

God's Great Invitation

Isaiah 55

Review:

- Isaiah 53—Christ's substitutionary suffering for our sin.
- Isaiah 54—Blessings made possible by Christ's sufferings.
- Isaiah 55—How to get in on the blessings. "...*let your soul delight itself in fatness*" (v. 2).

This short chapter is jam packed with great truths that are applicable to us today.

I. The APPEAL of God (vs. 1-5). God recognizes man's NEEDS first: Thirst and hunger. What man needs, God will provide.

- Oftentimes, before you can speak to a person's *spiritual* need, you must first address their *physical* needs. To reach a person's *spirit* you must get there through their *body*.

A. Appeal to **COME** (vs. 1-3). God extends the invitation to "**COME**" four times.

1. It is **GLOBAL** (v. 1—Offer is to "*every one*" —Jew or Gentile).
➡ "*Come ye to the waters...*" LIVING WATERS (John 4:10-14).
2. It is **GRATUITOUS** (v. 1—"without money"). Freely offered. Jesus already paid the bill (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

God is not a salesman trying to sell His salvation. H.A. Ironside: "God is too rich to seek to sell His salvation to anyone, and if He were to put a price upon it we would all be too poor to buy."¹

➡ "*Freely*" is found in the *beginning* of Bible (Gen. 2:16) and at the *end* (Rev. 22:17). Eve omitted the word "*freely*" (Gen. 3:2), a denial of the grace of God!

➡ **Commodities of grace**—

- Water—*Refreshment*. Type of the Holy Ghost (John 7:37-38 cf. Acts 8:18-20.). Water is essential to life.

¹ H.A. Ironside, *Expository Notes on the Prophet Isaiah*, (Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, NJ) 1952, p. 311.

- Wine—*Rejoicing*. (Ps. 104:15; Zech. 10:7). Type of the blood (Mt. 26:27-28; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25).
 - Milk & bread (v. 2)—*Nourishment*. Type of the Word (1 Pet. 2:2; Mt. 4:4).
3. It is **GRATIFYING** (v. 2—“*Where do ye spend money for...that which **satisfies not?***” Timeless question. (cf. Eccl. 6:7—*All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the **appetite is not filled***. John 6:27— “*Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you...*” John 6:35—“*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall **never hunger**; and he that believeth on me shall **never thirst***.”).
- Spending money on things that last just a few hours (snacks; sensual pleasures, entertainments, amusements; sporting events; concerts; cigarettes etc). It is better to invest money on things that last forever (pay eternal dividends).

The comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes* put it this way: *Getting* is better than *having*. When you *get* something, it new and exciting. After you *have* something, it is taken for granted and becomes old. BUT, everything you *get* turns into something you *have*.²

One lyric in the song “*Stuff*” by Diamond Rio says, “It’s a treasure ’til it’s mine; Then it ain’t worth a dime!”³ Amen!

- B. Appeal to **HEAR** (v.3). “*Incline*” means to turn your ear in the direction of God’s voice. We need communion with God.

“THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID” (Isaiah 55:3b)

God instituted a covenant with David called “*the sure mercies of David*” (Acts 13:34) The contents of this covenant is found in 2 Samuel 7. Two phrases in 2 Samuel summarize the main lesson: “*thy seed*” (v. 12) and “*thy throne*” (v. 16).

² Quoted in Richard Winter, “Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment,” *Perspectives*, The Francis A. Schaeffer Institute, Spring 2002, p. 4.

³ Kelly Garrett, Tim Paul Owens

This covenant with David is important to the program of God, because in it God **promises** certain blessings to the Jewish nation *through David*. In God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15), God had promised a seed, a land, and a blessing to all nations through Israel. In God's covenant with David, God reveals the promised Messiah would come through David's family (Rom. 1:3) and would rule from David's throne over the promised messianic kingdom.

