

WORTH the WAIT:

The Future According to God

Watch the news or browse the internet for long enough, and you'll naturally wonder what hope remains for us. From political corruption and misinformation to violence and oppression, this world seems lost and broken beyond repair. But in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, God shared His vision of a more hopeful future in which captives will be set free, darkness will give way to light, and those who mourn will be comforted. We believe that God's promises remain as true as ever today and that His new world is still on the way. That's why, even though we see this world as it is, we hold fast to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Because of his life, death, and resurrection, the best is yet to come. Join us for five Sundays starting April 27 as we explore Isaiah 60-66 and why the promises of God are *worth the wait*!

May 25, 2025 - Part 5 - God's Plan to Save You

(Remember to cast your vote for next week's sermon topic by visiting thestory.church/vote)

As we wrap up our seven-month journey through the book of Isaiah, what theme or big idea from this book has stuck with you?

Today we're going to explore Isaiah 65, where we find God's plan to save us in three moves:

Isaiah 65:1-2 - "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..."

God's Plan for Our Salvation

1. God _____ toward us, but we _____ Him.

Have you ever stopped to consider all the ways, big and small, that God has looked out for you, protected you, provided for you, etc? What comes to mind?

What is "prevenient grace" and who, specifically, does it come from?

Isaiah 65:2-9 - "All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations - a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil... who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!' Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day... I will not keep silent but will pay back in full: I will pay it back into their laps... I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds." This is what the Lord says: "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and people say, 'Don't destroy it, there is still a blessing in it,' so will I do on behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all. I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen people will inherit them, and there will my servants live."

God's Plan for Our Salvation

2. God _____ our sin, and we _____ (or _____)

What kind of sin does God find especially repulsive, and why?

Why *must* God judge and punish sin?

What is the significance of God's outstretched hands to an obstinate people? (consider Exodus 3:19-20 and the Crucifixion)

What is “justifying grace” and who, specifically, does it come from?

Isaiah 65:17-25 - “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 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. 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 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.”

God’s Plan for Our Salvation

3. God _____ His creation, and we _____ with God!

Instead of living in temples, where does God’s Spirit now live? (See Isa 66:1-2 and 1 Cor 6:19)

What is “sanctifying grace” and who, specifically, does it come from?

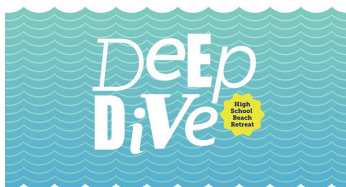
What do you think it will look and feel like to rejoice *with God*?

Your Notes:



Vacation Bible School

Registration is open for this year's Vacation Bible School, happening June 23-26th from 9am to noon daily for children ages 3 through 5th grade! Visit **thestory.church/vbs** to learn more and register today. You can also register to volunteer or donate supplies on that same link.



High School Beach Retreat

All students entering 9th-12th grade in Fall 2025 are invited to join us for Deep Dive from Monday, June 30 to Wednesday, July 2! Our students will enjoy some fun in the sun and take a deeper dive into their faith! Register: **thestory.church/events**



Summer Adult Classes

This June & July, we're launching our summer discipleship season with Sunday morning and Wednesday evening groups! Head to **thestory.church/groups** to view all of our summer offerings and sign up today. Spaces are limited for most classes!