

Isaiah 65:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Analysis

This prophetic declaration announces God's ultimate restoration project—complete cosmic renewal. 'For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth' (ki hineni bore shamayim chadashim ve-erets chadasah, כִּי־הִנֵּנִי בּוֹרֵא שָׁמַיִם חֲדָשִׁים וְאֶרֶץ חֲדָשָׁה) uses the verb bara (create), the same word describing original creation in Genesis 1:1. This isn't renovation but new creation. 'New' (chadash, שֶׁחֲדָשׁ) indicates fresh, unprecedented, not merely renewed old creation. The scope encompasses both heavens (spiritual realm) and earth (physical realm)—total reality transformed. The result: 'the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind' (ve-lo tizakarnah ha-rishonot ve-lo ta'alenuh al-lev)—present creation with its sin, sorrow, suffering, and death will be so eclipsed by new creation's glory that it won't even come to mind. Peter references this promise (2 Peter 3:13); John sees its fulfillment (Revelation 21:1). This is the consummation of redemption history—not merely souls saved but creation itself redeemed.

Historical Context

Isaiah's original audience lived in a broken world—oppression, exile, suffering, death. This vision looked beyond immediate restoration to ultimate restoration when God would make all things new. Jewish apocalyptic literature developed these themes (1 Enoch, 2 Baruch). Jesus spoke of 'regeneration' (palingenesia, Matthew 19:28) when all things would be renewed. Paul describes creation groaning in labor pains, awaiting redemption (Romans 8:18-25). Early Christians, suffering persecution, found hope in this promise—present suffering was

temporary; new creation was eternal. Throughout church history, this vision sustained believers: Reformation martyrs, missionary pioneers, persecuted believers worldwide. The promise remains: God will make all things new, completely transforming reality.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of new heavens and new earth affect your perspective on environmental issues and physical creation's value?
2. What specific aspects of the 'former things' (sin, suffering, death, injustice) are you most eager to see replaced in the new creation?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הִנֵּנִי	בֹרֵא	שָׁמַיִם	וְאֶרֶץ	וְאֶרֶץ
H3588	H2005	For behold I create	heavens	and a new	earth and a new
		H1254	H8064	H2319	H776 H2319
וְלֹא	תִזְכָּר	וְהַיָּשָׁן	וְלֹא	תָבֹא	עַל
H3808	shall not be remembered	and the former	H3808	nor come	H5921
	H2142	H7223		H5927	
לְבָב:					
into mind					
H3820					

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:13 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Isaiah 66:22 (Parallel theme): For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Isaiah 43:18 (Parallel theme): Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Jeremiah 3:16 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

Isaiah 51:16 (Parallel theme): And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.