

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 55: part 1

Isaiah 55

Overview

The theme of chapters 49-57 is the Person and work of the Servant of the LORD, who will bring salvation to Israel and the nations.

Chapters 54-55 proclaim the salvation won by the Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12).

The tone of these chapters is one of great joy and assurance.

Chapter 54 is a *love song* from the LORD to Zion, His estranged bride, assuring her about what He is about to do to restore her as His wife.

Chapter 55 is the *invitation* from the LORD to the nation of Israel - and by extension all men and women - to come and partake of the glorious salvation He has prepared for them through the death of the Servant – the Lord Jesus Christ. This salvation is received as a gracious gift through faith in the word of the LORD.

Together, these two chapters constitute one of the most beautiful texts in the Bible.

Isaiah Chapter 55

Chapter 55 is the invitation to repent and return to the Lord to receive the salvation blessings promised in chapter 54. Chapter 55 is addressed first to the remnant of Israel in the last days, and then to all the people in the world. See **Isaiah 49:6-7**. At that time, the nations of the world will stream to Jerusalem for their share in the blessings of the New Covenant. See **Zechariah 8:23 and 14:16-17**.

There are several connections between Chapter 54 and Chapter 55. We see this by their common references to:

1. **Joy and singing** at the beginning (**54:1**) and the end (**55:12:13**) of the two chapters
2. **The coming of peace**, **54:10, 13** and **55:12**
3. **God's compassion on His people**, **54:7-8,10** and **55:7**
4. **God's love**, **54:10** and **55:3**
5. **God's covenant**, **54:10** and **55:3**
6. **A new relationship with the nations**, **54:3** and **55:4-5**

The issues no longer center around any difficulties that the nation of Israel was enduring.

Instead, the focus is on

- the free food and water available (both literal and symbolic),
- an everlasting covenant,
- forgiveness of sins,
- joy,
- and the fulfillment of the LORD's promises.

These are the promises the LORD will fulfill for all people living in the Messianic kingdom, where the Messiah, the Servant of the LORD, will reign as King.

Let's now **read chapter 55** together.

Here is a high-level outline of Chapter 55, courtesy of Gary Smith, Isaiah 40-66 of the New American Commentary:

	Subject
<i>Verses 1-5</i>	Invitation to participate in God's provisions and covenant
<i>Verses 6-13</i>	Invitation to repent and return, and see the LORD fulfill His word