

Isaiah

Chapter 65

Christ Church

Winter 2026

- For our purposes - Isaiah 65 falls into two parts
 - vv. 1-16 – Redemption
 - vv. 17-25 – Restoration
- Remember that the four themes of the prophets are:
 - Riv
 - Remnant
 - Redemption
 - restoration

- The problem was stated in 64:7 – “*You have hidden Your face from us.*” And in 64:12
- In 65:1 – He refutes their claim. The Lord continues to reveal Himself. The problem is in the people, not God

- Their problem/malady is described in vv. 2-5
- This section is RIV-like

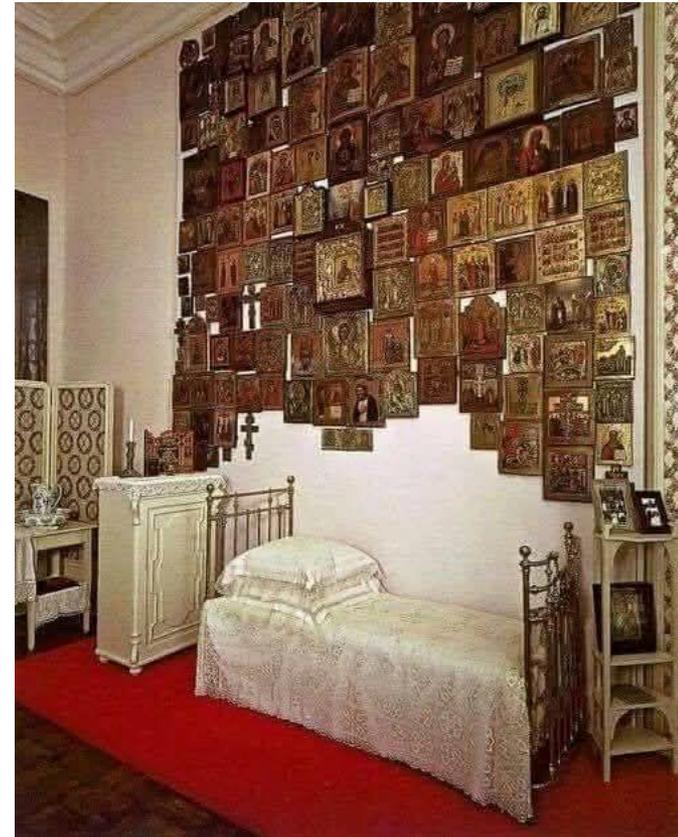


- ‘*obstinate people*’ – see 1:23; 30:1
- ‘*devising, scheming*’
- ‘*ways that are not good*’
- These three problems summarize the plight of fallen mankind
 - We are stubborn
 - We try to make our own ways of living
 - We compound our sin – see the first description of mankind's moral corruption – Genesis 6:5

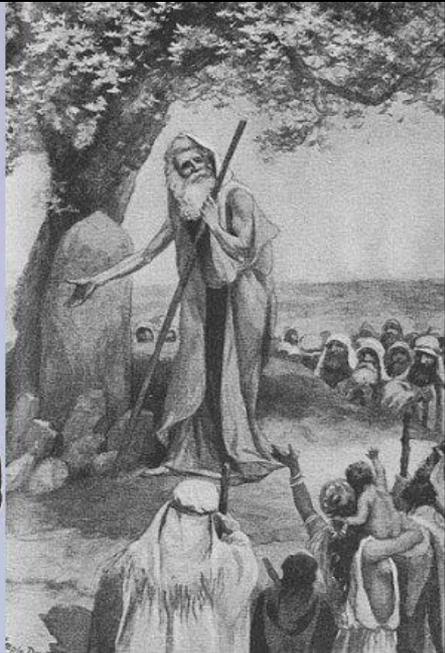
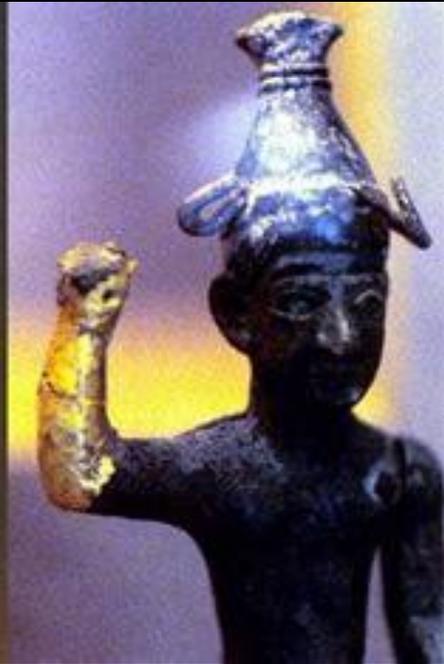
- They walk in a way that is not good
- They follow their own thoughts
- They provoke God to His face
- They sacrifice in gardens (see 1:29)
- They burn incense on bricks
- They sit among graves
- They spend nights in secret places
- They eat pork
- They cook broth from vile sources
- They think they're holy

