

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Isaiah 55: part 9

**Isaiah Chapter 55**

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

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

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

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

<i>Verses 6-9</i>	Individual invitation
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Last time, we covered verses 6 and 7. Tonight we continue with verses 8-9.

**Verses 8-9** Describe the dramatic contrast between the LORD's ways and thoughts and man's ways and thoughts.

	<i>Man's</i>	<i>The LORD's</i>
<i>Ways Thoughts</i>	wicked unrighteous	Perfect: forgiving and saving His Word; Righteous, gracious

**Psalm 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.

<i>Verses 10-11</i>	The LORD promises to fulfill His word
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**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 (furnishing seed and bread), 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 30:23-26**, 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.

In **verse 12**, the mountains and the hills rejoice. They join the chorus. The mountains and the hills play an important role in the Psalms and the prophets.

Why do they sing and rejoice? Let's look at five passages that speak of the mountains and the hills singing and rejoicing:

**Psalm 65:1-13; Psalm 98; Song of Solomon 2:8; Isaiah 44:23; Joel 3:14-18**

**Verse 13:** Israel's past was full of thorns and nettles. But in the future, she will experience the life of the cypress and myrtle. Judgment is over. New life has come. The Lord will turn the curses into blessings.

Let's take a brief look at the meaning the scriptures give to thorns, the cypress, and the myrtle.

THORNS:

Thorns are a result of the fall of man, **Genesis 3:17-19**.

Thorns represent the enemies of Zion: Isaiah 7:19-25.

The inhabitants of the land of Canaan which the nation of Israel failed to drive out are compared to thorns in their sides and eyes, Numbers 33:55, Joshua 23:13, Judges 2:3

Thorns are also symbolic of discipline (Judges 8:16), judgement (**Isaiah 33:12**), and death (**Hosea 13:14**).

Those who plot evil against the Lord are compared to thorns, **Nahum 1:9-11**.

Jesus compares thorns to worry and wealth which choke the word of God so that the ground cannot bear fruit, Matthew 13:22 and Luke 8:14.

On the cross, Jesus wore a crown of thorns, **Matthew 27:27-31**.

## THE CYPRESS

When Solomon built the house of the LORD (the Temple), he overlaid the floor with Cypress wood. He also constructed two doors out of cypress wood. **1 Kings 6:11-15**, 34; 9:11; 2 Chronicles 2:8.

Cypress is on display at the Second Coming of Christ, **Isaiah 60:10-14**. The wealth of nations will be used to build the Messianic Temple.

In **Hosea 14:4-8**, the LORD says “I am like a luxuriant cypress”.

## THE MYRTLE

The myrtle was brought from the hills for the Feast of Booths, **Nehemiah 8:15**.

The myrtle and the cypress represent blessings from the hand of the LORD to Israel at the time of the Second Coming. **Isaiah 41:18-20**.

The coming up of the cypress and the myrtle instead of the thorn bush and nettles are a memorial to the Lord. Always remember what the LORD has done!

The cypress and the myrtle are everlasting signs which will not be cut off.

The cypress and the myrtle are evergreens. They are strong and sturdy.

The myrtle has a white flower that is very aromatic.

The cypress and the myrtle represent abundant life. They represent the life of God which He will bring to the remnant of Israel on earth. They are also the sign of the resurrection of Christ. His resurrection is the source of eternal life for all who believe in Him.