

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 55: part 7

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 (verses 1-5), and then to individual people (verses 6- 9). In verses 10-11, the LORD promises to fulfill His word. Verses 12-13 are a hymn of rejoicing.

Let's continue **our verse-by-verse study** of Isaiah 55.

We begin with the first paragraph, verses 1-5. Let's **read Isaiah 55:1-5**.

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

We finish up in verse 5.

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

We have seen the first two already:

in verse 3b, The LORD promises that He will make an everlasting covenant with the remnant of Israel in the last days.

in verse 4. the LORD has decreed that the LORD Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, the promised Messiah, will return in the last days to rule on David's throne forever.

The third blessing is found in verse 5a & b. The LORD promises that one day the remnant of Israel will summon a nation that she does not know, and a nation which knows her not will run to her. See **Isaiah 45:14** and **Zechariah 8:20-23**.

The fourth one is in verse 5 c. The LORD has glorified Israel. See **Isaiah 60:1-9**. The LORD has already decreed it. It will come to pass after the Tribulation, at the start of the Messianic Kingdom.

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.

The second paragraph is Isaiah 55:6-13. It has three parts:

Verses 6-9	Individual invitation
Verses 10-11	The LORD promises to fulfill His word
Verses 12-13	Hymn of rejoicing

Let's now read **Isaiah 55:6-13**.

Verse 6: The imperative to seek the Lord and to call upon Him is a central feature of the prophets, and Isaiah is no exception. Look for example at **Isaiah 45:20-23**.

Verse 7: First, notice “his way” and “his thoughts”. This is clearly talking about an individual. The call is personal, to each one. Isaiah teaches that salvation for Israel is both individual and corporate (the nation).

Here we have the thoughts and ways of a wicked, unrighteous person. When we get to verses 8-9, this will be contrasted with the thoughts and ways of the LORD.

Each and every person is born wicked and unrighteous. There is none righteous, even one. See **Psalms 14:1-6**. So each and every person needs the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. See **Isaiah 53:5-6**. Isaiah pleads for the people return to the LORD. See **Isaiah 54:7-10**.

Then LORD will have compassion on them. He will abundantly pardon. See **Isaiah 44:22-24**. Note the reference to the mountains shouting out with joy, just like we have in *Isaiah 55:12*.

The message of forgiveness of sins is announced again and again in Isaiah. See **Isaiah 1:18, 40:2, 43:25, and 59:16-20.**

Verses 8-9: The dramatic contrast between the LORD's ways and man's ways is described here.

Psalms 103:8-12 uses the figure of the heavens and the earth to portray the compassion and forgiveness of the LORD. We have come full circle.

Verses 10-11: In verse 10, Isaiah adds to the image: the rain and snow from heaven water the earth, furnishing seed and bread. In Verse 11, he completes the metaphor. He is really speaking about the word of the LORD! It goes forth from the mouth of the LORD in heaven, and rains down on the people of the earth.

Just as the rain does not return to the heavens (evaporation) without completing its job, so too, the word of God does not return to Him without accomplishing His purpose.

The rain producing bread is a potent image in Isaiah. In **Isaiah 30:23**, it's literal rain and seed, and literal bread. This describes the great fertility of the earth during the Messianic Kingdom.

In **Isaiah 45:8**, the rain is a picture of righteousness from heaven. The harvest is salvation.

What about the church? Jesus is the bread of life, eternal life.

We are called to produce fruit. In **2 Corinthians 9:8-11**, Paul uses the image of seed and bread to describe the grace of God. The context is giving financially. The LORD provides over and above what we need so that we will have an abundance to give to other brethren who are poor and needy.