



Await
Awaiting His Return
Isaiah 65:17–25

Waiting can be one of the most exciting and simultaneously difficult times in our lives. Consider pregnancy. The longer you wait with child the more difficult it gets, not to mention the pain of labor and delivery. It's difficult to wait for the child you've wanted to hold for so long too. But it's exciting as well. With every day that passes you know you're closer to holding your brand new child. This kind of waiting characterized the people of Israel. They awaited a savior, experiencing both the difficulty and joy of waiting. When Jesus was born everything changed. Now, today, we await as well. We wait through the pain of suffering and evil, but we wait with confident joy, knowing Jesus will return.

We watch and wait for Jesus to return, renew creation, and realize his Kingdom.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Isaiah 65:17–25

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^[a] the work of their hands.
23 They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,^[b]
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.

- We're often confused with the Advent season, considering it's more focused on Jesus' return than his birth. Still, why do you think Advent comes before Christmas? How are they related?
- Why do you think Advent is important? Why is it important to focus our attention on the reality that Jesus will return?

- Look at Acts 1:9–11. Based on how Jesus ascended into heaven, how will he return?
- Why is it essentially for Jesus to return?
- What do you think it looks like practically to watch and wait for Jesus' return?
- Isaiah 65:17–25 describes what renewed creation will be like. As you reflect on this passage, what are some of the important elements of renewed creation?
- How will the renewed creation be similar to creation now? How will it be different?
- How does it make you feel to know all of creation, including you, will be renewed?
- Knowing that Jesus will renew creation in the future, how should we live differently in light of that now?
- With our journey through the Gospel of Mark in mind, how is Jesus' Kingdom of God connected to his renewal of creation?
- Do you long for the Kingdom of God to come to fruition? Whether yes or no, why do you think so?
- There's a lot of disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain in our world and in our lives. How is managing this still difficult during Advent and how is it made easier?
- As you close, pray this prayer we prayed together on Sunday.

Father, we thank you for the gift of your eternal Son who you sent to earth, who added humanity to his divinity, and who died and rose for our salvation.

This Advent season, however, we thank you that Jesus Christ will come again. He will return, renew creation, and realize his eternal Kingdom.

Keep us alert by the power of the Holy Spirit to await for His return. Strengthen our faith as we await for Jesus to come again.

We pray with the saints everywhere: "Come, Lord Jesus."

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen