The Nations will make God’s rule known

Read Isaiah 65

Versus 1 to 5 explain why the sense of gods distancing alienation expressed in chapter 4 is a reality. The fault is not on God’s part. What has he been doing all this time?

Verses 1 & 2 shows how the people don’t respond to god, and verses 3 to 5 elaborate the reason in some detail. What do they reveal about obstinate Israel’s attitude towards:

* the sacrifices that God requires?
* the source of revelation?
* the law?
* spirituality?

Are there parallels in the way people pursue religion today?

What is God’s promise in verse 8? How does this relate to the righteous remnant?

What are the differences in belief behaviour and ultimate destiny between “my people who seek me” and “you who forsake the Lord?”

In versus 13 to 16 the contrast continues with an emphasis on right living in the present because of our emphasis on the future.

What motivation to more consistent godliness in our own lives do these verses provide?

In versus 21 to 23 the blessings of heaven are expressed in Hebrew scripture categories and are a contrast to the fruitlessness and frustration of Israel’s rebellion. What elements of the blessings of heaven are these verses pointing towards?

What are the joys of heaven that we read about in verse 24?

How are the curses that we read about in Genesis 3 related to the promises of Isaiah 65? What has been transformed?

Read on into chapter 66 of Isaiah. On what basis can people be part of a restored future world?

Look back to chapter 64 of Isaiah. Why is God being patient with us? What more can we do so that our prayer “thy kingdom come thy will be done” is seen more fully on Earth?