

REVEALED: “Contrasts and Confidence”

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;

I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, “Here I am, here I am,”
to a nation that was not called by my name.

² I spread out my hands all the day
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;

³ a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and making offerings on bricks;

⁴ who sit in tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat pig's flesh,
and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

⁵ who say, “Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy
for you.”

These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all the day.

⁶ Behold, it is written before me:
“I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their lap
⁷ both your iniquities and your fathers'
iniquities together,
says the Lord;
because they made offerings on the mountains
and insulted me on the hills,

I will measure into their lap
payment for their former deeds.”^[b]

⁸ Thus says the Lord:

“As the new wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, ‘Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,’
so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all.

⁹ I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;
my chosen shall possess it,
and my servants shall dwell there.

¹⁰ Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks,
and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down,
for my people who have sought me.

¹¹ But you who forsake the Lord,
who forget my holy mountain,
who set a table for Fortune
and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,

¹² I will destine you to the sword,
and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter,

because, when I called, you did not answer;

when I spoke, you did not listen,
but you did what was evil in my eyes
and chose what I did not delight in.”

¹³ Therefore thus says the Lord God:
“Behold, my servants shall eat,

but you shall be hungry;
behold, my servants shall drink,
but you shall be thirsty;
behold, my servants shall rejoice,
but you shall be put to shame;
¹⁴ behold, my servants shall sing for
gladness of heart,
but you shall cry out for pain of heart
and shall wail for breaking of spirit.
¹⁵ You shall leave your name to my
chosen for a curse,
and the Lord God will put you to death,
but his servants he will call by another
name,
¹⁶ so that he who blesses himself in the
land
shall bless himself by the God of truth,
and he who takes an oath in the land
shall swear by the God of truth;
because the former troubles are
forgotten
and are hidden from my eyes.
¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be
remembered
or come into mind.
¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of
weeping

and the cry of distress.
²⁰ No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his
days,
for the young man shall die a hundred
years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old
shall be accursed.
²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit
them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their
fruit.
²² They shall not build and another
inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days
of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the
work of their hands.
²³ They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the
blessed of the Lord,
and their descendants with them.
²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze
together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,"
says the Lord.

Isaiah 65



Contrasts

God's REACH with grace (v. 1)

A REBELLIOUS response (2-5a)

God REPAYS the insults (5b-7)

Compare and CONTRAST (8-16)

How many can you count?

Confidence – Behold!

New HEAVENS and a new EARTH

Gladness and JOY

ABUNDANCE and blessing

Christ still offers you this grand FUTURE!

Question: Do you have gospel confidence that this future is yours forever?