

New Heavens And A New Earth

Isaiah 65:17-25

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 65:17

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

At least three sheets of small stickers (approximately 25-30 stickers).

Tape, enough suckers for each child in your class and blindfolds for each child. Use old cloth or make several blindfolds from black construction paper and yarn (punch holes in strips of construction paper and tie on the yarn).

As many “Heavenly Mansion” templates as the number of children in your class. For best results have them copied on white card stock. You will also need markers or crayons, tape, scissors, a stapler, glue, cotton balls, enough coffee stirrers and sheets of light blue construction paper as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GETTER!

The Wolves and the Lambs Game

Choose three children to be wolves (more or less depending on the size of your class). The rest of the class will be lambs. Give the wolf a sheet of stickers. The wolf’s job is to stick a sticker on each lamb. A lamb is out when a wolf sticks him or her with a sticker and the sticker sticks. It is against the rules for the lambs to remove the stickers. Say, “go” and give the wolves a few minutes to catch the lambs. Keep the children from getting too carried away, but allow them to have fun. The game is over when all of the lambs are caught.

Have the class sit down and introduce them to today’s lesson. We will be learning about the new heaven and new earth. Wolves today

try to catch lambs. Shepherds always want to keep wolves away from their flock. In the new heaven and new earth that God is preparing for us, the wolf and the lamb will not be enemies. It will be a place of perfect and complete peace. Let us learn more about what the Lord has in store for us.

LESSON TIME!

Imagine the world remaining as it is with all of the sorrow, evil, hardships and everything else that goes against God's commandments. Imagine a world with no future or hope. That is a gloomy picture, is it not? Yet, that is exactly what life without Jesus Christ is like for non-believers. As Christians, we need not despair--we have a future and a hope!

This is what we will be learning about today in the verses we will be looking at today. We will be studying about that time God has promised to create new heavens and a new earth. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:17-19

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For
behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her
people a joy.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The
voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor
the voice of crying.

During the time that Isaiah lived, over 2,700 years ago, he lived in a world of rebellion against God and evil was everywhere. It sounds a lot like the way that the world is today doesn't it? It was a terrible

time, but even in the midst of evil, God gives His people hope. The Lord gave this promise to the nation of Israel, but it also applies to all of us today who believe in God's Son Jesus.

This promise is so that we can have a glimpse of what God has been preparing for us. We will live with Him for eternity. Just before Jesus went to the cross He talked about going to prepare a special place for us to live with Him for all of eternity (John 14). He has given us a hope of a better life than what we see around us today. God knew that we would need hope and encouragement to continue on when we live in a world that is dying.

Isaiah speaks here of the new heavens and new earth and how that we will not even remember the pain and suffering that we endured in this lifetime. With our eyes focused on what is to come, it was also an encouragement for Isaiah to continue spreading God's message of the coming Messiah and His glorious kingdom to come.

How wonderful it is that the Lord gives us a hope and that we can look forward to a heavenly home. Without this hope, we would not be able to share about Jesus Christ returning in all His glory and share the secret for the joy that we as believers share in Christ. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:20

"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

Have you ever thought of someone who is old and think that they must be really blessed to have lived so long? God does bless some people with a long fruitful life, but what He is saying to Isaiah is when He creates the new heavens and earth, a long life is not necessarily a sign of His blessing. God is a gracious God and slow to

anger; just look how He has saved you and me! But for those that don't believe in Him they may have a long life but it will be a life apart from His protection.

As long as we are His children and believe that Jesus Christ died for our sin we will live for eternity, we are in God's family. But for those who continue to turn away from God He will turn His back on those people. This is what was happening during the time that Isaiah lived and it is the same for today. You and I were separated from God and we were dying in our sin until we asked for Jesus to come into our hearts. We will always be His children no matter how old we are and for those who do not believe, their life will be one that is separated from God.

The life of a Christian is not an easy life, it is a narrow and difficult road that we walk, but we do not consider this earth our home and what a joy that is when we are having difficulties in our life. God gave these words to Isaiah so we could continue to keep our eyes fixed on Him, especially when life gets hard. We must continue walking in faith and remembering that this is not our home. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

Look Up!

