

Week One: The Gift of Eternal Life

OPENING

- If you have a hobby that involves making something, what is it you make? Why do you pursue this hobby?
- Note: Each of the four Advent Bible studies will be the Old Testament book of Isaiah. The Bible Project has two helpful overview videos. As an optional introduction to the book, if you have time, you can watch them from these links: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

STUDY

- Before reading the passage, identify who is speaking these words. Now read Isaiah 65:17-25 aloud as a group.
- What is God creating? Notice all the features of the new heaven and earth. Which ones appeal to you most strongly and why?
- Why do you think it's important that the "former things" are forgotten? Which of the former things would you have difficulty letting go of (forgetting)?
- How does Isaiah describe God's relationship with His people in the new heaven and new earth? v18-19 and v24-25
- How is this picture of the new heaven and the new earth hopeful or useful or encouraging to you today?
- Who is responsible for ensuring the gifts of a new heaven and new earth come about and what feelings and words of praise does it evoke in you?

PRAY

- Pray together for this prophecy to be realized.

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NIV)

New Heavens and a New Earth

17 "See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

20 "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach* a hundred
will be considered accursed.

21 They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 No longer will they build houses and others
live in them,

or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.

23 They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to
misfortune;

for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,
they and their descendants with them.

24 Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the Lord.

Footnote...

*Isaiah 65:20 Or the sinner who reaches