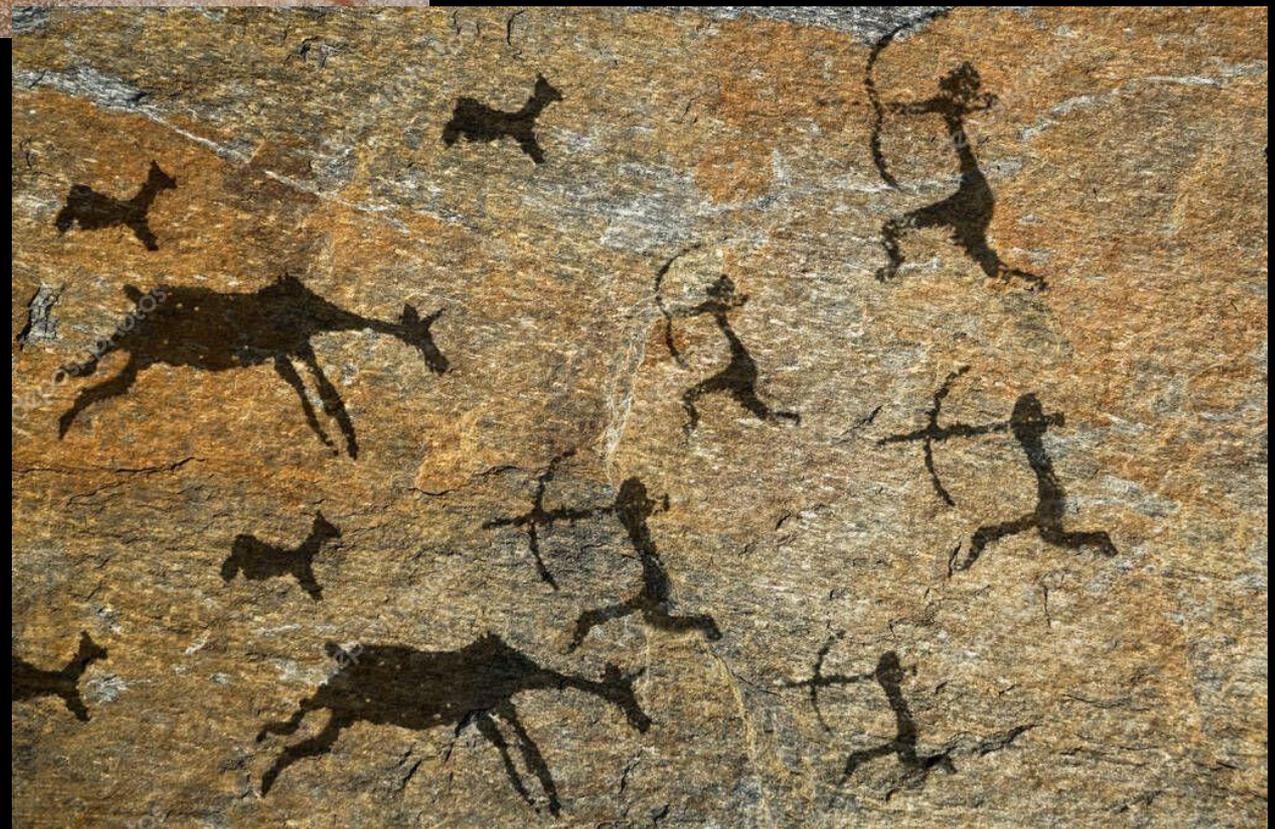
- 10 things are wrong. Is there a correlation between this list and the Ten Commandments?
 - Sitting among graves probably connected to the 6th commandment
 - Spending nights in secret – 7th commandment
 - Eating pig meat – probably a form of violating commandment 9
 - The ‘holier than you’ is a form of covetousness – 10th

- What do fallen humans devise?
- We create worship practices that make it possible to manipulate God
- This permits us to retain the option to live our lives as we like



- These worship practices in vv. 3-5,7 are markedly like the preexilic Canaanite practices
 - Think of the Baal, Asherah religion