- **SURE** (unconditional). God's promises to David were not based on what David would do or not do, but upon what God graciously determined to do for David.
- **MERCIFUL**—David committed capital crimes that had no provision of forgiveness under the Law: Adultery; Murder. Yet, God forgave David for these two sins.
- **Double application**. Some of these promises are fulfilled in David's immediate son (Solomon) while others will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of David (John 7:42; Rev. 22:16 cf. Ps. 89:3-4, 26-37; Ezek. 34:23-24; Lk. 1:32). Some verses apply to both Solomon and Christ.

➡ **SEVEN "I WILLS"— See 2 Samuel 7:10-17**

1. v. 10—A **promise of a RESIDENCE** ("*I will... appoint a place*").
2. v. 10—A **promise of RESILIENCE** ("*I will... plant*"—permanence cf. Jer. 7:7; 24:6; Amos 9:15). David's house (family) would never end and his throne would be eternally established (v. 16).
3. v. 11—A **promise of REST** (v. 11).
4. v. 12—A **promise of a RECIPIENT** of David's throne ("*I will set up thy seed...*"). The kingdom of David's son, Solomon, would be established after David's death.

⁴ In the Millennium, Christ reigns as King (Jer. 33:15-17; Zech. 14:16), and David will rule as a "prince" under Him (Ezek. 44:3; 46:2, 8, 10, 16, 18). In eternity, Jesus Christ will rule the universe from His throne in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:23-22:5), while David reigns over Israel on the new earth, thus fulfilling the covenant God made with David.

5. vs. 12-13—A **promise of a REIGN** (“*I will establish his kingdom...throne*”). David’s son would build the temple which David wished to build himself.
 - David’s throne is the Lord’s throne (cf. 2 Chron. 9:8). It is the throne Jesus will sit upon in His coming Kingdom (Jer. 3:17-18).
 - A literal throne. Since Jesus was literally conceived in the womb of a virgin, why wouldn’t someone believe the throne would be literal also (Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33)?
 6. v. 14—A promise of **RELATIONSHIP** (“*I will be his father, and he shall be my son...*”).
 7. v. 14—A **promise of REPRIMAND** (“*I will chasten him...*”)
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- C. Appeal to **BEHOLD** (vs. 4-5). Twice the word “**behold**” is used.
- This prophecy will be fulfilled in the Millennium when all nations will come to acknowledge God is with Israel and call Israel blessed (See Mal. 3:12).

II. The **ADMONITION of God** (v. 6).

- A. “**SEEK**” while you can (v. 6 - “*Seek ye the Lord **WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND**, call ye upon him **WHILE he is near.**” — Cf. Ps. 95:7-8). “**Seek**” implies intent and importunity—God will not always be near.*
- NOTE: Doctrinally this admonition applies to Israel in the tribulation period. During this time Israel must seek the Lord while He may be found.
1. Practical application: Opportunity is fleeting. God does not change, but conditions may change and a person’s receptivity may also change.
 2. God left the door of the ark open for seven days, then He shut it (Gen. 7:1-10 cf. Mic. 3:4; Prov. 1:24-31; 27:1; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:15; Josh. 24:15).
 - The current dispensation of grace will come to an end when the rapture occurs.

- B. “**FORSAKE**” your own way (vs. 7-11). Change your course—repentance. God’s offer is free (vs. 1-2), but also conditional. Adjustments must be made. God works according to His way, not our ways (vs. 8-9). See chart:

God’s Way vs. Man’s Way (Isaiah 55:8-9)

GOD’S WAY	MAN’S WAY
Way of faith	Way of sight
Way of grace	Way of works
Way of humility	Way of Self-exaltation
Way of service	Way of being served
Way of giving	Way of getting
God works by love	Man works by force
God's way is to forgive.	Man's way is to seek vengeance
God's way is to suffer a wrong	Man's way is to demand his rights
God’s way does more than required	Man’s way is only do the minimum of what is required
God’s emphasis is on the spiritual	Man concentrates on the physical
God’s way is love your enemies	Man’s way is hate your enemies
God's way is do unto others as you would have them do you.	Man's way puts his own self interests ahead of others.

