

## Coming Home (Isaiah 65:17-25) by Dane C. Ortlund

We've done it! As a church we've made it through the mammoth book of Isaiah. And while we haven't covered every detail, hopefully enough broad brushstrokes have been painted so that we can see the big idea of the book. As we come to the end, why not take some time over morning tea or lunch to share some of the big and memorable things you remember and were challenged with in this sermon series.

For now, here is a short devotional on Isaiah 65:17-25 by Dane C. Ortlund. It is copied from the ESV Men's Devotional Bible, which is on sale at the bookstore.

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All of us know, deep down, the pain of alienation. We know we are foreigners, exiles, strangers in this fallen world. When we return to our home nation after traveling abroad, we taste the joy of coming home; but even then, we know we are not experiencing fully what the soul longs for. Even in our own living room we can feel estranged.

The message of the Bible is that we were, at one time, truly home. In Eden we had not yet been estranged. But with the fall into sin, we became alienated—not only from Eden but also from God, from one another, and even from ourselves. The story of redemption is God's work throughout history to restore us to him, to one another, and to ourselves. In Isaiah 65 we are given a glimpse into what this final restoration in a "new heaven and a new earth" (v.17) will look like. In short, it means Eden will be regained—this time invincibly. We will be home. No more death, no more futility in our work, no more building a home only to leave it to another (65:21-22).

In C. S. Lewis's *The Last Battle*, the final book in the *Chronicles of Narnia*, Jewel the unicorn expresses everyone's thoughts as Aslan's people enter the restored Narnia: "I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now." That is exactly what we will feel one day as the sun sets on this hellish world and the new world dawns. The horrors of the old age will die away. We will pass through the wardrobe into Narnia. We will be home at last. "I will bring them home," God says (Zech 10:10). We will weep with relief. We will see him face to face (Rev. 22:4).

How can this be? Here's how: God in Christ refused the glory he rightly deserved to enter the hell and mud of our world to grab us and drag us, kicking and screaming if need be, into the new order, the new world of shalom and flourishing and sun and wine and calmness and nonfrivolous laughs. All of sheer grace. All to be simply received. Available to anyone who refuses to pay for it.



21 October 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

## Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### This Week: Isaiah #14— The New Heavens and Earth

**Main Point:** God promises a glorious New Creation that is open to all, but every single person must make the choice to enter. The choice hinges on responding to God's word by listening and trusting.

**Purpose:** Isaiah ends his grand prophecy with an encouragement and a warning to take God at His word. The immense blessing of trusting is contrasted with the terrible curse of judgement.

**Next Week:** Proverbs 1:1-7



## Today's Service

### Welcome and Singing

There Is A Higher Throne

Hear The Call Of The Kingdom

So I Will Trust You

### Holy Communion

### Offering

### Community News

### Bible Reading

Isaiah 63:7-19; 61:1-3;  
Luke 4:16-21:1-66:4; 66:22-24

### Sermon

By Pastor Ben Ho

### Song of Response

Live For The Kingdom

## Stay Connected

 [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)

 [slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au)

 +61 7 3371 7589

 [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au)

 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [slechurch.org.au/groups](http://slechurch.org.au/groups) to find a group that you can join.

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# Say hello

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Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

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## Our Pastors

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### PASTOR BEN HO

**Mobile:** +61 433 581 335

**Email:** ben.ho@slechurch.org.au

### PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159

**Email:** steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

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## Financial Update

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Last Week	\$4,690.44
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

### Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

**A/C Name:** SLE Church  
**Bank:** National Australia Bank  
**BSB:** 084-424  
**A/C No:** 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

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## Prayer Points

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**PRAISE GOD FOR THE BIG BOOK OF ISAIAH!** Praise God that this vision of Isaiah has been preserved in God's word, and praise God that it speaks so clearly of the major things we need to hear: our utter sinfulness, the dire consequence of God's right judgement, and of His manifold mercy and grace by sending His servant to suffer and die in our place—that all who trust in Him would be saved to enjoy relationship with God, restored relationships with each other, and look forward to a renewed home.

**PRAY FOR JESUS RETURN** to usher in this promised new heavens and new earth. Pray that we would be people who live our lives presently in the light of Jesus' second coming—and that this would have a profound impact on our lives, our goals, our desires, and the things we invest in.

### PRAY FOR THE RECENT CHANGES OF LAW RE ABORTION IN QUEENSLAND.

Ask God for His special and undeserved grace upon our State—that He would work in the lives of Queenslanders to see the evil of these laws. Pray that we would be a church full of love and compassion for those struggling with this issue—that we would be a home for those unwanted, a comfort to those who fear the churches' response, and solace to those bearing the shame of this all.

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## Community News

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### SAVE THE DATE: 11 NOVEMBER | YEAR 6'S AND PARENTS' CHAT WITH PS STEVEN

Year 6's and parents, please come along for a chat with Pastor Steve to find out more about SaLT next year. You are welcome to bring all your questions and concerns during this chat.

Date & Time: 11 Nov 10:40am-11am

Location: North Hall

### TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL – 25 NOV @ BRISBANE CITY HALL

The Gospel Coalition along with Queensland Theological College present 'Together for the Gospel'. Gather in the heart of Brisbane City with 1500 brothers and sisters to encourage one another, sing, pray and hear God's word preached (from Kevin DeYoung) as we stand together for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brisbane City Hall | Sunday, 25 November 2018 | 7:00pm

Tickets: \$10

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## Serving

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	Today	Next Week
<b>Chair</b>	Gabriel	Mervin
<b>Preach</b>	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
<b>Bible Read</b>	Ps Steven <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Boon Cheng <i>Jessica</i>
<b>M.Tea</b>	YF Fri/Sat YF Fri/Sat	YF Fri/Sat YF Fri/Sat
<b>Wash Up</b>	YF Fri/Sat	YF Fri/Sat
<b>Welcome</b>	Esther Richard Georgie <i>Bryan</i> <i>Jabez</i> <i>Sean</i> <i>Mildred</i>	Esther Richard Georgie <i>Bryan</i> <i>Jabez</i> <i>Sean</i> <i>Mildred</i>
<b>Stewards</b>	Philip Graham <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>	Philip Graham <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>
<b>Piano</b>	Dan Lowe	Joanna
<b>Guitar</b>	Dom	Jabez
<b>Bass</b>	Ethan	Chuan
<b>Drums</b>	Ivan	Marcus
<b>Vocal</b>	Shaun	Sarah/Alisha/ Joachim
<b>PA</b>	Reuten <i>Chris</i>	William <i>Daniel</i>

# The New Heavens and Earth (Isaiah 65-66)

1. Introduction: 'happily ever after...'

2. The Glorious Blessing of the New Heavens and Earth  
A. Context: God's grace to the undeserving (65:1-7)

B. The blessing of the new heavens and earth (65:17-25)  
i. A NEW creation (17)

ii. Eternal relational joy (18-20)

iii. Unfailing stability and security (21-22)

iv. Uninterrupted peace with God and creation (23-25)

3. Who will (and Won't) Be There? (65:8-16; 66:2-4, 22-24)

4. The Choice We Must All Make