

*Contextual Interpretation of Isaiah 65:17-25*

*Used by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Enosa Peni in Contextual Evangelism class, December 2018*

*Diocese of Nzara, South Sudan*

*“Hey! South Sudan” God says, “Hear you people of South Sudan. This is the year of Good news for you. This declaration is not like the manifesto and propaganda of the politicians, who promise things that they cannot do. Listen: I am about to make a new country for you. A new time is coming, a new dispensation where the past atrocities of war, rape, displacement, hunger, child soldiers, killing, and looting will not be remembered. The sound of weeping, bombardment, artilleries, and crying will not be heard in it any more”.*

*“So, rejoice and be a happy for this news. I will make South Sudan a new place for you, where you will enjoy peace and stability, health care, education and basic services will be available. Justice and equality will be taken care of. You will enjoy peace and freedom” says the Lord.*

*“The life span of South Sudanese will be higher than it is today, the death of immature children will come to an end. Old men will enjoy their full life in joy. Average life spectrum will be higher than hundred years. Any one who dies below the hundred will be considered cursed”.*

*“South Sudanese will build their houses and live in them, your enemies will no longer occupy your houses. You will grow your food, harvest and eat the work of your hands with great joy. It will not be eaten again by the rebels. Your work will not go for nothing.”*

*“This is the end of your persecution; the end of starvation. The time of prosperity and long life has come. I will no longer bring trouble on you again, because you are my special people. You will live to see the children of your children.”*

*“When you call, I will answer, says the Lord, before you finish your prayers, I would already answer you. Various tribes (Dinka and Nuer) will live and enjoy this new nation together, they will live and eat as brothers and sisters of the same womb. The Zande will drink milk like the Dinka and Nuer. The unknown gun men will be known at that time. The people of South Sudan will live in love and harmony” says the Lord*