

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 282 – Sought Of Those That Didn't Ask Through Feeding Together (Isaiah 65:1-25)

1. Who, at the beginning of this chapter, is seeking after God?

A nation other than Israel: *"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"* (Isaiah 65:1).

- God can be sought and found (**Deuteronomy 4:29, Proverbs 8:17, Jeremiah 29:13, and Acts 17:27**).
- He can be found even if a people did not start out seeking Him (**Romans 9:24-30, Romans 10:18-21, and Ephesians 2:11-17**).
- However, the nation that was called by God's name (**Numbers 6:26-27 and Jeremiah 14:7-9**) was not the nation seeking Him (**Hosea 7:10**).

2. Though God spread forth His hands to His people, did they change?

No, they had the "holier than thou" attitude: *"(2) I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; (3) A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; (4) Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels; (5) Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. (6) Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, (7) Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom"* (Isaiah 65:2-7).

- These points are made clear here: **Proverbs 1:24-31**
- God spread His hands out to His people (**Matthew 23:34-38**).
- They were rebellious (**Exodus 32:8, Deuteronomy 9:7, Numbers 9:16-17, Numbers 20:24, Nehemiah 9:24-26, Isaiah 63:10, Ezekiel 2:3-7, and Daniel 9:5**).
- They erringly walked after their own thoughts (**Genesis 6:5-7, Numbers 15:38-39, Isaiah 55:7-9, Jeremiah 7:24, and Jeremiah 10:23**).
- They provoked God to anger CONTINUALLY (**Deuteronomy 32:16-19, Psalms 78:58, Isaiah 1:4, and Jeremiah 25:6-7**).
- Not only continual provocation, but to His face thinking nothing would come of it (**Zephaniah 1:12**).
- They sacrificed erringly and ate unclean things (**Isaiah 66:17; cf. Deuteronomy 14:8 and Proverbs 15:8**).
- They had a "holier than thou" attitude (**Proverbs 16:5, Luke 18:9-14, Philippians 3:7-9, and Revelation 3:14-22**).
- God said they were a smoke in His nose (**Proverbs 10:26**).
- God would not keep silence (**Psalms 50:3**).

- God planned recompense (**II Chronicles 6:23, Jeremiah 16:18, and Romans 12:17-21**).
- He would measure their former work in their bosom (**Jeremiah 32:18 and Ezekiel 11:21**).

3. Was God minded to destroy them all?

No: *“(8) 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” (Isaiah 65:8-10).*

- God’s people still have a purpose (**Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Hebrews 7:14**).
- There was always a remnant (**II Kings 19:30-31 and Romans 11:1-5**).

4. What difference did God say would be between His servants and those who forsook Him?

Basically, blessings or curses: *“(11) But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. (12) Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. (13) 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: (16) That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes” (Isaiah 65:11-16).*

- They forsook God (**Isaiah 1:4 and Jeremiah 2:13**) and that carries consequences (**I Chronicles 28:9 and Jeremiah 17:13**).
- He would number them to the sword (**Ezekiel 14:21**).
- Those serving God would be able to eat (**Psalms 37:25**).
- Those not serving God would hunger (**Deuteronomy 28:47-48**).
- Those serving God would sing (**Isaiah 52:9**).
- Those not serving God would cry (**Lamentations 1:1-11**).
- They’d lose their name (**Proverbs 10:7**).
- Another name (**Acts 11:26**).
- To be blessed, you’d have to have blessed yourself in the God of truth (**Jeremiah 4:2; cf. Luke 11:28**).

5. Though Jerusalem had a troubled history, did God foretell of better times?

Yes: *“(17) For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. (18) But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. (19) And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. (20) There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. (21) And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. (22) They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. (23) They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. (24) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. (25) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 65:17-25).*

- This new dwelling place is not to be compared to the dwelling place we look forward to now. We know this because the new heavens and earth here is earthly with death and house building (**Isaiah 65:20-21**) whereas our dwelling place is heavenly and eternal (**II Peter 3:10-14**; cf. **II Corinthians 5:1**).
- The point of this promise is a new Jerusalem, after they are punished, that will not suffer as their current situation caused. This was the pattern of God purging sin then rebuilding His city (i.e. **Amos 9:14**).