

God's Incredible Future

上帝超乎意料的未来

Isaiah 65:8-25 NIV (2011)

以赛亚书 65:8-25

Introduction - Being Exiled

引言 – 被放逐

Good morning,
早安，

Please keep your Bibles open in Isaiah 65 as I'll be referring to it throughout the sermon.

请翻到以赛亚书第65章，我将在整个信息中一再提到这章圣经的内容。

First of all, thank you for your partnership and prayers as I help support the Christians students at Deakin University grow to become more mature Christians while they are studying their courses.

首先，谢谢你们在我的大学事工上与我同心和为我的事工祷告。我是在迪肯大学帮助和支持在那儿读书的大学生们成为更成熟的基督徒。

Some of you may have known me since I was very small, and I admit that I wasn't the most obedient child.

你们中间的一些人可能在我年纪还小的时候就认识我。我承认我当时并不是个最乖巧的孩子。

Even just looking at some of the faces of my old Sunday school teachers brings me a sense of guilt.

就是现在看到我一些往日主日学老师的面孔也会令我感觉有点内疚。

I remember occasions I would be given warning after warning to behave, but when my teachers had had enough I would be exiled outside to go sit next to the rubbish bin near to the kitchen.

我记得有些时候我会多次的被警告。但是当我的老师实在受不了的时候，我就会被放逐到外头，坐在靠近厨房的垃圾桶旁边。

This is the same way Judah was dealt with - *not my son, Judah* but **the nation of Judah** in the Old Testament.

犹大也一样的被处置 - 不是我的儿子犹大，而是旧约中的犹大国。

We see in the book of Isaiah that after *warning after warning*, Judah kept on sinning, kept on worshipping false idols, kept on accepting bribes and committing murder.

在以赛亚书中我们看到，经过一次又一次的被上帝警告之后，犹大仍然继续犯罪，继续敬拜虚假的偶像，继续接受贿赂和继续犯杀人的罪。

So God had enough and punished them. He sent Babylon to destroy Jerusalem and take their people away.

所以上帝受够了并惩罚他们。他派巴比伦去毁灭耶路撒冷，把他们的人带走。

And so imagine you're one of these people where your home has been destroyed and you are taken captive.

所以，请想象你就是这些人中的一个，你的家园被摧毁，你自己成为了俘虏。

You are hopeless and defeated but in God's incredible mercy, in God's amazing kindness and compassion, he tells you that there is still a hope.

你处在绝望和挫折当中，但是在上帝超乎意料的恩典中，在他奇妙的恩慈和怜悯中，他告诉你，你还有希望。

And so we come to this passage in Isaiah where we hear God tell his people that there is still a future for you.

同样的，我们来到以赛亚的这段经文时，我们听到上帝告诉他的子民，你们还有未来的盼望。

And in this part of Isaiah, we hear who this future is for and what this future looks like.

在这一章的以赛亚书里，我们会听到这个未来是给谁的，以及这未来是怎么的一回事。

A. God's future is for his servants (Isaiah 65:8-16)

上帝的未来是赐给他的仆人的 (以赛亚书 65:8-16)

So in the first part of this passage we see that this hope and this future belongs to God's servants.

在第一段的经文里，我们看到这个盼望和这个未来是属于上帝的仆人的。

Look at verse 8 and 9 with me

请和我一起看第8节和第9节

8 *“As when juice is found in a cluster of grapes and people say, ‘Don’t destroy it, there is still blessing in it,’ so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all.*

8 葡萄中寻得新酒，人就说：不要毁坏，因为福在其中。我因我仆人的缘故也必照样而行，不将他们全然毁灭。

9 *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.*

9 我必从雅各中领出後裔，从犹大
中领出承受我众山的。我的选民必
承受；我的仆人要在那里居住。

Throughout the entire book of Isaiah, one of the things Judah is constantly compared to is *a vineyard*. A vineyard that God had cared for and protected.

在整本以赛亚书中，其中一个犹大国经常被比喻为的就是葡萄园。一个上帝所照顾和保护的葡萄园。

But when it didn't produce anything good, when it only produced bad fruit, all that was left to do was to clear it out.

但是它结不出好东西，只结出坏果子时，接下来能够做的就是把它铲除。

And so you can imagine workers in this vineyard removing the worthless vines, chucking out the worthless bad fruit when someone says ***'hey hey, wait, there's some grapes here with some juice!'***

所以你可以想象，这个葡萄园里的工人正在去除那些毫无价值的葡萄藤，把那些毫无价值的坏果子扔掉，而突然有人说“***诶诶，等等，这里有一些带有果汁的葡萄！***”的情况。

In disaster, where Jerusalem is totally destroyed and Judah is exiled by Babylon:

'Wait, Wait' - there are some who still seek God, and there are some who serve God.

在灾难中，耶路撒冷被彻底摧毁，犹大被巴比伦流放：

“**等等**” - 还有人是寻求上帝的，还有人侍奉上帝的。

And it is to them, for those who are faithful to God, God promises them a future. In hopelessness and despair, God promises hope.

