

God Saves
October 4, 2020
Allen Power

Isaiah 25:1-10

Opening: Why do you think food is always a part of celebrations?
Why do you think feasts are mentioned over and over in the Bible?

The first part of the book of Isaiah has been pretty “heavy” with prophecies about God’s judgment on those who refuse His offer of relationship and live in sin. By now you might be wondering when we’ll get to the “hopeful” part of Isaiah. Isaiah chapter 25 gives us a taste of the celebration to come for God’s people.

Big Idea: In His sovereign plan, God has made a way of salvation for those who believe in Him. A day is coming when all the wrongs will be righted for God’s people and we will sing joyfully about the “wonderful things” He has done.

This morning’s text is an invitation to a future celebration God has planned.

In fact, it’s a song of celebration. Let’s begin by reading Isaiah 25:1-10 then we’ll unpack what it says, what it means, and how we should respond this week.

Isaiah 25:1–10 (NLT)

¹ O Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them. ² You turn mighty cities into heaps of ruins. Cities with strong walls are turned to rubble. Beautiful palaces in distant lands disappear and will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore, strong nations will declare your glory; ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ But you are a tower of refuge to the poor, O Lord, a tower of refuge to the needy in distress. You are a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat. For the oppressive acts of ruthless people are like a storm beating against a wall, ⁵ or like the relentless heat of the desert. But you silence the roar of foreign nations. As the shade of a cloud cools relentless heat, so the boastful songs of ruthless people are stilled. ⁶ In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will spread a wonderful

feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat. ⁷ There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The Lord has spoken! ⁹ In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!" ¹⁰ For the Lord's hand of blessing will rest on Jerusalem. But Moab will be crushed. It will be like straw trampled down and left to rot.

- This poetic song of celebration points us to the future "day of the Lord." It's a song of praise for God's deliverance of His people.
- This first verse sets the scene. Imagine this as a film and the singing of this celebration song as the opening scene of the great banquet God is throwing for all His people as Christ begins His earthly reign.
- The camera zooms out as the choir sings in praise.
- Lord you are "my God." You do "such wonderful things; things You planned "long ago!" I see You accomplishing them every day and I "honor and praise your name!"
- The judgment of ruthless oppressors is over and the banquet begins.
- Verse one is a great verse for personal worship in our quiet time.
- This celebration will come on the heels of God's judgment of sinful nations. Chapters 24-27 of Isaiah are called the "little apocalypse" because they point to God's judgment giving way to Christ's reign as King of Kings.
- Followers of Christ don't need to fear God's judgment because we are covered in Christ's righteousness. (John 3:18a; Matthew 25:33-34).
- God will turn "mighty cities into heaps of ruins" and those "strong nations" who had oppressed people will bow to declare God's glory. "Ruthless nations will fear you," says verse three.

- Last week we talked about all the chaos in our world and the promise that God is in control of all the nations and one day will judge those who oppress their people.
- We may be persecuted as Christians now but one day our faith in God will be justified and we'll be vindicated when "every knee bows" to Him.
- Verses four and five are a beautiful picture of God's care for the oppressed now and deliverance to come.
- Look at the language: "You are a tower of refuge to the poor [and] needy in distress...a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat."
- What reassuring language about God's protection of His people.
- The language describing earth's evil oppressors is also strong.
- The "oppressive acts of ruthless people" are described as a "storm beating against a wall" and the "relentless heat of the desert."
- Sinful nations have "used" and "abused" people to achieve their evil ends.
- Our lesson writer: *"The Bible repeatedly makes it clear that things will go poorly for those who treat some people as less valuable than others. Every person has value as a bearer of the image of God."*ⁱ
- God will "set things right" in His perfect timing especially for His people.
- Warren Wiersbe: *"God cares for His own in times of trial and judgment. He kept Noah and his family alive through the Flood (Gen 6–8) and guarded Israel when His judgments fell on Egypt (Ex. 8:22–23; 9:4, 6, 26; 10:23; 11:6–7; 12:13). He protected believing Rahab and her family when Jericho fell (Josh. 6:25) and preserved a faithful remnant when Judah was taken into Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 9:8–9). Throughout the centuries, He has kept His church in spite of the attacks of Satan (Matt. 16:18) and will deliver His church from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9)."*ⁱⁱ
- If we're followers of Christ, we need to remember our Heavenly Father will protect us from the raging storms and scorching heat of life's trials.

