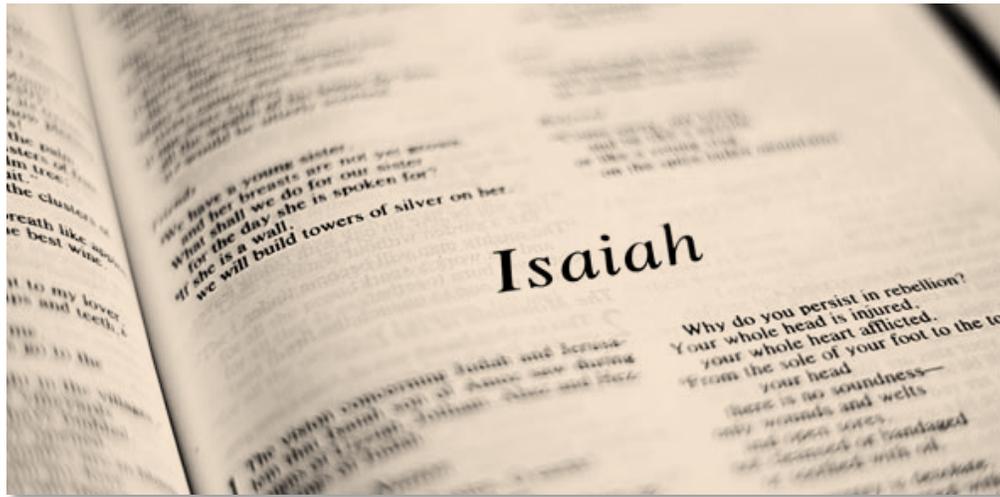


THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
A COVENANT OF PEACE
ISAIAH 54, 55



T. M. Moore

A Scriptorium Study

The Fellowship of Ailbe

A Covenant of Peace: Isaiah 54, 55
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Introduction to *Isaiah 54, 55*

These chapters break like the bright dawn of a new day, following the terrible sorrow of the Servant's suffering in Isaiah 53. The salvation of God has been accomplished, and the people of God are called to stretch out their tents in anticipate of a new and glorious city and a great salvation yet to come.

The promise may have seemed incredible to some of the people, but God assured them over and over that He would not fail, and all His Word would be fulfilled. We must hope in the Lord, even when things seem bleak, for He will save, and He will glorify Himself through those who trust in Him.

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1 Stretch Out!

Pray Psalm 72.17-19.

His name shall endure forever;
His name shall continue as long as the sun.
And *men* shall be blessed in Him;
All nations shall call Him blessed.
Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who only does wondrous things!
And blessed *be* His glorious name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory.
Amen and Amen.

Read Isaiah 54.1-8.

Reflect.

1. How would you compare the tone of these verses with the tone of Isaiah 52.13-53.12? What's the difference?
2. What does God promise His people in these verses? To what does this refer?

Meditate.

“We’re gonna need a bigger house.”

Perhaps some of the faithful in Israel may have thought that to themselves, as Isaiah turned from the sorrowing, tentative mood of chapter 53 to the jubilant and expansive mood of today’s verses. “Stretch out your tent cords!” “Strengthen your stakes!” You are indeed going to need a bigger house, in fact, a new and bigger and more glorious city, to accommodate all God is going to do for you because of the work of His Servant.

The joy and excitement of these verses is palpable. It’s like when the barren wives of the ancient patriarchs finally brought forth sons (v. 1). It’s like the promise of the city on the hill, with the nations streaming up to it, to make their homes with the people of God (vv. 2, 3; cf. Is. 2.1-4). It’s a promise so huge that people might be inclined to doubt it, or not to boast about it, for fear of being put to shame by it’s not happening (v. 4).

But God told them not to be afraid; He would not let their boasts and hopes come to shame (v. 4). Boast on! Be glad! And get ready for the next and final stages of the great saving work of your Redeemer.

The days of shame will be over once the Servant’s work is done (v. 4). No more reproach, for the LORD will revive His bride – He Who made and rules the world, Who is the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel (vv. 4, 5). Though Israel was not faithful as a young bride (v. 6), soon, after a “mere moment” of discipline, when God hides His face from her as she goes into captivity in Babylon (v. 7), God’s people will know the riches of His kindness and mercy, as He brings them into His redemption and begins the work of filling the world with the knowledge of His glory (v. 8).

The vision of salvation that God is bringing to His people begins to be bigger, clearer, and more all-encompassing from chapter 54 on, as Isaiah unpacks the glorious consequences and promise of the work of God’s Servant.