就是对这些人，那些忠于上帝的人，上帝应许他们拥有未来。在绝望和走投无路时，上帝应许他们有盼望。

We can see this all throughout this passage:

我们可以在这整章中看到这一点：

- *verse 9 'there my servants will live'*

第9节 '我的仆人要在那里居住'

- *verse 13 'my servants will eat...my servants will drink...my servants will rejoice'*

第13节 '我的仆人必得吃...我的仆人必得喝...我的仆人必欢喜'

- *Verse 14 'my servants will sing'*

第14节 '我的仆人...欢呼'

In God's kindness and his faithfulness God promises a future to his servants.

因着上帝的恩慈和信实，他向他的仆人应许有一个未来。

But to those who forsake him, we see what happens to them in verse 12.

但对于那些离弃上帝的人，我们在第12节中看到他们的结局。

12 *I will destine you for the sword, and all of you will fall in the slaughter; for I called but you did not answer, I spoke but you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me.*

12 我要命定你们归在刀下，都必屈身被杀；因为我呼唤，你们没有答应；我说话，你们没有听从；反倒行我眼中看为恶的，拣选我所不喜悦的。

Its sad, and its distressing, isn't it?

这是令人难过、令人悲痛的，不是吗？

Those who still turn away from God, who don't listen to him, they will be cleared out and thrown aside.

那些仍然背弃上帝，不听从他的人，他们将被清除并被扔到一边。

A few years ago, there was this time where my front lawn was full of weeds. And so one Saturday morning, I got up early and did some gardening.

几年前，有一次我房子前面的草坪上长满了杂草。所以一个星期六早上，我就一早起来，干点清理园艺的工作。

*And so I was grabbing the weeds,
pulling them out and putting them
into the discard pile.*

*所以呢，我抓住了杂草，将它们拔
出来，把它们放到要丢弃的堆中。*

And there was this bunch I grabbed and pulled, and when I pulled them out, hanging on the end of these so called weeds were tiny orange beautiful baby carrots!

我抓住了一堆的杂草，把它们拔起来，挂在这些所谓的杂草末端的竟然是一颗颗美丽的橙色小胡萝卜！

No, these weren't for the discard pile.

不，这些不应该是扔到丢弃堆去的。

These were to be brought into my house.

这些都是要拿进我家里去的。

These were valuable. These were my carrots.

这些很有价值。这些是我的胡萝卜。

In God's judgement of Jerusalem, in the exile of Judah to Babylon, God finds that there are still some who respond to him.

在审判耶路撒冷时、犹大人被掳到巴比伦的人当中，上帝发现仍有一些回应他的人。

God finds that there are still some who belong to him.

上帝发现仍有一些属于他的人在当中。

And to them, God promises mercy and hope.

对他们，上帝应许怜悯和盼望。

And so, the question for us today is:

因此，今天我们面对的问题是：

When we face judgement and destruction
because of our sins, because we have
turned away from God....

Do you turn to Jesus?

当我们因为罪的缘故而面对审判和毁灭，
因为我们已经远离了上帝时.....

你有回转归向耶稣吗？

Do you belong to Jesus?

你属于耶稣吗？

**Where God's incredible
mercy and hope is found.**

**在那里有上帝那令人
意想不到的怜悯和希望。**

If you are, *if you are*, this promise of a future is an immense comfort and hope.

如果你是的话，*如果你真是的话*，这未来的应许是一个莫大的安慰和盼望。

In this broken world where there is disease, ridicule, pain and suffering, where everything ends in death - this promise of a future is a relief.

在这个充斥疾病，嘲讽，痛苦和折磨，一切都以死亡告终的世界中，这未来的应许是一个救援。

But if you're not putting your faith and trust in Jesus, I weep for you and want you to know that it's not too late to respond to his call.

但如果你没有将信心和信任放在耶稣身上，我为你哭泣，并要你知道现在回应他的召唤还为时不晚。

B. God's incredible future described (Isaiah 65:17-25)

上帝超乎意料的未来的描述 (以赛亚书 65:17-25)

So we have seen that God has a future for his servants and in our next part of this passage, we see what this future looks like.

我们已经看到上帝对他的仆人预备的未来。在下一段经文里我们要来看对于这个未来的描述。

Look with me in verses 17-19:

请跟我一起来看第17-19节：

17 *See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, or will they come to mind.*

17 看哪！我造新天新地；从前的事不再被纪念，也不再追想。

18 *But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and it's people a joy.*

18 你们当因我所造的永远欢喜快乐；
因我造耶路撒冷为人所喜，造其中的
居民为人所乐。

19 *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.*

19 我必因耶路撒冷欢喜，因我的百姓快乐；其中必不再听见哭泣的声音和哀号的声音。

The exiles are given a picture of a place, of a city that is totally new and it will be so amazing and filled with happiness that the memories of the past disaster will no longer linger.

上帝给被掳的百姓看到一个地方的图画，一个全新的城市，它是如此奇妙和充满幸福，以至于过去灾难的记忆将不复存留。

That the past despair and shame, will no longer be carried around with them. It's a picture of joy for God's servants.