We are learning today that **God gives us a future and a hope.** We should always be looking up. For this game you will need tape, enough suckers for each child in your class and blindfolds for each child. Use old cloth or make several blindfolds from black construction paper and yarn.

During worship time have your assistant go into your class and tape as many suckers as the number of children in your class to the wall. Just make them high enough so the children would have to stretch to reach them. Before they come back into the class pass out the blindfolds and help them all put on the blindfolds.

Tell them that they will be playing a game to learn about searching for God's treasure. Explain that they will go into the room and search around for the treasure. Tell them not to tell anyone else where it is if they find it. It will spoil the game if they tell. Let the children search for a couple of minutes. Then have them remove their blindfolds. Tell the children to look up and get a sucker.

Have the class all sit down and talk about how for us to find God's treasure we need to look up. God has all sorts of wonderful things in store for us. Let's learn to look up just like God was encouraging Isaiah to do.

ISAIAH 65:21-22

They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isaiah was stepping out in faith telling a rebellious people everything that the Lord wanted him to tell them. The Lord told Isaiah that they would continue on in their rebellion and sin, which would make it very difficult for Isaiah to continue to share God's Word. But Isaiah was steadfast and was determined to speak the truth without compromising God's Word.

In those days there weren't too many people who owned land or had homes to live in. A lot of the people were slaves and lived in whatever conditions their master gave to them. Unlike today in the United States and in a lot of other areas of the world where people are free to live and work wherever they please. Still there are places where people are not free and they are being killed just for speaking the name of Jesus Christ and saying that they believe in Him. God knew when He gave these words to Isaiah that He

needed to reach those people who were living in bondage to slave owners; but more importantly, he needed to reach those people who were living in bondage to the sin. God is telling us that in this new heaven and earth all His children will be free to live and enjoy the labor of their hands.

This is hope that the Lord was giving to the people in Isaiah's time and in our time as well. We need to remember our brothers and sisters who are suffering for their faith and to encourage them with the words that the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah. We may not have many material possessions in this lifetime, but the Lord is promising that we will build our own homes and be able to enjoy the fruit of our labors. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:23

They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

The Lord is telling Isaiah that children will be a blessing and not grow up apart from the Lord. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children the ways of the Lord. We are to share the truth of God's Word with our children and lead by the example of our own lives. When we are faithful to do that, our children will grow up to praise the Lord and not part from His ways. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:24-25

"It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

The Lord finishes speaking to Isaiah with a very strong and beautiful illustration. He shows that He will answer our call before we even speak and yet while we are speaking He will hear us. God desires that you and I always come to Him with all our needs and He also desires that we praise and worship Him daily. He already knows what we need before we even know what we need, but prayer shows that we have faith in Him and that we trust our lives to His care.

What a wonderful time it will be to live in the new heaven when He will answer before we even speak to Him. He also shows the peace that will surround the new heaven and earth. The Lord used the example of the wolf and lamb because in that part of the country there are shepherds and they must protect the lamb from the potential attack from a wolf. The Lord is showing that there will be no fear for man or beast in this new and wonderful kingdom. There will be total and complete peace. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

Heavenly Mansion

This craft will help the children to remember their memory verse. You will need as many copies of the template as the number of children in your class. For best results have them copied on white card stock (put in a supply order form early to have them ready for you). You will also need markers or crayons, tape, scissors, a stapler, glue, cotton balls, enough coffee stirrers and sheets of light blue construction paper as the number of children in your class.

Have the children cut out (or assist them) the castle template. Have them write the memory verse on the main wall. Allow them to color it using markers or crayons. Roll the castle to make a cylinder (small mansion) and staple or tape together. Cut 3 - 4 small slits at the base of the cylinder (more if needed). This will make small flaps so that you can tape the cylinder to the blue

construction paper. The blue construction paper will serve as the base for the mansion to stand on.

Next, glue cotton balls around the base of the mansion so that they give the appearance of clouds. After that, tape or glue on a coffee stick from the top for a flagpole. Cut out the flag from the template. Have the children write their name on the flag and glue or tape it to the coffee stick.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has prepared for them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

