

Isaiah 65:17-25

New heavens and a new earth

65:17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

65:18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.

65:19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

65:20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

65:21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

65:22 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.

65:23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well.

65:24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Isaiah 12

The Holy One in your midst

12:1 You will say on that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me.

12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

12:4 And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

12:5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

12:6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Malachi 4:1-2a

A day of healing for the righteous

4:1 See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

4:2a But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Psalms 98

The victory of our God

98:1 O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

98:2 The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

98:3He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

98:4Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

98:5Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

98:6With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

98:7Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

98:8Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

98:9at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Do what is right

3:6Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

3:7For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you,

3:8and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you.

3:9This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate.

3:10For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

3:11For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work.

3:12Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

3:13Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Luke 21:5-19

Suffering for Jesus' sake

21:5When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said,

21:6"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

21:7They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

21:8And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

21:9"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."

21:10Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;

21:11there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

21:12"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

21:13 This will give you an opportunity to testify.

21:14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance;

21:15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

21:16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

21:17 You will be hated by all because of my name.

21:18 But not a hair of your head will perish.

21:19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.