

“Payback for the Wicked while Preserving the Faithful”**Isa. 65:1-16 (8-12)****Bible Teacher: Rev. Alice D. Tamrie****I. Historical Background and Biblical Context**

God continues to literally say throughout scripture which is the most stable promise he offers his children, the remnant, those who profess that they are called by his name as a holy and obedient people and seek him the more, --I am here, here, I am, here I am. All day long He stand ready to accept those who are not looking for me. But the people’s ways are not a good life; they do anything they want to do. Right in front of God, continuing to do things that make Him angry. People make turns but instead insist on doing things their own way. But just as one bad apple doesn’t ruin the whole bushel, there are still plenty of good apples left.

Let me ask you something – do some folks get on your nerves; are there some that are just rude to your face day after day, they have their own kitchen religion (putting in your own ingredients to taste and suit you; a potluck religious stew! There are some waiting to get messages from the dead, drinking and doing a witch’s brew of portions and charms—they said, “keep your distance.... don’t touch me. I’m holier than you.”. Not realizing their own filthiness, in this manner they are potters, and not the clay! But God in so many words, say that’s stinking thinking! God is the potter; we are the clay!

Isaiah 65:1-8 is plain, indicating the people did not hide their shameful practices or restrain their evil habits saying “I am holier than you” indicates the idolaters were like the worst of the Pharisees in New Testament times. Jesus called the Pharisees children of the devil (John 8:44) as they regarded themselves as better than others (Luke 18:9-14). The heavenly book, the Bible, records sins; therefore, those that are called cannot remain silent, cannot be quiet, the listing is there, right before us, in the face! God is saying, I will repay you in full and will punish you for what you have done. I am no longer putting up with this; I’ll pay them the wages. God says, because they practice this blasphemous worship, I’ll let loose the consequences and pay them in full for their actions. Jesus can heal us everywhere we hurt! He wants to help us mentally and emotionally, as well as spiritually and physically. Abuse and rejection can leave us emotionally wounded because of a lack of knowledge until you discover about the oil of joy God through Jesus wants to give you. He takes our weakness and gives us His strength. He takes our sickness and

gives us His health and healing. We give Him our sins, and He gives us righteousness. We must let go and let God; there is no shame in being needy. The greatest challenge that most people have is to admit they have a need! Payback is here; preserve your faith!

II. The Lesson: “Payback for the Wicked while Preserving the Faithful”

1. **V. 8.** It opens by saying, this is what the Lord says. In other words, this is God’s message and nobody else...it’s what God says. He enumerates the 18 sins of Israel in verses 1-12:
 - a) Rebellious
 - b) Walk in a way that is not good
 - c) Walk after your own thoughts
 - d) Provoke God to anger to His face
 - e) Sacrifice in gardens (idolatry using young women, incantations)
 - f) Burn incense upon altars of brick
 - g) Remain among the graves
 - h) Lodge in the monuments
 - i) Eat swine’s flesh (to Jews the pig was not holy)
 - j) Eat broth of abominable things
 - k) Brag on personal holiness
 - l) Blaspheme God upon the hills
 - m) Forsake the Lord
 - n) Forget God’s holy mountain
 - o) Prepare tables for idols
 - p) Furnish drink offering for them
 - q) Did evil in God’s sight
 - r) Did not choose what God delighted

These vile and ugly things are called out, as they are always the attitude of the hypocrites. These things are like smoke in the nose of God and a fire that burned in his anger/wrath all day. This is why He was determined to stir Himself up to render the idolatrous- the fruit of their rebellion. So here God says verse 7, therefore, I will let loose the consequences and pay them in full for their actions. I will repay man for such deeds-indicating that records are kept of all acts and deeds of men, so that they may be judged accordingly (Rev. 20:11-15).

But for those who obey me, I won’t destroy the whole nation; I will preserve the faithful ones! There are blessings and a benefit which I will do

for the sake of those who serve me (my servants –13-16)!! Those who are preserved will be your descendants, heirs, and chosen ones!

It is interesting that in verses 8-12 are quotes. It is God's will that all will not be lost, saying I will not completely destroy all, some will be chosen, servants, remnants who I will preserve, because they are true servants.