他们将不再背负着过去的绝望和耻辱。
这是一幅上帝仆人欢乐的画面。

Not only they will have joy but they themselves will be a joy to God.

不仅他们要欢乐，而且他们自己也将成为上帝的喜悦。

They will please him, they will no longer disobey him.

他们将讨他的喜悦，将不再违抗他。

I am sad to return to Darwin
Knowing that pastor Bruce
Chapman is no longer with us.

我回到达尔文，知道布鲁斯
查普曼牧师已经不再和我们
在一起了，感到很难过。

It brings me incredible sorrow to remember at the end of last year, when Christina and I lost our baby when she was 8 weeks pregnant.

去年年底，当我太太克里斯蒂娜怀孕八周时失去了我们的胎儿，这让我非常悲伤。

But in this new creation there is a sense of life - of *eternal life*.

但在这个新的创造蕴含着一种生命力 - *永生的生命*。

Verses 20-22 are poetic not literal.

第20-22节是诗意的，不是写实文体。

It's not saying that there is still death in this place. It's the opposite, that the new creation is a place overflowing with life - ***life that is long, life that lasts forever. And death is no more.***

这并不是说这个地方还有死亡。相反的，它是说新的创造是一个充满生命的地方 - ***人将有长寿的生命，活到永生的生命。死亡不再。***

Let's look closer at verse 22:

让我们更仔细的来看第22节：

22 *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.*

22 他们建造的，别人不得住；他们栽种的，别人不得吃；因为我民的日子必像树木的日子；

Unlike today, lets say you buy a house now, and in 40 to 80 years time, it will most likely have a new owner.

与现今不同：譬如说你现在购买了一间房子，等40到80年以后，它很可能换了新主人啦。

But in God's future, in **God's wonderful future**, you will always live in that house, **because you will always live!**

但是在上帝的未来，在**上帝奇妙的未来**，你将永远住在那间房子里，**因为你将永远活着！**

But most importantly, you may noticed a repeated theme all throughout our passage this morning:

但最重要的是，你今早可能有注意到有一个重复的主题贯穿我们所看的经文：

- My servants 我的仆人
- My mountain 我众山
- My chosen 我选民
- My people 我民

We get a better sense in verse 24:

第24节让我们有更好的理解：

24 *Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.*

24 他们尚未求告，我就应允；
正说话的时候，我就垂听。

It's a picture *of nearness, of closeness.*

这是一幅贴心、**亲密关系**的画面。

It's a place *where God will be.* In this incredible future, there will be *joy*, there will be *life*, there will be *safety*. But best of all, *they will be with God!*

这是**上帝所在之处**。在这个超乎意料的未来，将有**欢乐**，有**生命**，有**安全**。但最重要的是，**他们将与上帝同在！**

Conclusion 结语

**Not longing for it enough
对它缺乏渴慕**

We have a future that is incredible,
don't you agree?

我们有一个超乎意料的未来，
不是吗？

**It is amazing!
这太神奇了！**

Yet, I think the problem for us today is that:

然而，我认为今天我们面对的问题是：

other things take our focus

其他的事情成为我们的焦点

other things capture our hearts

其他的东西占据了我们的心灵

When life is comfortable now, when we can have instant entertainment on TV, our danger, I think, is taking our eyes off God and this incredible future he has promised us, and we fix our eyes on our devices.

在现在舒适的生活当中，当我们可以我们在电视上获得即时的娱乐时，我想，我们的危机就是我们的目光已从上帝和他应许我们的超乎意料的未来游离了，而将目光专注于我们的高科技生活产品上。

What would our lives look like if we truly desired God's future?

如果我们真正渴慕上帝的未来，
我们现在的生活会是什么样子呢？

What would we spend our time doing?

我们会花我们的时间做哪些事呢？

If we truly desired an incredible
eternal future with God,
how would we spend our money?

如果我们真的渴慕与上帝
有一个超乎意料的永恒未来，
我们现在会怎样用钱呢？

How does knowing God's future
shape your goals?

知道上帝的未来
会如何塑造你的生活目标？

Are we anxious about things in the world?
Or are we working as part of this
new creation?

我们为世界上的事情操心焦虑吗？
还是我们是为成为这新创造的一份子努力？

Because those who put their trust in Jesus, those who look to Jesus, your life has been purchased, you have risen with Christ and you are a new creation now.

因为凡信靠耶稣的人，凡仰望耶稣的人，你的生命已被买赎，你已经与基督一同复活，你现在是一个新造的人了。

Through Jesus, you are a new creation now and you are part of this incredible future.

藉着耶稣，你现在是一个新造的人，并且你是这超乎意料的未来的一份子。

And whatever you are going through now, whether pain, or sorrow or hardship, we can be comforted by God's promise of a place where there will be life, where we will be satisfied, where there will be no more tears, and we will be with God.

无论你现在是在什么境况里，是痛苦、悲伤、还是艰苦，我们都可以欣慰上帝应许了一个地方：在那里会有生命能力、在那里会有满足、在那里不再有泪水，以及我们将与上帝同在。