

# Saints Triumphant – By God’s Grace

November 13, 2016 – Isaiah 65:17-25

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*“Behold, 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; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he 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 works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or 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, but dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on My Holy Mountain, says the Lord.”*

Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of End Time – Saints Triumphant. This has not always been called Saint’s Triumphant Sunday. Some might call it the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, others might call today Trinity – 25. Regardless of what you might prefer calling this particular Sunday, today I ask you: Are you a Saint?

If you were to ask people this question in the grocery store or at work, among friends or even among your own family members, many people will say NO! Many will say - NO - because of the wrong definition that has developed concerning a Saint.

To find the correct meaning for Saint we look to God’s Word where we learn that a: Saints = Believers in Christ Jesus. Past – Present – Future!

**Ephesians 1:1** – “To the Saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.” The Holy Ones - αγιοις -

And therefore as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you can confidently and thankfully say: “I am a Saint. I have been covered with Christ’s Holiness. My sins have been washed away because of Christ. And in Him I place my trust.”

How about Triumphant! = Are you Triumphant?

After this past election, some people might feel triumphant, others may not feel so triumphant. When an Athletic team or an individual Athlete wins a competition they might feel Triumphant! When a student passes an exam in school or passes their drivers test they may feel triumphant. When someone lands that big job that they have always dreamed of they may feel – Triumphant! When someone recovers from an illness or surgery they may feel – Triumphant!

A Feeling of Victory!                      To be Victorious!

But all of those examples of triumph are only temporary.

Elected officials move on or are ousted, championship athletic teams are beaten in the following years, individual athletes slow down, and academic learning is forgotten or no longer useful or relevant for future jobs. People get replaced in the job market. After recovery from one illness or surgery there is another to follow.

In the text for today we hear the O.T. Prophet Isaiah speak of a Triumph that lasts much longer than anything we are familiar with from our own experiences of life. Listen to some of the Words Isaiah uses as he proclaims the Word of God:

**Vs. 17** – Behold, I will create **new heavens and a new earth**.

**Vs. 19** – the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it **no more**.

**Vs. 20** – **Never again** will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

**Vs. 22** – **No longer** will they build houses and others live in them,

**Vs. 25** – The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but **dust will be the serpent’s food**. They will neither harm nor destroy on My Holy Mountain, says the Lord.

Isaiah (740 – 681 B.C.) was sent by God to the people of Judah as we read in: **Isa. 1:1** – **The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.**

**Isa. 1:2** – **Hear O heavens Listen O earth! For the Lord has spoken!**

God through His Prophet Isaiah was giving the people of Judah HOPE! Judah, like the Northern Tribes of Israel as a whole, had fallen away from the True God. The Northern Tribes were carried away into exile by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Never to be heard from again as a nation. This would happen during the life of Isaiah. The tribe of Judah would be carried away into exile by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

Even though this would happen, God wanted to give the tribe of Judah the Comforting Message that they would return to the Promised Land. Only their return would have much further reaching effects than simply life in this World. It would reach into Eternity as we see from some of the terms used in this Section of Scripture.

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**Vs. 19** – weeping and of crying will be heard in it **no more.**

**Vs. 20** – **Never again** will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

**Vs. 22** – **No longer** will they build houses and others live in them,

Why would it be so important that the tribe of Judah should return to the Promised Land? Because from the tribe of Judah would come the Savior Jesus.

**Micah 5:2** – **But You, Bethlehem, Ephratha, through you are small among the clans of JUDAH, out of you will come for me, One Who will be ruler over Israel, Whose origins are from of Old from ancient times.**

We thank the Lord that it is Christ Jesus Who Triumphed for us Over Sin, Death and the Devil. The Lord is Victorious for Us in Christ!

**Revelation 5:5** – **See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. Then I John saw a Lamb, Looking as if it has been slain standing in the center of the throne.”**

**Colossians 2:13-15** – **When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 – having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, God in Christ made a public spectacle of them, Triumphant over them by the cross!**

Christ Triumphed over the grave! And this Triumphant Victory which Christ won, He has won for Us, on our behalf.

God already had everything. Yet He gave us all things, and became flesh and blood for us that we might have all things in heaven.

And So, Praise the Lord because in Christ Jesus, You are SAINTS! And because of Jesus You are Triumphant! AMEN