

Pray For The Sick And Afflicted:

Delores Hendrickson
Judy Coley (upcoming surgical procedure)
Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy)
Ken and Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law Darryl (surgery for colon cancer)
Dean Cook
Iris Hash
Randy Murray (Cindy Murray's husband)
Jimmy Lindsey's friend at the group home
Zachary Baxter (Susie Burdsall's grandson, deployed in the U.S. Navy)
Edwin Parnell (Mike Parnell's brother, cancer)

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Goldie Gilbert, Al and Gertrude Reynolds

Pray For The Mission Work That We Support:

John Grubb (mission work in Asia)
Charles DiPalma (mission work in Australia and New Zealand)
Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

Pray For Our Upcoming Events:

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner – Due to the late September fish fry there will be no pitch-in dinner for the month of October.

Men's Business Meeting – The next men's business meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6th at 5:00 PM. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Students' Visit From NW Florida School of Biblical Studies – Brother Guyton Montgomery and some students from the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies will worship with us on Sunday evening, November 3. One of the students will deliver the evening message in the absence of brother Bob who will be preaching at the Stop 11 congregation. Following the evening service, a pitch-in meal will be provided in honor of our visitors. More information to follow.

Fall Gospel Meeting – Our fall gospel meeting will be held November 8 – 10 with brother Sidney White. Additional details to follow. Please pray for our meeting.

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3,4).
6. After the above five steps, **Faithful Christian Living** (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

September 29, 2019

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study – 7:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March – October)

Radio Program:

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

ISAIAH'S NEW EARTH

Bill Boyd

There is a lot going on in Isaiah. There is the rise and fall of the *Assyrians*, the rise and fall of *Babylon*, the fall and rise of *Jerusalem*, and the fall of *Ephraim*, *Syria*, and a number of Jerusalem's hostile neighbors. Through it all, there is the promise of a Messiah to come, and a new kind of Jerusalem. Isaiah preached about all this in prophetic poetry. Much of his preaching is apocalyptic in its imagery. It is a glorious challenge to sort all this out. If any think they have thoroughly mastered the book, they probably ought to take another look.

I recently read some material from the Jehovah's Witnesses who see their vision of a renewed earth in the last two chapters of Isaiah. What I read reminded me of the visions of some of my brethren who also advocate for a renewed earth. My renewed earth brethren do not like to be compared with the Jehovah's Witnesses, and I do not blame them. Their visions of their renewed earth are not the same. The Jehovah's Witnesses still have a heaven above for God and 144,000; my renewed earth brethren imagine a blending of heaven and earth, with God in our midst. That is a big difference, but still, the way some of my renewed earth brethren see their vision in the last two chapters of Isaiah, they remind me of the Jehovah's Witnesses. They both impose their vision into the text, and then point to it the way a child points to a poodle in the clouds.

When Isaiah writes of a "new heavens and a new earth" ([Isa. 65:17](#) & [66:22](#)), he is writing about a new order of things. Some of the things Isaiah says match our expectations of heaven. He writes of gladness, rejoicing, and joy. He says, "*The voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying*" ([Isa. 65:19](#)). However, Isaiah writes of other things we do not expect in heaven.

Will children die in heaven? Isaiah spoke of "a child that shall die an hundred years old" ([Isa. 65:20](#)).

Will there be hundred years old sinners in heaven? Isaiah said, "*the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed*" ([Isa. 65:20](#)).

Will women give birth in heaven? Isaiah speaks of a woman that will bring forth before she travails, and who will deliver a man child before she has pain ([Isa. 66:7](#)).

Will there be mules in heaven? Isaiah speaks of those who will ride to Jerusalem upon "horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts" ([Isa. 66:20](#)). They will come to Jerusalem to worship "from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another" ([Isa. 66:23](#)). After worship they "shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" ([Isa. 66:24](#)). That is how Isaiah ends; that is the last verse. Does this mean that hell is going to be on the renewed earth? I do not think so.

Some see all this as a return of the Jews to Jerusalem from their captivity. Some of it sounds like that. "*They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them*" ([Isa. 65:21-23](#)). Isaiah had written of Israel's return from captivity (see [Isaiah 44:28-45:4](#)), but something greater is being described here.

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Isaiah is a Messianic prophet. On pages 853 and 854 of my old Dickson Analytical Study Bible, there is a list of almost sixty New Testament passages with quotations from Isaiah. Isaiah had already used some of the language describing the new earth in a Messianic context. Isaiah said, "*I will create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy, and I will rejoice in Jerusalem... Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her... Ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem... I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see my glory... They shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations... to my holy mountain Jerusalem*" ([Isa. 65:18,19](#); [66:10,13,18,20](#)). This is how Isaiah spoke of the church in [Isaiah 2:2-3](#), in a prophecy that was fulfilled on Pentecost in Acts 2. In [Isaiah 65:25](#) the prophet said, "*The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.*" This is the language of Isaiah 11. The apostle Paul quoted [Isaiah 11:10](#) in reference to the Gentiles coming into the church with the Jews ([Rom. 15:12](#)). Isaiah himself said, "*I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream*" ([Isa. 66:12](#)), and again, "*I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory*" ([Isa. 65:18](#)), and again, "*They shall declare my glory among the Gentiles*" ([Isa. 66:19](#)).

Isaiah's new earth imagery fits well into this Messianic context. Consider the woman who, "*Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard of such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once*" ([Isa. 66:7-8](#))? The woman is Zion, for Isaiah said, "...soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children" ([Isa. 66:8](#)). The nation that Jerusalem brought forth in one day is the church, and the day was Pentecost. "*Suddenly there came from heaven the sound of a rushing mighty wind...and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls*" ([Acts 2:2,41](#)). As for looking on the "carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me" ([Isa. 66:24](#)), look now for those ancient mighty kingdoms that rose up against God's people. Look now for Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Macedonia, Syria, Egypt, Rome, and the host of other hostile nations. To this day, their monuments remain in ruins, but in the new heaven and earth that the LORD created on Pentecost many years ago, the kingdom of God continues to grow. Isaiah used the imagery of the undying worm and of the unquenchable fire to describe the enduring nature of their ruin, and Jesus later used this language to describe the sinner's enduring ruin in hell, but in Isaiah, heaven is not in hell.

Do you think you have mastered the last two chapters of Isaiah now? Perhaps we should all take another look. The Messianic context is strong. Isaiah's apocalyptic imagery does not play well as a proof text for a renewed eternal earth. My brethren who advocate for a renewed earth do not contend for the same kind of renewed earth the Jehovah's Witnesses contend for, but when they use these chapters the way Jehovah's Witnesses use them, they should be patient with us when we get them confused.