

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
A Tale of Two Destinies
Isaiah 65:1-25

Ever since the fall of Genesis 3, our world has been engaged in battle over these various dichotomies, light/darkness, good/evil, prosperity/poverty, hope/despair, contentment/selfish ambition, and the list could go on and on. This world is the world we have created for ourselves. It is the type of world that has resulted in creation thinking it could do better than its Creator. It is the world that tries to set its own moral boundaries, create its own realities, and establish its own form of utopia.

1. God's wrath is being poured out on those who provoke Him.

2. God has established two contrasting eternal destinies.

3. God is preparing a new created order for His kingdom.

Jesus told His followers that He was going to prepare a place for them and that in His Second Coming that place, that kingdom, would be fully established and ready for those who have placed their trust in Christ and His finished work at the cross. The other destiny, the place we call hell, that place outside of the kingdom, was established the minute Adam and Eve were banned from the garden. Jesus came to rescue us from that default place of death knowing that those who refused to believe in Him were condemned to it already (John 3:16-19).

Reflection

What is the significance of the repeated use of the word "Behold"? How are we to see the things that God is asking us to see in this chapter? How is God's grace and patience on display in verse 1? How do you think people (nonbelievers and believers alike) provoke God? How have you provoked Him and how should these verses serve as a warning to the church? How does the parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 25:31-46 make you feel? How should it motivate us to obedience to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission? Do you believe that Jesus means what He says at the end of Matthew 25:46 when he distinguishes between a place of everlasting punishment and a place of eternal life?