They are now bound for heaven instead of hell. The accolades of the world are only good on this earth and all of them will perish together with the earth when God destroys it on the day of judgement. But what is done for Christ on this earth will follow the believer when he is called home to glory. Therefore to be a testimony for Christ on this earth is the highest of all calling from God.

The Gentiles will replace Israel as God's witnesses on the earth. Israel has failed the LORD too many times. The time of the replacement is not stated here but we know from NT scriptures that it will take place on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. The reason for this replacement is taught in Romans 9 and 10. However, Israel will not be destroyed. Replacement is not destruction. A remnant from Israel will remain and the LORD will restore back His people as a nation. This is confirmed in Romans 11 as well as Revelations 7. God's plan for Israel is not based upon Israel's "goodness" for there is nothing good in any nation, not even Israel. God chose Israel because He loved Israel. He loved Israel because He simply loved Israel even though there is nothing lovely in Israel

for God to love. Israel will be brought back to God because of God's grace.

The glimpse of the earth after the restoration of Israel is revealed to us in this chapter of Isaiah. The period of this is also called the earth during the millennium for Israel will reign with Christ on the earth for 1,000 years (cf. Revelations 20).

OUTLINE

1. Replacement Not Destruction!
(vv.1-10);
2. God is no Respector of Persons
(vv. 11-16);
3. The New Heaven and New Earth
(vv. 17-25).

COMMENTARY

Replacement Not Destruction!

— 65:1-10

God will raise another witness to replace Israel. He described them here as, "I am sought of *them that* asked not *for me*; I am found of *them that* sought me not." The Gentiles never sought after God before but they will one day. The LORD will allow the Gentiles to replace Israel for the Gentiles will "find" God. God will bring them into His fold and they will be the new witnesses of God's grace and mercy in Christ Jesus to the world. This is the period of the local church. They were not called by God's name before.

The reason is that the patience of God has run out when Israel persistently refused to return back to

the LORD. The chastisement of the LORD upon Israel has been ongoing for some time. Israel is a rebellious people. Israel walked in the way after their own thoughts and is not characterised by goodness. Israel provokes the LORD to anger all the time. Israel sacrificed in gardens which they were not allowed to do for their sacrifices must be brought to the Temple only. Israel burned incense upon altars of rock, which means that they worship God anywhere they like according to their own convenience. They refused to go to the Temple for worship. The Temple as the one and only place for offerings and worship is a type of Christ teaching to all Israel that only Jesus is able to save.

These alternate places of worship that Israel had devised are found in graves' sites. The worship of the dead is surely included here as part of Israel's manifold sins that resulted in her replacement by the Gentiles. The dietary laws were thrown out of the window. They ate swine's flesh and the broth of abominable things. Idolatry is more than just bowing down to objects of gold or stone or wood but an adoption of a lifestyle that ruins the testimony of God's people.

The worse part of Israel's sins was that Israel does not think she has sinned. She still believes that she is well in the LORD! They believe that they are holier than others. This has caused God to be very angry with Israel. This is seen by the use of the phrase, "These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day."

The anger of the LORD was continuous. The LORD will punish Israel for her provocation. To be given the truth and refusing to obey the truth is indeed a provocation. The LORD will not let Israel escape. He will surely judge and punish Israel for her rebellious nature. Israel has stumbled many by her behaviour and conduct. Israel has maligned God by a false testimony. When Israel who are God's people bowed down to images and idols and worship God under trees and upon rocks anywhere they like, they have committed a heinous sin.

Yet the LORD will not destroy Israel completely. Using this imagery, the LORD reveals that there is a remnant that remains in depraved Israel. **Isaiah 65:8-10** (KJV) "Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing *is* in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. **9** And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. **10** And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me." [Emphasis added] Israel will surely be restored one day back to the fold of God's grace and mercy. In the mean time God will replace Israel with the Gentiles.

**God is no Respector of Persons
— 65:11-16**

The LORD laid down very clearly His brand of justice, which is

one of fairness. There is no special treatment for Israel. In fact, Israel is held to a higher standard of judgement compared to the Gentiles because Israel had been given much, much more than the Gentiles, Israel had the truth of God, the Temple and the priests who were the only legitimate mediators between God and man, the prophets and the miracles, etc. With all these privileges, it is amazing and shocking that Israel would fail the LORD again and again. Therefore the LORD declared that Israel was the one who forsook the LORD. Israel had forgotten God's holy mountain i.e. Jerusalem where the Temple was located.

Instead Israel had prepared a table of that "troop" i.e. a troop or many of idols and furnished drink offerings unto that number i.e. a number of idols. This is what happens when the LORD is forsaken. Using the same root word the LORD declares in verse 12 that He will number Israel to the sword just as Israel offered drink offerings to that number. This was an insult to God. Israel bears God's Name. She cannot worship idols. She commits spiritual adultery when she does so as she has entered into a marriage covenant with the LORD since the time of Moses and Joshua. Rebellious Israel will bow down to the slaughter for many will die.

