

A New Direction

Text: Isaiah 65:1-12

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In this chapter we find an excellent summary of the entire prophecy: The major themes of God's love for His people, their rejection, His judgment, the remnant preserved, and a future glorious kingdom established. "Throughout the chapter, as well as throughout the book, the prophet implicitly pleaded for the people to place their trust in the Lord, their covenant God, and to live righteously".¹

I. God's love rejected by some and extended to others (Isa. 65:1-7).

This verse applies to the Gentiles, a people who had not sought God nor asked for Him. The Jews' continual rejection of God and His ways has reached a climax and God has turned His back on them and is now extending His hands to a "new" people who have not sought Him.

This verse shows God's heart concerning what is to come for His people. The phrase *I have spread out my hands* demonstrates God's yearning for His children, yet they rejected Him and walked away.

The people walked in their own paths down a road that was morally evil. The people had rebelled against His authority, His laws, and His prophets. They stubbornly went their own ways, followed their own desires, and regarded their own intentions (*thoughts*).

God was angered by their actions which they blatantly did right in His face.

They were so convinced their acts of worship were correct they "spit" in the face of those who were actually rightly worshipping God.

They were brazenly and openly repudiating the true worship all the while demanding their worship be tolerated. Though their practices were abominations against God they believed these actions made them more set apart from others. In actuality **the nation was supposed to be set apart for God but became set apart from God.**

God will not remain inactive towards the rebellion of His people. His own character will force Him to act for they have violated His laws stipulated in the covenant.

II. God's love shown through the salvation of His remnant people (Isa. 65:8-10).

Against the backdrop of the bad grapes signifying the wicked nation is a group of believing people, a remnant that God will save.

On the basis of God's grace and covenant word He is now saying a small part of the nation will be spared. Truly the righteous stand out amid all the unrighteous people.

III. God's justice results in the slaying of the unrighteous (Isa. 65:11-12).

It will be God who controls the destiny and fate of those who worship these idols. It is God's sovereign will and providence that will number them one by one for the slaughter. The people will then know that it is not the idols who are in control but Jehovah Himself.

Application: Despite God's display of goodness, the people did not delight in Him. Thus Jehovah is abundantly justified in bringing judgment upon these people. In their place He will raise a nation of believing people who will serve Him in the future. They will be people who instead of choosing evil will choose to follow and obey God. They will choose a new direction!

¹ Martin, J. A. (1985). [Isaiah](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1119). Victor Books.