Prepare.

1. How does Isaiah tie the promise of this chapter to the promises God made to the patriarchs? Why?
2. Should we boast about the greatness of the Lord's salvation? Why?
3. How would you explain the relationship between discipline and blessing in the life of faith?

He accordingly bids the barren one to fill the world with houses of prayer and to make them left and right, that is to say, in the south and the north. Theodoret of Cyr (393-566 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah 17.54.2*

Lord, I want to stretch out the tent pegs of my Personal Mission Field, because You have promised I will not be ashamed to do so. Help me today as I...

Pray Psalm 72.

David's prayer for his son, Solomon, gives us insight to the salvation and Kingdom of the Son of God. Praise and thank the Lord for His saving mercy, and seek His help for the day ahead.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 72.15-20 (*Martyrdom: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*)

Let Christ be praised and all the gold of Sheba be His right;
Let blessings to His Name be told, and prayers made both day and night.

And let the earth abound with grain, let fields His fame proclaim;
And may our King forever reign and nations bless His great Name.

Now bless the God of Israel Who wondrous works performs.
And bless His Name, His glory tell both now and forever more!

2 A New City

Pray Psalm 125.4.

Do good, O LORD, to *those who are good*,
And to *those who are upright* in their hearts.

Read Isaiah 54.9-17.

Reflect.

1. How is Israel's captivity in Babylon "like the waters of Noah" to the Lord?
2. How would you describe the city God promises His people?

Meditate.

In the first part of chapter 54, Isaiah described the work God would do for His people in terms of its *extent*. It is like a barren woman bringing forth many children; like a tent being enlarged and reaching to all the nations, and God, the LORD of the whole earth, fulfilling His promised kindness to His people.

In the verses for today, the work of God is described in terms of its *beauty*. Though the judgment His people must endure in Babylon will seem like an overwhelming flood, yet God will sustain them through it, as He did Noah through the waters of the great flood (v. 9). His kindness and covenant will never fail (vv. 9, 10). God promises to build a new city for His people, with a foundation of precious gems, gates of crystal, walls made of precious stones, and pinnacles of rubies (vv. 11, 12). His city will be beautiful, like the garden of Eden was before the fall. John drew on this promise to describe the Bride of Christ – His Church – as it comes on earth and into the new heavens and new earth in Revelation 21.9-27.

The city will be beautiful not only in externals, but in righteousness, boldness, and strength against all foes (vv. 14-17). This is because the inhabitants of this city will all know the LORD (v. 13), and shall be established in peace and righteousness (vv. 13, 14). All who *assemble* against them will do so not to worship the LORD (the verb *assemble* suggests a sacred gathering), but to be defeated by Him for His people's sake (vv. 13, 14). No enemy will be able to stand against the city God will build for His people, where the righteousness of the LORD abounds according to His promises and Word (vv. 16, 17).

This is the city Isaiah prophesied about in Isaiah 2.1-4, where the servants of the LORD (v. 17) know Him and live in righteousness before Him. This is the city which has come and is coming "in the last days" as Jesus builds His Church (Matt. 16.18; Eph. 4.11-16).

Prepare.

1. Compare the verses for today with Revelation 21.9-27. Both are describing the Church. Are our churches fulfilling this vision?
2. The coming city will be beautiful in righteousness, peace, joy, and strength against all foes because the people there know the Lord. What does it mean to know the Lord? How does knowing the Lord relate to the beauty of the Church?
3. How should Isaiah's vision in chapter 54 affect us as we think about what our churches should be?

The marks of the saints are various. But all are equally pleasing in God's sight. For that reason he calls them all precious stones, even if they have various characters. By coal is symbolized God's burning love. Sapphire represents the person who hides his virtue, for the hue of sapphire is a deep one. By "jasper" ... is designated, I think, the luster of miracle working... Then Isaiah

leaves the figurative way of speaking to put things more clearly: "All your sons shall be taught of the Lord." He has called figuratively "stones," the appearance of virtue. The peace of God is here promised. Theodoret of Cyr (393-466 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 17.54.11-14

Lord, I pray for my church today, that You would...

Pray Psalm 125.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that we have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12.22-24) and our permanent dwelling with Jesus. Give thanks to God for all the blessings that accompany the salvation of the Lord.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 125 (*St. Gertrude: Onward, Christian Soldiers*)

All who trust in Jesus, strong as Zion stand!
Naught shall ever move them from their promised land!
Like the hills surrounding safe Jerusalem,
Christ surrounds His Church and holds her in His mighty Hand!

