

What Sort of Ending Is This? A Tension Filled Finale, Part 3
The Tension of the Great Separation
Isaiah 65:1-16

- I. When God's Mercy Meets Obstinate Rebellion (1-7)
 - A. God's unparalleled mercy
 - 1. He presented Himself mercifully before the nation
 - 2. They did not respond properly to His compassion
 - B. The threefold problem
 - 1. Intentional rebellion
 - 2. Idolatry
 - 3. Self-righteousness
 - C. God's righteous wrath
 - 1. God will speak, but not in mercy
 - 2. Burning the bosom
- II. A God Who Makes Distinctions (8-12)
 - A. God will have compassion, but only on some
 - 1. New cluster/not destroy all
 - 2. People I have chosen/People who seek me
 - B. Those who forsake God
 - 1. With false worship
 - 2. Destined for suffering and sorrow
 - 3. Indictment: I called, but you did not answer...(12)
- III. Why The Separation Makes Us Uncomfortable (13-16)
 - A. Any person who is unmoved and undisturbed at the thought of eternal torment has not truly given serious and thoughtful consideration to the idea.
 - B. The distinction given
 - 1. Physical
 - 2. Spiritual
 - 3. Identity

- 4. One is slain
 - 5. One is given bliss
 - C. As people of grace, in an age of grace, we find the eventual and inevitable end to an offer of grace distressing, especially with the knowledge that we should be recipients of the punishment rather than the blessing.