Judah/Plain of Sharon- a land known for its fertility and beauty /Valley of Achor – they will be people who want to follow me, have sought me out. Those are they who are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. **Payback for the wicked while preserving the faithful is a true and valued topic.**

A Seed is promised!

2. **vv. 7-8-10.** A seed is promised who is Jesus! God wants to make it plain, so he paints a picture making it crystal clear, because some don't get it until too late. Just as the new wine or sweet juice in the cluster is valued and preserved for use, so God will preserve a remnant -those who are obedient, who will be blessed in the eternal society under the Messiah Jesus. The juice of grapes being called wine, while still in the cluster shows that all wine referred to was not necessarily fermented or intoxicating. Some of the heirs will be reserved to be blessed under Him eternally. God is indicating indictments against the rebellious. Their cursing will be the opposite of the blessings of the godly. This is demonstrated for our blessings and benefits.

Judgment and Salvation

3. **vv. 11-12.** The word "who" occurs four times! The rebels/disobedient those who forsake/forgotten/abandon God's ways will be purged from Israel. This is what the Lord says! You who abandon me, your God, who forget the holy and high God, who hold dinners for Lady Luck and throw party for idolatry –well, you asked for it, your fate is death...*because when you were invited to turn from your wicked ways, you ignored me, when I spoke to you, you brushed me off.* You did the very things I exposed to you as evil; you chose what I hate. I called you but you refused to answer, you chose that which I do not delight, you wouldn't listen. This was why some were cut off without mercy; and some died or were killed. Very clearly, we are given a clear vision of those sins involving forsaking the Lord, forgetting His place of worship, worshipping idols- the gods of good luck (Gad), and other god of (Mendi) fate.

The Righteousness of God's Judgment-A Divine Pattern!

4. **vv. 13-16.** Behold/watchout ...but God! Once again, therefore the Lord says (twice: verses 8,13) is a divine pattern as we are to recall once again, a contrast of choice: the blessings and the curses, in the Beatitudes (Luke 6:20-26), and in Christ's picture of the Last Judgment (Matt, 25:31-46). Observe that "servants" is repeated four times; what is your choice-being a servant (the faithful) versus being a rebel (disobedient):
- My servants will eat.... You'll go hungry;
 - My servants will drink...you'll go thirsty;
 - My servants will rejoice...you'll hang your heads;
 - My servants will laugh from full hearts; and you'll cry out heartbroken, yes, wail from crushed spirits. Your legacy is being my chosen... or you'll be cursed to the grave.

When you are obedient to the Lord, your old name will be changed (vs 15) this refer to the reputation of the bad name that has followed Israel/ or you for many years. On the other hand, those that invoke God's blessings on themselves and make vows do so in the name of the Lord. They will not invoke or seek blessings from false gods or diols. Therefore, God Himself will bring renewal in your new transformed self just as he will make "the new heaven and a new earth" (4 times in all of Scripture: Isaiah 65:17; 66:22-24; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1-22:5). This newness is yet to come in the Millennium (Isaiah 66:18-24) after all rebellion is put down on earth, all enemies are destroyed, and God has become all in all again because his ultimate plan is the righteous respected, rebels purged; the man- child Jesus, is the seed promised!

III. Conclusion & Prayer:

Isaiah is like a miniature of the Bible – 66 chapters with 66 books all giving a message of comfort and salvation through Christ. Repeatedly the theme using judgment; captivity to sin and disobedience; and the latter days of repentance and restoration, mercy and comfort. Isaiah is the most quoted OT book in the NT-confirming Christ and the apostle's belief and faith.

Father God, we praise and glorify your name which is the key to receiving from you as we consistently believe your Word and how you turn our circumstances from negative to positive. No matter what happened to us in the past, prepare us daily as we trust you to give us blessings and learn from the past as we move to the future that is set aside in Jesus Christ, who came to do the will of His Father in heaven. Empower us to walk in a way that is good, and not in our own thoughts and intentions. We bless you O Lord in truth and faithfulness as we want to be called your Servant, in Jesus Name, Amen!