Refrain, v. 1

All who trust in Jesus, strong as Zion stand!
Naught shall ever move them from their promised land!

Wickedness shall rest not on this holy land;
sinfulness shall never come forth from their hand.
Trusting in the Savior, firm in His caress,
ever shall His favor on this holy city rest.

Refrain

Lord, do good and care for those upright in heart.
All who turn to evil shall from You depart.
Sinful men may increase, on their way to hell!
Save Your people, let your peace abound in Israel!

Refrain

3 Y'all Come!

Pray Psalm 34.17, 18.

*The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

Read Isaiah 55.1-3.

Reflect.

1. What “money” or “wages” seem to be in view here?
2. To what does the Lord compare delighting in Him?

Meditate.

Chapter 55 opens the promise of salvation to “everyone” (v. 1). This is the invitation to the new covenant, which extends beyond Israel to all the nations, as we saw in chapter 54.

The Lord and His salvation are likened to refreshing waters and nourishing food (vv. 1, 2). The offer is entirely of grace, “without money and without price”, and it replaces whatever unsatisfying things people have invested their confidence in before this offer (v. 2).

It is important to make two observations about the Lord’s invitation here. First, this is a promise to enter the “everlasting covenant” of God (v. 3), which He originally made with Adam and Eve, which was renewed in various stages up to Isaiah’s day, and would be made altogether new in “the last days.” The substance of that covenant is God Himself and His Word (v. 3). All who come to Him and hear His Word shall be revived in their souls, and discover what is good and satisfying for their lives (vv. 3, 2).

The precondition for coming to this banquet is that people should “thirst” and “hunger” for what God offers. What He offers is life for the soul, which can be found nowhere else than in Him. If we are trying to satisfy the longing of our soul with material goods and pleasing circumstances, we will not come to the Lord to eat and drink of His grace. We must set aside every other false hope – all the idols to which we cling for happiness – and let our souls long for the Lord. He will hear, and He will bring us to Himself and His covenant through the suffering and victory of His anointed Servant, Jesus Christ.

As the people of Judah and Jerusalem prepared to go into captivity in Babylon, they needed to remember that God is their substance, covenant, life, and hope, and they must look continuously to Him for their salvation. The same is true for us.

Prepare.

1. How is God like good and satisfying food and drink?
2. How would you explain the everlasting covenant to an unbelieving friend? Why should your friend seek to enter this covenant?
3. In what sense does your soul “delight” itself in the Lord?

The Lord God, ever compassionate, is ready to bring people to good things, and he promises to give not only good things in the present but also the enjoyment of eternally good things in the hereafter. For he demands nothing other than a ready listener, one

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who takes in his words and is quick to respond willingly to his voice. Theodore of Heraclea (d. ca. 355 AD), *Fragments on Isaiah*

Give me grace every day, O Lord, both to hear Your Word and to...

Pray Psalm 34.

Give thanks to God Who hears our prayers, feeds us by His goodness, sends His angels to encamp around us, and gave His Son Who, though not a bone of His body was broken, bore our sins away.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 34.1-3, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20 (*Alleluia [Lowe]: Mighty God, While Angels Bless You!*)

I will bless the Lord at all times; I shall praise Him evermore!

My soul makes its boast in Jesus – Him we gladly all adore!

Refrain

Magnify the Name of Jesus! Let us lift His Name in praise!

Taste and see how good is Jesus; blessed are all who in Him hide.

None shall lack for any blessing who in Christ will e'er confide.

Refrain

When for help we cry to Jesus, He will save, for He is near.

He delivers us from trouble, for He holds us ever dear.

Refrain

See the Righteous as He suffers: God will save Him from His pains.

All His bones He keeps through suffering, every one, intact remains.

Refrain

4 Seek the Lord

Pray Psalm 43.5.

Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God;
For I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

Read Isaiah 55.4-7.

Reflect.

1. In verse 4, “him” refers to “David” (v. 3), but beyond David, to Whom? For what purpose did God give “him” to the people?
2. What is necessary if we are to seek the Lord?

Meditate.

The “him” mentioned in verse 4, who is “a witness” and a “leader and a commander for the people,” refers to David (v. 3). But it seems to me that “David” is a symbol for the coming Anointed One and Servant, Jesus Christ, Who is the focus of this section of Isaiah’s book. Thus, the pronouns in verses 4 and 5 refer to Jesus (*him, you, your* – we should capitalize them all). God will make the Servant a Witness to the Lord and a Leader and Commander of His people. And He will glorify this One as the Desire of All Nations (v. 5), the One to Whom the world rushes for the salvation of the Lord.