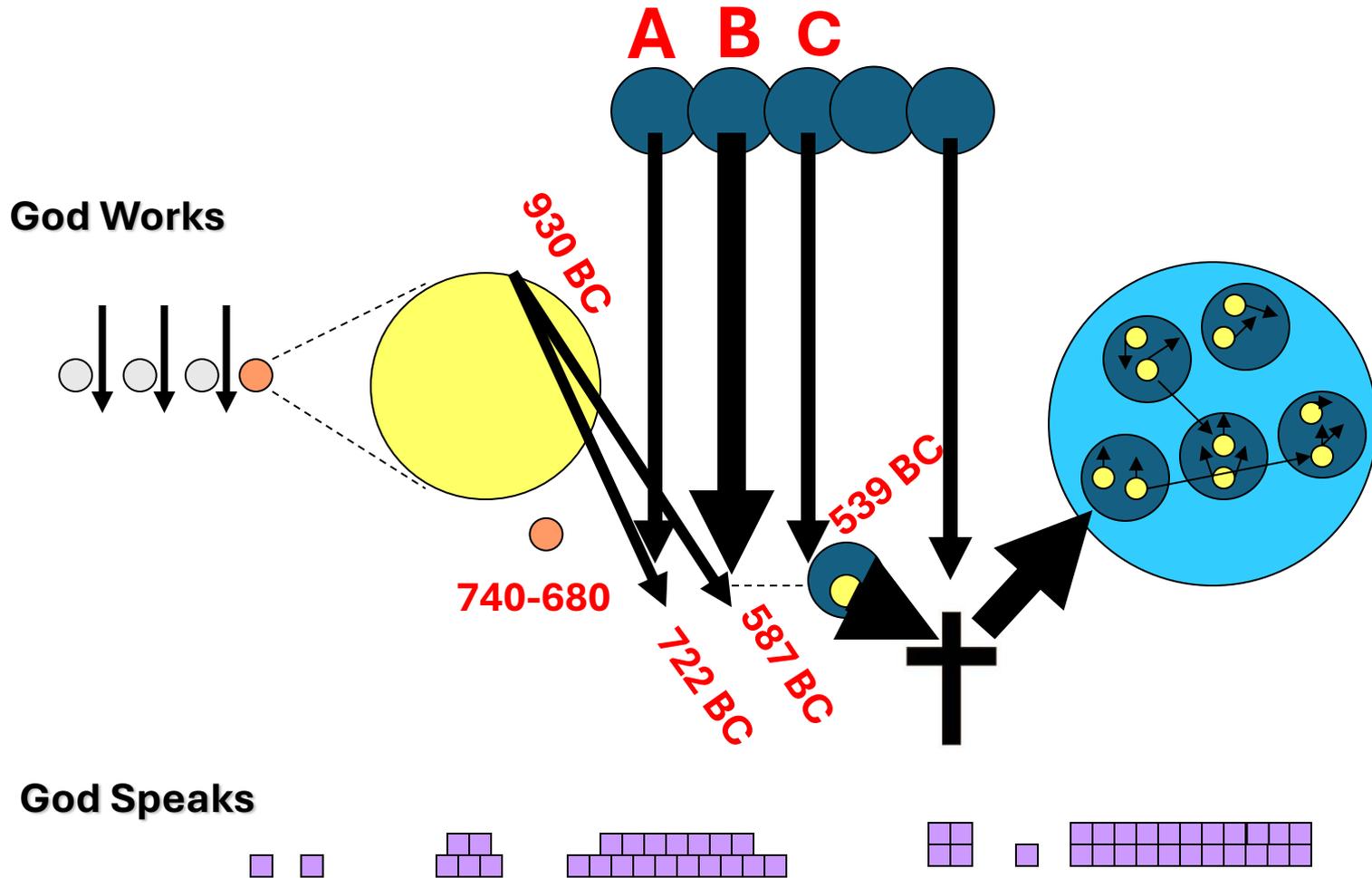






- Isaiah is using images with which he was familiar to deal with the subject of ritualism in the postexilic Israel
- The prophet is throwing together a load of grizzly images to convey how disgusting God finds 'religion' when it doesn't come from a changed heart

The Historic Background



- They want God to act? Well, He will by repaying them for all they had done – v. 7

One of these days you're going to get what you deserve. It's called 'lethal injection'.



- If vv. 1-7 is the ***RIV***
- Then vv. 8-16 is the ***Remnant*** part
- Note the two groups
 - ‘servants’, ‘descendants’, ‘My people’
 - ‘who forsake Me’, ‘spread a table for Fortune, Destiny’, ‘did not listen’
- In vv. 11, 12 we have an example of lex talionis
 - Those who worship ‘Destiny’ are ‘destined’
 - Those that ‘sacrifice’ will be ‘sacrificed’

- Two destinies – vv. 13-15
 - Eat – hungry
 - Drink – thirsty
 - Rejoice – shame
 - Sing – cry, anguish, brokenness, no name

- In vv. 17-24 we have the ***Restoration***
- In v. 18 we have a chiasm
 - A. ‘be glad’
 - B. ‘rejoice’ (*gil*)
 - C. ‘I will create’
 - C’. “I will create Jerusalem’
 - B’. ‘for rejoicing’ (*gilah*)
 - A’. ‘people for joy’

- The Hebrew word ‘gil’ has the idea of running in circles



- Notice in vv. 17-19 that the language references Genesis 1
 - ‘new heaven and new earth’
 - ‘create’
- We can read backwards from Isaiah now
 - Creation is the formation of a place where God rejoices
 - Creation is a ‘temple’, God dwells in gladness

- What we know from this world communicates life as we will know it
 - v. 20 – there will be *no death* – see I Corinthians 15:25, 26; Revelation 21:1-4
 - v. 22 we will ‘long *enjoy*’ – read II Corinthians 5:17
 - v. 25 – *peace* will transform all creation – see Isaiah 11:6
 - v. 18, 25 – Jerusalem and ‘holy mountain’- read Hebrews 12:22-24











