



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 27, 2017

Scripture

Isaiah 65: 17-21

Thus says the LORD:

Lo, I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;

The things of the past shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness
in what I create;

For I create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight;

I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and exult in my people.

No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there,
or the sound of crying;

No longer shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,

or an old man who does not round out his full lifetime;

He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years,
and he who fails of a hundred shall be thought accursed.

They shall live in the houses they build,
and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant.

Our Scripture Reflection

After a long, fifty year exile in the land of Babylon, God sends His Prophet Isaiah to announce good news to His people: They are going home! And not just going home, but heading towards a new life of prosperity, peace and joy. God will not only fulfill their deepest longings, but He will give them a life that resembles Paradise. That promise awaits us after this forty day Lenten season if we truly repent and put God, once and for all, above all else. Are you ready for it? Easter is a com'in!

Food for your Journey

In first-century Palestine, wood was extremely scarce and expensive, so everyone built their houses out of stone.

Building a house out of stone is no easy task. First you have to cut the stones. Then you have to lift them into place.

So instead of building four walls, it was much easier to use the existing wall of your father's house.

Instead of building an entirely new house, they added on a room.

The same is true with heaven. We will not have houses spread out all over heaven. We will all be together, close to our heavenly Father.

—Herbert G. Hand, "The New Heaven and the New Earth," Church of the Annunciation Sermons, December 15, 2002, Churchoftheannunciation.com.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, My heart longs for the joy and peace that only You can give. Keep me steadfast and devoted to my Lenten work of conversion so that I may become a new person in You. Amen.