- After delivering His people from the trials of life, God is planning a celebration. Verse six calls it a “wonderful feast” and a “delicious banquet with well-aged wine and choice meat.” The ESV describes that meat as “rich food full of marrow.” That means we’ll be eating all that delicious, smoky fat you’ve been avoiding! This will be a “keto” celebration!
- What is the symbolism of a rich and tasty spread of food at God’s banquet? It’s a reminder of God’s tremendous provision for His people.
- This points back to the Old Testament sacrifices of choice food and meat.
- Our Lesson writer tells us: *“This feast would be truly amazing because God was giving back what His people had given to Him as an offering. It’s significant that these portions were specifically given for the peace offering, which was a celebration of restored relationship. This was more than just a feast; it was a fellowship meal celebrating a restored relationship with the God of the universe. Based on this picture, many commentators have linked this feast with the marriage feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19:6-9.”ⁱⁱⁱ*
- One day God is throwing a banquet and verse six says it’s for “all the people of the world” both Jew and Gentile and all races. That doesn’t mean everyone WILL automatically be there, it means everyone CAN be there if we accept His invitation by trusting Christ as Savior and Lord.
- This celebration is not only a “homecoming” for God’s people. It’s also a “going away party” for our final enemy: death.
- Let’s read verses seven and eight again to bask in this amazing promise:

⁷ There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears.

- The Lord has spoken -- this is a promise! Death has been swallowing up mankind because of sin in the Garden of Eden but one day God will “swallow up death forever” and “wipe away all tears.”
- These verses are quoted in Revelation 7:17 and 1 Corinthians 15:54:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” [The prophet Hosea asked] ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”^{iv}

- As gospel singer/songwriter Jim Hill wrote:
*“There'll be no sorrows there
And no more burdens to bear
No more sickness and no more pain
No more parting over there
And forever I will be
With the One who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be”^x*
- Verse eight also tells us: “He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people.” No more fighting against persecution.
- Verses nine and ten provide a fitting crescendo to this song of victory:
⁹ In that day the people will proclaim, “This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!” ¹⁰ For the Lord’s hand of blessing will rest on Jerusalem. But Moab will be crushed. It will be like straw trampled down and left to rot.
- God will save His people and crush evil, sinful oppressors. To quote a perhaps over-used statement: *“I’ve read the back of the book and we win!”*

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- God will one day set all things right in His perfect timing. Evil will be defeated and God’s people are invited to celebrate with Him.
- Have you RSVP’ed for the party? I know most of our Bible study group are planning to be there because we’ve trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, but there’s always a chance that someone is listening who hasn’t accepted this invitation. Today is the perfect day to say YES to eternal life in Christ.
- For those of us who HAVE accepted Christ’s invitation, the takeaway for us this week is to enjoy a little “pre-celebration.”

- This week find some time to open up your Bible to this chapter in Isaiah and celebrate in advance what God had done, is doing, and WILL do.
- Re-read verse nine and enjoy the promise that “This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!”
- Then jump back up to verse one and tell Him: “Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and...”you are accomplishing them day by day and one day they will ALL be accomplished.
- Sin will be over. Death will be defeated. Tears will be no more. Christ will reign and His children will reign with Him. What a day that will be!!

ⁱ Explore the Bible Leaders Guide – Lifeway 2020

ⁱⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*Be Comforted*](#) (pp. 62–63). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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ⁱⁱⁱ Explore the Bible Leaders Guide – Lifeway 2020

^{iv} [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (1 Co 15:54–55). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^v What a Day That Will Be by Jim Hill - © 1955. Renewed 1983 Ben Speer Music (admin. by ClearBox Rights)