

## Thy Kingdom Come

This chapter began with a gracious invitation to come and receive provision for all your needs. After wasting all you had on that which could not satisfy as you sat there as the prodigal son trying to find fulfillment by feeding on the husks in the pig pen, you heard this gracious invitation. Come to the waters; you who have no money, come, buy and eat, buy wine and milk without money and without price. And your heart began to beat with excitement as you realized this invitation was founded upon the sure mercies of David, upon the everlasting covenant God had made with His chosen people.

It was then you heard your Redeemer speaking these gracious words to you, "come while I am near, come, while I may be found. Turn from your wicked ways and your unrighteous thoughts and I will have mercy on you." It was then that God opened your eyes and you were able to see the filth and nothingness of the pig pen around you and realized that in your Father's house there was more than sufficient to meet your every need. By grace alone you were drawn back to God and found that in repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ there was mercy without condemnation. For the Lord had indeed provided a covering for all your sins and an abundance of pardon through His shed blood upon the cross at Calvary.

And although God's ways and thoughts were far above you, yes even farther than all the expanse of the heavens above and that there was absolutely no way you could attain to the perfection God required of you, once again, you, through His written Word was made to understand that as the rain and snow comes down from heaven and gives life to the parched earth, God Himself had condescended to come down to you as the Word made flesh. It was then you were made aware that in God's written word was all that was necessary to give you sound doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. And you realized that all this had been fully supplied without cost and without money. It was then you were granted a true faith by hearing, and that hearing came to you through the written Word of God. The result? God's word has accomplished what He purposed and prospered in the thing for which He sent it forth; the curse has been lifted.

And this brings us to the last part of Isaiah 55, which in God's providence comes to us on this Sunday just before Thanksgiving and we read for with great cause for thanksgiving we read, *"For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."* (Isa 55:12-13)

A. The work is completed - His Kingdom has come. - *For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace*

1. All the blessings promised us through the suffering Servant are now realized
  - a. He has borne our griefs and our sorrows
  - b. He has been wounded for our transgressions and smitten for our iniquities
  - c. By His stripes we have been healed
  - d. God has given Him the nations for His inheritance
  - e. The pleasure of the Lord has prospered in His hands
2. For "you" may now go out with joy being led in peace.
  - a. The "You" being plural matches the pronouns of verses 8 and 9
  - b. "You" who were so far from God even as the heavens are higher than the earth
  - c. "You" who were at enmity with God now are at peace with God
3. In one sense the picture here would be of the Jews who have been taken in captivity now return to Zion with great rejoicing.

*Isa 35:10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

B. For there is even a more glorious scene pictured here and it appears for us as a twofold joy and peace.

1. First there is a present joy . . . for our sins have been forgiven

- a. We were lost and in the darkness of sin.
  - (1) Our sins had separated us from God
  - (2) We were without any comfort, fear abounded
- b. The Good Shepherd has brought us back into His fold.
  - (1) There was joy in heaven, and that same joy flooded our souls
  - (2) And I trust it floods your heart this morning as we speak of it.

Col 1:11-14 “. . . according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints** in the light. He has **delivered us from the power of darkness** and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, in whom we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of sins**.

2. Secondly therefore there is a coming future joy that awaits us in a new life in a glorious kingdom
  - a. You shall enter His presence with joyful singing.
  - b. For you will hear these words - enter thou into the joy of my Father
  - c. You will break forth into singing.

Rev 5:9-10 "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Rev 5:9 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then we read that the whole of creation joins in proclaiming - Isa 55:12 The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

*Rev 5:13 "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

3. The curse shall forever be removed - *Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree*
  - a. The curse God place upon creation at the fall shall be removed
  - b. Instead of the thorn and the briar, that is, in place of pain and sorrow
  - c. There shall be the myrtle and the cypress tree, the evergreen tree, there shall be joy and comfort and life everlasting
  - d. Isaiah here is portraying a scene made even clearer for us by the Apostle John in the vision he saw.

*Rev 22:2-4 "in the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **And there shall be no more curse**, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

CONCLUSION: And thus chapter 55 concludes with comfort for the saints and all praise and glory to the Messiah, the David that shall sit upon the throne of glory forever and forever with these words. - *and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

To understand these words I will close by reading from the prophecy the Apostle John received from our Lord.

*Rev 21:3 Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

*Rev 22:4-5 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*