But all who would know the blessings of the Lord must seek Him and call upon Him (v. 6). They must repent of their wickedness and turn to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness (v. 7). The salvation that Jesus has gained does not come automatically to everyone. Only those who desire Him, and who turn from their sins and call upon Him can expect to know the saving mercy of the Lord.

Our calling is to proclaim the Good News of what Jesus has done, and what God offers us through Him. If we will call them, the nations will come, as many as the Lord calls (v. 5, cf. Acts 2.39). But we must tell people to turn from their sins, humble themselves before the Lord, and cry out to Him for mercy and grace, to forgive their sins and give them new life in Jesus. The urgency of so doing is suggested in verse 6, that people should turn to the Lord when He is right there in front of them, speaking to them through His witnesses about the grace that can cover their sins and make all things new. Now is the day of salvation! People must be urged to repent and believe, lest the Lord move away from them, and they fail to lay hold on His grace.

Prepare.

1. We are appointed as witness to Jesus (Acts 1.8), to call others to seek the Lord and call on Him. How’s that work going in your Personal Mission Field?
2. How would you explain the ideas of *seeking* the Lord and *calling upon* Him to an unbelieving friend? What do these require?
3. The promise of verse 5 depends on the mandate of verses 6 and 7. Explain.

Let the wicked forsake his own way, in which he sins; let the unrighteous abandon his thoughts with which he despairs of the forgiveness of sins and according to the prophet’s statement, “return to the Lord, for he will abundantly pardon.” In this

“abundantly,” nothing is lacking. Here mercy is omnipotent and omnipotence is merciful. For so great is the kindness in God that there is nothing that he is unable to loose for the converted person. Fulgentius of Ruspe (467-532 AD), Letter 6

You have appointed me as Your witness, Lord, so help me today to...

Pray Psalm 43.

Use this psalm to seek the Lord for forgiveness, strength, guidance, and joy. Let it lift your soul into the very presence of our King

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 43 (*Hyfrydol: Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!*)

Vindicate me, Jesus, plead for me! Make my case against my foes.
Rescue me, do not ignore me, God of strength, relieve my woes!
From deceitful men and spirits, from oppression, mourning sore:
Heed my prayer, receive and hear it, keep me to You forever more.

Let Your light and truth precede me, bring me to Your holy hill.
To Your holy altar lead me, let me dwell within Your will.
Lord, my joy and consolation, You, Who grace to me impart,
hear my joyful adoration; I will praise You from the heart.

When my weary soul is troubled, when despair upon me falls,
let my hope in You be doubled, let me on Your mercy call.
God, my help, my great salvation, I will praise You to Your face.
In Your care my soul I station; let me know Your glorious grace!

5 God's Word on It

Pray Psalm 19.12-14.

Who can understand *his* errors?

Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*;

Let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

Read Isaiah 55.8-11.

Reflect.

1. Why is it important to know that God's thoughts are higher than ours?
2. To what does the Lord compare His Word? How is that comparison apt?

Meditate.

Let's review Isaiah's career as a prophet: God had spoken many things through him from the last days of King Uzziah all the way into the reign of Hezekiah. Kings had come and gone, and everything Isaiah had spoken – about Syria, Israel, and Assyria – had come to pass.

Now he had spoken more of God's Word – about Nebuchadnezzar, the neighboring nations, Judah's captivity, and Cyrus, and beyond that, about a coming Servant and a great salvation that would embrace the nations and bring a Kingdom of righteousness and peace to the world.

This must have been difficult for the people of Judah and Jerusalem to process, much less to believe. But God continued to remind them of His greatness and the reliability of all His Word; not to mock them, but that they might turn from their sinful ways and look to Him in hope.

“Don't try to figure it out,” God said to them. “My thoughts and ways are higher than yours” (vv. 8, 9). The people had to trust God, had to bank on His Word and follow it in their every next step. We can know things, even things that pertain to the world and our place in it, as well as to our salvation. But we cannot know to the extent God knows (Eccl. 3.11), so we'd better learn to trust.

And as for His Word? It's as reliable and effectual as the rain (vv. 10, 11). He sends the rain, He gives His Word. The rain does its job, and so does the Word of God – just exactly as He says. Isaiah's ministry was proof positive of the reliability of God's Word. Here God is simply putting an exclamation point to Isaiah's preaching, to encourage His people to listen to the prophet and prepare for the future according to the Word of the Lord.

