



**Scriptural Background:** Isa 65

*"For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come into mind." Isa 65:17*

The end of Isaiah presents several prophecies which seem to point beyond Christ's Incarnation all the way to the "renewal of all things" (Mt 19:28) that will occur at His Return. The second half of Isaiah 65 explicitly does so. The Christian message is not one of being plucked away from this earth, a soul saved for some other world. Rather, the Christian message is one of cosmic renewal under the Lordship of Christ. His reign will be characterized by unfathomable peace (65:25a), the end of violence and destruction (65:25b), fruitfulness, justice, prosperity (65:20–23), and incredible nearness to God (65:24). In short, it will be "heaven on earth" (Rev 21:2–3). Jesus inaugurated this reign in His life, death, and resurrection. He mediates it now in part through His Church: the apostle Paul says, "If anyone is in Christ—new creation!" (2 Cor 5:17) We are the New Jerusalem, the holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, the bride prepared for her husband (Rev 21:1–5, Heb 12:22). Let us live as though we are members of that City now, even as we long for the Day when we see it realized in full.

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God, everything in us yearns for things to be made right. Fill us with hope that one day this will indeed be the case. Help us live with the wisdom that comes from knowing nothing short of Your Presence will solve all our wants or needs, and help us live with the joy that comes from knowing Your Presence will in fact do just that. Thank You for beginning a new covenant with us and inaugurating the new creation. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*