

There is going to be a change, but it will be after a long period of misery. There is going to be a period in God's economy in which He will turn His favor to another people that you look down on and say, They are not God's people; God never ruled over them, they have not been called by your name." God is going to turn to this other people. He is going to bring great blessing to them and to the whole earth through them. They are going to be his servants, called by another name. There will be a long period before you will eventually get the thing you ask for--blessing for Jerusalem, blessing for God's land, blessing for those who are God's people after they have been purged from their sin. Then a wonderful time of blessing will come.

The picture given in 65:18-25 is not a picture of heaven for there is no death in heaven. It is a picture of the rejuvenated and transformed earth following Christ's return. It will be better than anything the world has experienced since the fall of Adam. It will be a world in which sin's curse will be largely removed although its effects are not entirely gone. If one dies at a hundred years of age, they say, He died as a child. He did not live out his years. He was just a child when he died. There will be a tremendous increase in longevity, but not the complete abolition of death. "The one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed (65:20).

After all your misery and trouble you will enjoy my creation of a new heaven and new earth. The former will not be remembered or come to mind.

The ravages of sin will be held down by the righteous power of Christ as he reigns and sends out His commands to the nations. The door for preaching the Gospel will be open and ready for use. There will be opportunity for everyone to hear the Gospel with no external circumstances interfering or preventing. There will be opportunity for the people to receive it. There will be no compulsion about it and this situation will be a clear vindication of human failure even under ideal conditions with the external effects of sin completely removed that nevertheless even then there will be those who will stick to their wickedness and only profess a lip service. They will be like the Emperor Julian, a church leader too whose heart was pagan and when he had opportunity he turned violently against God and showed his true colors. Even so at the end of the millennium the hearts of those who are not right with God will be made manifest in their act of rebellion before it is forever put down.