God has not changed; He still relates to His people through His Word, which He calls us to receive, be refreshed by, trust in, and obey.

Reflect.

1. What does it mean to trust the Lord? How can you recognize someone who trusts the Lord?

2. How is the Word of God like the rain in your life? Can you give an example?

3. How can our thoughts be more like God's thoughts? What can you do today to realize more of the mind of Christ that is in you (1 Cor. 2.16)?

For the rain and the snow do not return to heaven but accomplish in the earth the will of him that sends them. So the word that he shall send through his Christ, who is himself the Word and the Message, shall return to him with great power. For when he shall come and bring it, he shall come down like rain and snow, and through him all that is sown shall spring up and bear righteous fruit, and the word shall return to his sender; but not in vain shall his going have been, but thus shall he say in the presence of his sender, "Behold, I and the children that the Lord has given me." Aphrahat (270-350 AD), Demonstrations 8.15

Let Your mind, my Savior, be my guide today, Lord, so that I...

Pray Psalm 19.

Thank God for the many ways He reveals Himself in creation, and especially in His Law and all His Word. Call on Him to grant you the promised blessings of His Word as you confess your sins, and seek His guidance for the day ahead.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 19 (*St. Christopher: Beneath the Cross of Jesus*)

The heav'ns declare God's glory, the skies His work proclaim!
From day to day and night by night they shout His glorious Name!
No speech, no words, no voice is heard, yet all across the earth
The lines of His all-present Word make known His holy worth.

Behold, the sun arises, a bridegroom strong and bright,
rejoicing as he runs his course from morning unto night.
From east to west across the skies his circuit he completes,
and none can hide their sinful eyes or shelter from his heat.

The Law of God is perfect, His testimony sure;
the simple man God's wisdom learns, the soul receives its cure.
God's Word is right, and His command is pure, and truth imparts;
He makes our eyes to understand; with joy He fills our hearts.

The fear of God is cleansing, forever shall it last.
His judgments all are true and just, by righteousness held fast.
O seek them more than gold most fine, than honey find them sweet;
Be warned by every word and line; be blessed with joy complete.

Who, Lord, can know his errors? O keep sin far from me!
Let evil rule not in my soul that I may blameless be.
O let my thoughts, let all my words, before Your glorious sight
Be pleasing to You, gracious Lord, acceptable and right!

6 The Great Reversal

Pray Psalm 97.1.

The LORD reigns;

Let the earth rejoice;

Let the multitude of isles be glad!

Read Isaiah 55.12, 13.

Reflect.

1. How does creation respond to the coming salvation of the Lord? Why?
2. What do the *joy* and *peace* of God's people symbolize (cf. Rom. 14.17, 18)?

Meditate.

The people of Judah and Jerusalem are shortly to *go out* to captivity in Babylon. It will be a time of great sorrow and suffering, but not of despair.

A day of joy is coming, and *that day* will begin with Cyrus' returning the people of God to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. But the full prospering of God's Word (v. 11) will only begin when the very Word Himself *goes forth* from God to accomplish His good pleasure. And His pleasure is that His people should know righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit – the reality of the Kingdom of God (Rom. 14.17, 18).

When the Servant by His suffering accomplishes the salvation of God's people, then their salvation will begin to be realized. God will save them in righteousness, and He will give them His Spirit unto peace and joy. The effects of this great salvation will reach even to the creation, which will cease groaning and traveling under the burden of sin, will leap and sing and clap hands and bear fruit in the joy of God's rule on earth, as it is in heaven (cf. Rom. 8.19-22). Everything to which the people of God *go out with joy* will experience the transformative power of the salvation of the Lord, so that the fruit of His Kingdom begins to be evident throughout the earth and in all aspects of life.

And all this shall be "to the LORD for a name" (v. 13), that is, for His glory and honor. When people ask why the world is changing and why such gladness, joy, and fruitfulness are in evidence all around, we will lift up the Name of the Lord God and Jesus Christ, because His Word is prospering in and through us. And this shall be for "an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off."

When the Kingdom comes with the salvation of the Lord, it comes to stay.

Prepare.

1. Why are "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit" an excellent summation of the Kingdom of God?
2. Our salvation brings us joy. It also affects the whole world, all of creation and culture, every relationship, role, and responsibility, beginning in every believer's Personal Mission Field. How can you see that the Kingdom is coming in your life?
3. What can we do to make sure the Lord gets the credit for all the evidence of His salvation?

