

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 55: part 4

Isaiah Chapter 55

Chapter 55 is the *invitation* from the LORD to come and partake of the glorious salvation He has prepared through the death of the Servant – the Lord Jesus Christ. Chapter 55 is addressed first to the remnant of Israel in the last days, and then to all the people in the world. At that time, the nations of the world will stream to Jerusalem for their share in the blessings of the New Covenant.

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

Each of these paragraphs begins with a series of invitations.

In verses 1-3, the LORD invites His people Israel to listen to Him, come to Him, and eat what He freely offers to them.

In verses 6-7, the LORD invites people individually to seek Him and call upon Him. He implores the wicked man to forsake his thoughts and ways, and return to the LORD, who will have compassion on him.

Now, the people understand how their sins will be forgiven. See **Isaiah 40:2; 53:1-12; and 55:3, 6-7.**

Now it's clear that they should no longer fear the foreign nations. Indeed, many from the nations will come to acknowledge and worship the God of Israel, **Isaiah 40:5-7; 45:20-25; 52:10-15; 55:5.**

Now they know that God will do what He has declared He would do, **Isaiah 40:8b; 55:11.**

As a result, they know that the good news - the redemption of sinful Zion - is something they ought to sing and rejoice about! See **Isaiah 40:8-11; 52:7-9; 54:1; 55:12-13.**

The final verses of chapter 55 are in the form of a hymn. Isaiah 55:12-13 mark the end of a literary unit. We have seen these hymns earlier, particularly those that marked the end of a Servant Song. See **Isaiah 12:1-6; 42:10-13; 44:21-23; 49:8-13; and 52:9-10.** Those that immediately follow a Servant Song are in *italics*.

Next is **our verse-by-verse study** of Isaiah 55.

We begin with the first paragraph, verses 1-5.

Verses 1-5 directly address the nation of Israel. Yet, the invitation and blessings will extend to all the nations. The bread and the covenant are provided for whomever hears the Lord and accepts His invitation to come.

This paragraph has two parts:

<i>Verses 1 – 3a</i>	The LORD's gracious invitation to freely eat
<i>Verses 3b – 5</i>	The LORD's gracious promises in the everlasting covenant

In verses 1-3a, the LORD begins with twelve imperative statements in the Hebrew:

Six of them occur in the first verse: come, come, buy, eat, come, buy.

Three occur in verse 2: listen, eat, delight.

Three occur in verse 3: incline your ear, come to Me, listen.

This projects a sense of encouragement, on the one hand, and urgency, on the other. We see more of this in verses 6-7.

This invitation in verses 1-3 has much in common with the king's invitation to join a feast of celebration. See **Isaiah 25:6-9** and **Luke 14:15-24**.

In verses 3b – 5, the LORD speaks of great blessings that He either has already provided or will provide.

The first one, in verse 3b, is in the form of a promise for the future. He will make an everlasting covenant with the remnant of Israel in the last days.

The second one is in verse 4. It is in the form of a past action by the LORD. He has made the descendant of David a witness to the peoples (plural), a leader, and a commander of the peoples. While the LORD has already accomplished this, it will not be “made public” until that Descendant, the LORD Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, returns in the last days.

The third one is in verse 5a & b. This is also a promise for the future. You (Israel) will summon nations that you do not (now) know, and those nations will run to you.

The fourth one is in verse 5 c. It is in the form of an action already completed by the LORD, but again, will not be revealed until the onset of the Messianic Kingdom. The LORD has glorified Israel.

Verses 4 and 5 describe the impact that the everlasting covenant will have on the nation of Israel, in terms that harken back to work of the Servant of the LORD in **Isaiah 42:1-6** and **49:5-8**.

This strongly suggests that the Servant of the LORD and the Messianic descendant of David are one and the same Person.