

June 11, 2023



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
No God, no peace; know God, know peace

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
In Romans 5:1-11, we see what happens when a person trusts Christ. "We have peace," it says. "We rejoice," we're told

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ  
**(Rom 5:1 NKJV)**  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", July 29, 2002)*

**Series: The Righteous Reign of God**  
**UNIT 1: The Prophets Proclaim God's Power**

**NEXT WEEK**

**God's Servant-King (Ezekiel 37:21-28)**

## God's Kingdom of Peace Isaiah 65:17-25

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Isaiah 63-66 is identifiable as a unit of thought. These chapters echo the problem of human failings addressed in chapters 56-59, but they don't stop there. They go on to add elements of hope because of the power of God. In so doing, chapters 63-66 contrast human inability to be righteous with God's divine ability to produce righteousness. The backdrop is again that of what the people in Babylonian captivity, several decades in the future from the time Isaiah prophesied, would need as hopeful assurances of better days. When we speak of that exile, we take care to distinguish it from the Assyrian exile of the 10 tribes of northern Israel in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:6). The two tribes of southern Israel, collectively known as Judah, came under Babylonian dominance in about 609 BC (24:1-7). The Babylonians (also known as the Chaldeans) tightened the screws in 597 BC when Jerusalem surrendered after a siege and suffered a partial exile (24:8-20). The final straw was the wholesale deportation (exile) to Babylon in 586 BC. (1) Jerusalem's desolation would last 70 years, (2) the people of Judah and Jerusalem had brought the destruction on themselves by refusing to obey God, (3) the curses poured out on the Judeans were exactly what had been predicted in the Law of Moses, and (4) God had kept his promise to inflict such punishment. The predictions of punishment via exile are found in Leviticus 26:27-33; Deuteronomy 4:25-28; and 28:64-68 (compare Nehemiah 1:8; Jeremiah 9:13-16; 15:1-2, 14; Ezekiel 12:15; 20:23-24; Zechariah 7:13-14).

Isaiah 65 is a visionary text that should inspire its readers to see beyond both past failures and the seemingly valid temptations of the present. It invites us to imagine a different world than the one we inherited, a world in which old wounds will be healed and the God-given talents of all are used to bless others. This text offers a vision of a world in which the communication between God and humanity remains open, free, and life-giving. Reading a visionary text means we have to think creatively in a biblical way. Such texts call us to use our imaginations so we can begin to see what God might be creating in our lives as individuals and churches. In such a vision, God is the one who does the recreating. The language of creation does not apply just to the beginning of time, but to a new era that can emerge when people who have experienced God's mercy embrace the possibilities of new and holy ways of life. The text of our lesson advances that move in a dramatic way. It does not portray the citizens of Jerusalem and Judah as being able, by their own power, to bring about the new world God seeks. Sometimes they fall back into the same sins that led their ancestors to lose their homeland. So if a new situation were to come about, God must be the one to bring it about. This vision of an alternative world continues to exert enormous influence on Christians today. Texts like this remind us that the current reality is neither inevitable nor the full expression of God's plans for humankind. More is possible. Imagining that something more, and celebrating even small hints of its arrival in our everyday lives, makes the community of God's people what it is.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Peace that Provides Joy (Isa 65:17-19)**

*Joy because the former things have passed away (17)*

Joy through the refreshing of God (Acts 3:19)

Joy through liberation (Rom 8:19-21)

Joy through reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-20)

Joy through knowing that there is eternal life (1

John 2:17)

Joy through hope in the new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1)

*Joy because of being created by God (18)*

All creation is joyful because of God (Ps 96:10-13)

Joy in knowing that being a new creation of God is the only thing that matters (Gal 6:15)

Joy because Jesus is the firstborn over all creation (Col 1:15)

Joy because nothing in creation is hidden from God (Heb 4:13)

Joy because Jesus is the ruler of all creation (Rev 3:14)

*Joy because of the lack of crying (19)*

No crying because God removes the disgrace (Isa 25:8)

No crying because God wipes away tears (Rev 21:3-4)

No crying because God gives relief from troubles (2 Thess 1:6-7)

No crying because through godly sorrow comes repentance and salvation (2 Cor 7:8-11)

No crying because God removes burdens (Zeph 3:18)

### **Peace that Provides Provisions (Isa 65:20-23)**

*Provision of longevity (20)*

Longevity through obedience (Deut 4:40)

Longevity through a controlled tongue (Ps 34:12-14)

Longevity because of loving God (Ps 91:14-16)

Longevity because of worshiping God (Exodus 23:25-26)

Longevity because of God's corrections (Job 5:26)

*Provision of fruitfulness (21-22)*

Fruitfulness through fearing God and walking in His ways (Ps 128:1-2)

Fruitfulness according to one's labor (1 Cor 3:8)

Fruitfulness through giving all of one's strength to the work of God (1 Cor 15:58)

Fruitfulness through work produced in love and faith (1 Thess 1:3)

Fruitfulness through God's establishment of the work of man's hands (Ps 90:17)

Fruitfulness through abiding in Jesus (John 15:5)

*Provision of safety (23)*

Safety because Jesus prayed for it (John 17:11)

Safety through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)

Safety through God's protection of us (Ps 27:5)

Safety through God's Name (Prov 18:10)

Safety through being made blameless by Jesus (Prov 28:18)

Safety through living in godly wisdom (Prov 28:26)

Safety through trust in God (Prov 29:25)

### **Peace that Provides Answered Prayers (Isa 65:24-25)**

*Answered prayer because God knows what is needed (24)*

God knows our needs before we ask (Matt 6:7-8)

God knows our needs so we must just pray without doubting (Mark 11:22-24)

God knows our needs so we can approach him with confidence (1 John 5:14-15)

God knows our needs so we don't need to seek them, but we do need to seek God's kingdom (Matt 6:33)

*Answered prayer through peace (25)*

Peace that comes through faith (Rom 5:1-2)

Peace that comes through a mind controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)

Peace that comes through the kingdom of God (Rom 14:17)

Peace that comes from the God of peace (1 Cor 14:33)

Peace that comes through Jesus, who is our peace (Eph 2:14)