



ISAIAH 65:1-2, 17-25

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’

All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—

<sup>17</sup>“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach<sup>[a]</sup> a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**



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*A community is Christian to the degree that it is confronted by and attempts to form its life in response to the Word of God.*

## **The Bible is AUTHORITATIVE**

### **which makes us ACCOUNTABLE**

*I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. Is 46:10*

If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped. -- Evelyn Underhill

## **The Bible is CONFRONTATIONAL**

### **which makes us UNCOMFORTABLE**

*"If you find God with ease, perhaps it is not God you have found." T Merton*

*"A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin... what gospel is that?" Bishop Romero*

## **The Bible is A BANQUET**

### **to those who are STARVING**

*"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infant sin Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it." 1 Cor 3:1-2*

**The mark of a great church is not how many people come, but how many people live differently for having been there.**



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