Sermon Notes for September 4, 2016

The God Who Does All Things Well

Isaiah 65-66

Introduction

Isaiah gives us a picture of what the new heavens and new earth will be like. These two chapters come as the answer to the cry of God’s people in chapter 64.

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!” Isaiah 64:1

Do you long for the day when God will make all things new? What will that day bring?

I. Judgment and Salvation. Isaiah 65:1-16

The problem in Israel is that some were praying that prayer, but they were not ready for the Lord’s return.

Judgment would come and it would begin with his people Israel.

A remnant will be saved. Verses 8-9

Who are these people who will be saved? They are called my chosen people, my servants and my people who seek me.

They stand in contrast to those who rejected God’s invitation. Verse 12

My people will be blessed and the longing of their heart will be satisfied. Verses 13-16

II. The New Heavens and a New Earth. Isaiah 65:17-25

The former things will not be remembered. Verse 17

Yet we will still recognize each other. I Thessalonians 2:19-20

The only command in that day will be “be glad and rejoice forever.” Verse 18

God will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in his people.

Verses 20-25 describe what the new heavens and new earth will be like.
Isaiah is using poetic language to describe what is to come.

- Never again will there be an untimely death. Verse 20
- Never again will there be fruitless labor. Verses 21-22
- Never again will there be children born to misfortune. Verse 23
- Never again will there be unanswered prayer. Verse 24
- Even the present order of creation will be changed. Verse 25
- Satan will meet his final doom. Verse 25
- There will be no more harm and no more evil. Verse 25

It is paradise renewed. The effects of the curse are reversed.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

III. Heaven or Hell. Isaiah 66:1-24

There will be two peoples and two destinies.

There will be no temple in the New Jerusalem.

“I did not see a temple in the city because the Lord Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” Revelation 21:22

A line is drawn that cuts through every human heart.

The people who belong to God are those who love him, who are humble and contrite and who tremble at his word. Verse 2

If you love God’s word, there will be people who hate you – even “brothers”. Verse 5

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35

A new nation will be born from the old. It is the birth of the church. Verses 7-9

The New Jerusalem will be everything the Lord intended the earthly Jerusalem to be. Verses 10-11

Peace will come like a river. Verses 12-13

There will be a great missionary outreach and then the end will come. Verses 17-24

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

In the end, no one goes to heaven who doesn’t really want to be there and no one goes to hell who hasn’t chosen it all along.
Conclusion

Isaiah is not a universalist. This book doesn’t end with “and they all lived happily ever after.”

There is a heaven and there is a hell.

There is judgment and there is hope. God has provided a way that we can be saved.

Jesus is the only way. John 14:6

Are you ready for his coming?