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**Date:** July 18, 2021

**Title:** A New Beginning

**Scripture:** Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9; 60:19-22; 65:17-25; 66:22-24

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What will it be like?

Who will be there?

What difference does it make in the present?

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9; 60:19-22; 65:17-25; 66:22-24

1. What evidence have you seen in your life that God redeems and renews? What current signs of sin and decay in our world do you look forward to God redeeming and renewing?
2. Read Isaiah 65:17-25 again. What specific amazing things does God promise are coming?
3. The Hebrew word for peace (*shalom*) means more than the absence of warfare. It reminds us that God created all things in the beginning to be in a beautiful, harmonious relationship to one another. It is a state of the fullest flourishing in every dimension—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual—because all relationships are right, perfect, and filled with joy. How, then, do we see *shalom* in these verses in Isaiah? Why should these verses remind us of a return to the garden of Eden?
4. Why is it impossible for human governments to make good on their grand visions for a perfect society? Why are these promises about the new heavens and new earth different and better than theirs?
5. Why doesn't God just utterly destroy this present world and build a brand-new world from scratch? Why do you think He is planning a radical renovation/renewal project instead?
6. Why do you think it is significant that God intends to reunite Heaven and Earth and for His people to inhabit a living, material world, as opposed to the common conception of Heaven as ethereal and boring?
7. Why is it vital to embrace the biblical concept of not everyone getting to experience the new heavens and new earth?
8. What are some of the key takeaways you've had from this message series in Isaiah? What has it taught or reminded you about God? About humanity?