The idea of God's ways and thoughts being higher than man's is connected with the idea of **pardon** (Isa. 55:6-9). **God’s Ways and Thoughts are Higher...** ⁵

- 1. In number of offenses.** Under favorable and special circumstances people forgive a few times, but they are prone not to forgive after repeated offenses. God forgives freely many times and as completely and lovingly the last time as the first (Mt. 12:31; 18:21-22; 1 Jn. 1:9). [*“He will ABUNDANTLY pardon”*—Pardon upon pardon; forgiveness upon forgiveness; mercies upon mercies! Amazing Love! How can it be?]

⁵ *Dake’s Reference Bible*

2. **In number of offenders.** People may pardon one person or a few who injure them, but the greater the number the less they are inclined to forgive. God forgives all, regardless of the number of offenders (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:17).
 3. **In kinds of offenses.** People usually limit themselves as to what kind of offenses they will forgive, but God has no qualifications on this point, except the offense of rejecting the only means of help He can offer (Mt. 12:31-32).
 4. **In degree of offenses.** Men will forgive if an offense is small enough not to be of any great injury to them; but God will forgive the greatest and most aggravated offense against Him (Isa. 53; Jn. 3:16).
 5. **In mode of pardon.** Men may be willing to forgive if it does not cost them much, and they can see that such is to their advantage; but God gave the most precious gift of heaven that He might have a basis of forgiveness for His enemies. God redeems on the basis of personal suffering and having substituted Himself to be punished instead of His enemies. He forgives by the very One whom men sought to destroy, the One made to endure the most horrible sufferings ever laid upon a human being. He blesses by faith in the blood atonement and the death of an innocent Person. Man would have punished the guilty and satisfied justice; but God punished the innocent to justify the guilty.
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- A. **The SOURCE of God's Word** (v. 10—"...*from heaven...*").
 - ➡ Who wrote the Bible—good men or bad men?
 1. If bad men wrote it, how could a bad man write a book that makes people good. Why would a bad man write a book condemning himself as a sinner.
 2. If good men wrote it, why don't you believe what they wrote?
- B. **The SUCCESS of God's Word** (v. 11— "*...it SHALL ACCOMPLISH... it shall PROSPER...*"). God works in accordance to His Word!
 1. What a great incentive to proclaim God's Word and pass out tracts! God promises His Word will *prosper* whenever it is

sent forth! Only eternity will reveal the fruits of proclaiming God's Word. ⁶

When an old preacher died, his family found his old sermon manuscripts filed away. On top of them was a card with a note that read, "Where has the influence gone of these sermons I have preached?" On the other side of the card the preacher wrote: "Where are last years raindrops? Forgotten by most people, but they did their refreshing work, and their influence still abides—They have gone into fruits and grain and vegetables to feed mankind. So too, my sermons have gone into lives and made them nobler, more Christlike, and better fitted for heaven."

2. God's Word is liken to rain—Rain falls from heaven—God's Word came down from heaven. Rain cannot be controlled—It can only be given or received. Rain promotes growth—God's Word sustains growth (John 6:63; 1 Pet. 2:2; Isa 40:8).

III. **The ALTERATION from God** (vs. 12-13). A transformation during the Millennium.

- A. Promise of JOY and PEACE (v. 12). Israel will at last enjoy true joy and peace.
- B. Metaphor of creation rejoicing at Christ's coming (v. 12 cf. 1 Chron. 16:32-33; Ps. 98:8; Isa. 44:23).
- C. Lifting the curse (v. 13 cf. Gen. 3:17-19).

SUMMATION: The next chapter (Isaiah 56) states the practical implications of Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 55.

⁶ While we have confidence of the effectiveness of God's Word, verse 11 deals more with God sending His Word out of His mouth, not necessarily out of our mouth. God's Word will accomplish whatever pleases Him, not us. The results are up to God, not us (1 Cor. 3:6).