Playing with same sounding words (bow down – "cara" and called – "qara) the LORD drives home the point of His chastisement upon Israel because Israel refused to answer when the LORD called. When the

LORD spoke, Israel refused to hear. The verbs "to call" and "to hear" mean "to obey". Instead of obeying God's Word, Israel did evil before the LORD and deliberately went the way that displeased the LORD. This was a deliberate act of turning away from the LORD by the Israelites. The LORD through the prophets gave them the word of warning but to no avail.

The LORD will make a difference between those whom He called His servants and those who rebelled against Him. **Isaiah 65:13-15** (KJV) "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: **14** Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. **15** And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name." The rebels will never be satisfied. There is an emptiness in their soul that will never be satisfied until they repent and turned back to the LORD. They will eat and drink but only their stomachs would be full; their souls will remain parched and hungry.

The enemies of God would be ashamed whereas the servants of God would rejoice. The servants of the LORD will sing for joy of heart whereas the rebels will cry for sorrow of heart. The contrast is very stark and clear. The word "behold" means that it is easily visible for all to see, even the

enemies of God could see the contrast. The spirit of these rebellious ones would be vexed. The peace of God is gone from their hearts. What a tragedy when these rebels could have the best the LORD could give them but they spurned them all and replaced God with idols. Now God will replace them with Gentiles but the obedient Israelites would remain and the LORD would bless.

The rebellious ones would leave behind a name that would be cursed for they were foolish to exchange good for evil. The LORD God would slay them. He would call His servants by another name. That name would be "Christians!" Jews or Gentiles alike during the time of the church would be called Christians after they accept Christ as their LORD and Saviour. The God of Truth will be the norm on that day. The one who blesses will bless in the Name of the God of Truth. The ones who swear will likewise do the same in the name of the God of Truth. The reason is that all the past sins would be gone and be forgotten and be hid from the eyes of the LORD. Unity and harmony will prevail between the believing Gentiles and believing Jews. Truth will be the common catalyst that binds all together as one.

The New Heaven and New Earth — 65:17-25

The new heaven and new earth here refers to the renovated heaven and earth after the second coming of Christ and before the beginning of the millennium. The world would become unlivable after the seven trumpet

judgements and the seven vial judgements. The former earth and heaven would soon be forgotten as the changes would be very thorough and seamless. The LORD will create the world all over again but this time round only Christ alone would rule. There will be a New Jerusalem that will come down from heaven and it will be the capital city of the whole world where Christ would be the only ruler on the whole earth. There will be joy in Jerusalem and weeping would no more be heard in her.

The people who dwell in the millennium would live hundreds of years. Anyone who dies at the age of a hundred would be considered accursed for he would be considered to have died as a child. Since there is death in the millennium, there will still be sin. The economy in the millennium would be very unique. There will be no need for money to buy and to sell. Everyone would build their own homes for themselves. They will plant fruits and vegetables for their own consummation. Work would be very enjoyable without all the thorns and thistles. Everything they plant would grow and there will be no drought or famine on the earth. The people would live long years like trees.

Before they call on the LORD, the LORD would answer them. While they are yet speaking, the LORD will hear. The presence of the LORD would be on the earth and He will be there for His people. What a wonderful time it would be on the earth. The wolf and the lamb would feed together. The lion shall eat straw like the bullock.

The only creature that will not be changed by the LORD in the millennium is the serpent. The serpent will still be eating dust i.e. remain in a state of the curse. All the rest of the animals will no longer hurt one another like they do today. This will surely come to pass for this is the saying of the LORD who cannot lie. Amen.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 65:1-10

TUESDAY: Isaiah 65:11-16

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 65:17-25

THURSDAY: Isaiah 65:1-25

FRIDAY: Isaiah 65:1-25

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why did God allow us to eat swine's meat and the broth of abominable things but Israel was not allowed to? Does this mean that God has lowered His standard of holiness? Give reasons for your answer.

2. How do you explain to someone who comes to CPBPC and say to you that the Bible teaches us to eat correctly such as only a diet of vegetable and fruits like in the days before the fall? All food and drinks with caffeine is not to be consumed as our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Please explain with biblical evidence.

3. How do you regard this privilege of being a witness for Christ? Do you take it for granted? Do you think that CPBPC on the whole is bearing a good witness for Christ as a church?

4. If the professing believer is not worshipping the LORD, can he be said to have forsaken the LORD and have turned to other gods? Is there a third option if he is not worshipping the LORD or idols? Please elaborate.

5. Which bad testimony is worse, the professing believer who commits adultery and an unbeliever commits adultery? Why? What should be the believer's biblical response to both of them?

6. Will you enter the millennium? How do you feel about your life and your possession on this earth after reading about the millennium?

7. What lessons have you learnt from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