The spiritual meaning of these words refers to the change of customs, which sprouted and rose up in the advent of Christ among those nations who embraced his faith. Instead of thorns, which represent the sins, and instead of the brier, which is devoid of

fruits, the sweet-smelling cypress and the myrtle have risen, which are figures of the actions of virtue, purity and holiness and ... are pleasing to God and delight him. Ephrem the Syrian (306-373 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 55.13

Send me out with joy and peace today, O Lord, so that I can...

Pray Psalm 97.

Let this psalm lead you in great praise to God, in committing your day to Him, and in seeking His light and gladness for your path.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 97 (*Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

Rejoice, the Lord is King! O earth, lift up your voice;

Be glad, you islands, shout and sing: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Refrain v. 9

Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

His just and righteous throne 'mid clouds and darkness stands;

His fiery wrath consumes His foes in every land.

Refrain

Earth trembles at the sight of Jesus' holy face;

The mountains melt before His might and praise His grace.

Refrain

The heav'ns above declare His glorious righteousness.

And tribes and peoples everywhere; His Name confess.

Refrain

While Zion gladly sings, let all be brought to shame

who to vain idols worship bring and scorn His Name.

Refrain

All you who love the Lord, despise sin's wicked ways!

Praise Him Who guides us by His Word through all our days.

Refrain

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7 Salvation Far and Wide

Pray Psalm 22.27, 28.

All the ends of the world
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations
Shall worship before You.
For the kingdom is the LORD's,
And He rules over the nations.

Review Isaiah chapters 54, 55.

Reflect.

1. How does Isaiah portray the greatness of the Lord's salvation?
2. What is their responsibility to whom this salvation is given?

Meditate.

The preceding chapter, Isaiah 53, brought to culmination the work of the Servant in paying the debt for our salvation. We saw the enormity of His suffering, and how this accomplished the taking away of the sins of His people. This chapter ends on a low and sorrowing note.

Chapters 54 and 55 erupt in joyous exhortations and celebrations, calling the people of God to stretch out and get ready for a new city from the Lord, which will encompass all the nations and bring healing even to the creation. This is the result of the Servant's work; it is the coming of the long-promised salvation of God.

The greatness of God's salvation, outlined in these chapters, may have seemed impossible to those just about to be carried away captive to Babylon. But God assured them that, as His Word through Isaiah had not failed yet, it would not fail in the days to come. What God has declared and promised, He will perform.

So the people should have hope and find strength in the midst of their trials; and be continuing to look to the Lord and live toward His promised salvation. Great blessings lie ahead for the people of God, according to His Word through Isaiah. And God's Word will not fail. He will be glorified in the blessing of His people, and all the ends of the earth shall know Him.

Prepare.

1. How does trusting God's Word help us in the midst of trials and difficulties?
2. How is His Word like the rain from heaven? Is this your experience of the Word of God? Explain.
3. What's your primary takeaway from Isaiah 54 and 55?

For if God had made us in order to punish us, we might well have despaired and questioned the possibility of our own salvation. But if he created us for no other reason than his own good will, and with a view to our enjoying everlasting blessings, and if he does and contrives everything for this end, from the first day until the present time, what is there which can ever cause us to doubt?
John Chrysostom (344-407 AD), *Letter to the Fallen Isidore 1.15*

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Today, Lord, help me to live in the fullness of Your salvation by...

Pray Psalm 22.26-28.

The first part of Psalm 22 parallels Isaiah 53. The second part parallels Isaiah 54 and 55. Pray with rejoicing, expecting God to lead you into more of His great salvation today.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 22.26-28 (*Darwall: Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

The suffering King shall eat and praise with us the Lord.

Forever we His praise repeat and trust His Word.

Praise God above, all you who keep His vows and who His mercies love!

All nations shall repent and hasten to the Lord;

All those to whom His truth is sent shall praise His Word.

The Lord is King! His sovereign rule on high now we His people sing!

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Questions for reflection or discussion

1. What aspect of the Servant's work is described in Isaiah 53? What aspect of His work is described in Isaiah 54 and 55?
2. How does God explain the greatness of His salvation in these chapters? Is this salvation as you know it?
3. Why is God's Word like the rain? What does this suggest about the use we make of God's Word?
4. How can these chapters encourage us during times of trial or difficulty?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from Isaiah 54 and 55? How are you putting that lesson to work in your life?

For prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at www.ailbe.org to learn more.

We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.