

18 the word "create" is used of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is to be created a rejoicing, and her people a joy. Jerusalem is to be renewed and restored and made so different from its previous condition that it can be considered as something entirely new, though it is a continuation of something that already existed. Verse 17, therefore, may describe a substitution of an entirely new heaven and new earth for that which exists at present or it may describe a cleansing and changing of the condition of the present heaven and earth so that they can be considered as something entirely new, even though there is a continuation.

From every viewpoint, the most satisfactory interpretation of Isaiah 65:16-25 is to consider it in its entirety as a description, not of the present church, nor of an eternal age, but of the Millennium.

## **Isaiah 66**

Chapter 66 is the concluding portion of the section which starts at Isaiah 63:7. As we have noticed, this section begins with a prayer (63:7 to 64:12). The spirit and attitude of this prayer rightly merited God's rebuke, yet many of the petitions contained in the prayer are ultimately to be granted in view of God's relation to Israel and His many promises to that nation. In chapter 65 both of these aspects were considered. The first part of the chapter presents God's condemnation of the spirit of the prayer, and declares that for a time He will turn His favor to another people. The latter part of the chapter shows that God's covenant promises to Israel were not cast aside, but that Israel will receive great blessings in the period in which the earth is to be wonderfully renewed, when Christ will reign in righteousness.

In chapter 66 both of these notes are found again. Condemnation of a wrong attitude is strongly expressed in the first few verses of the chapter; most of the rest of the chapter is devoted to declaring the ultimate fulfillment of His promises to the nation.

In the prayer considerable stress was laid upon the fact that the sanctuary had been trodden down. This was mentioned in 63:18, and again in the last two verses of the prayer, which read as follows: "Our holy and beautiful house,