



Builder Bible Study Notes

Kerry Dixon



Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen



Isaiah 65:17-25

17 "Behold, 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; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach ^[a] 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 works of their hands. 23 They will not toil in vain or 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, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

This passage in Isaiah speaks about a time when there will be no weeping, distress, infant death, shortened life, theft or misappropriation of property. All these ills were included in the corruption of the earth described at the time of the flood story (Genesis 6-9), but this passage looks forward to a time when all that has prevented creation from being what God intends it to be is gone.

The disasters we see in the world about us every day will not determine the future of God's creation. Neither terrorist activity nor the exercise of military power will hold sway in God's order of things, political deception will have no place and nor will abuse within the family or



workplace. The selfish exploitation and neglect of nature will be recognised, and the suffering that all these things bring - as well as that which seems to come by chance, through illness or accident - will pass away.

Given the way we have injured creation, it is amazing that anything still grows. Given the way we injure one another, it is amazing that any loving relationships are possible. Given the way we hold on to the past, it is a miracle that new relationships can grow in the face of past hostilities.

We are sometimes a wolf and sometimes a lamb, and the wolf inside each of us is ravenous and our lamb, a perpetual victim. All too often we are individualists and we damage the earth. My self is far more central to life than yours. Our constant destruction, and consumption, of the earth's resources without apparent concern for how others will survive is the incarnation of our selfish desires.

All that is evil will be seen for what it is, and all that is hurtful will be banished. This is what the writer of Isaiah 65 looks toward - and not just to the making new of the physical world, but also to the renewing of the relationships and interconnections within the world which maintain life in its physical, spiritual, social and other dimensions. That is the Christian hope.

Isaiah's message is as real as it is seemingly far off. However our failures will not interrupt the promise. Lord let your Kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as in heaven

Questions for Discussion:

Kerry suggests that the poor often pray to God, asking him to supply their needs. When their needs are not met, why do you think this happens? Who should supply their needs?

Kerry links the Lord's Prayer to this Isaiah passage, suggesting that we pray for God's Kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as in heaven. Do you think these scriptures fit together? What are your expectations when you pray those words?

How do you think you could do God's will on earth?

How many of Jesus' parables talk about the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of heaven?

What is your role in helping the poor?

How could you help the people of North Baluarte?

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