

Isaiah 26
“His dead will live!”

In Isaiah 25, God speaks of a rich feast that He will prepare for all peoples. He will destroy death, described as the sheet/shroud that covers all nations. How? He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces and remove His people’s disgrace from all the earth. Compare this with Is 55:1-3, Ps 63:5. In Isaiah 26 a song is recorded that describes what it will be like “in that day.”

In That Day (When God restores)

1. His people will rejoice in His salvation (Not just Israel - see 25:6 - “All peoples”). 1-6

- a. He makes His salvation our walls, ramparts - our protection. See Eph 6:10-17
- b. He will open the gates of righteousness (See Ps 118) to those who trust in Him/keep faith.
 - He will keep (“preserve”) in perfect peace (“completeness, safety”) him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in Him. (Phil 4:6-7)
 - God is the LORD - The Rock eternal; He humbles the haughty, and the oppressed and poor will trample the lofty (“lofty, unassailably high”) city to the ground/dust. (See 1 Cor 1:17-31). Trust Him!
 - Nations may have invaded, slaughtered, exiled and oppressed God’s people, but they too are accountable and would be judged (See Is 41:8-16, Jer 51:20-23, Mic 4:13).

2. He makes the path of His people smooth (Rom 8:28-39 - even the evil done on earth He will use for ultimate good in His people). 7-11

- a. He cares for His own. (e.g., Mtt 6:8, 7:9-11)
- b. He is the desire of His people.
- c. He instructs the world! He’s returning and “school” will be in session!
 - His kindness leads to repentance (Rom 2:1-4) yet the wicked go on in their ways.
 - God’s hand is lifted up (in chastisement) but the wicked do not see it.
 - Judgment day is coming.

3. Nations rise and fall, but God is faithful to His own. 12-21

- a. Where are the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Grecian, Roman, Turkish, German and British Empires? Gone, yet Israel remains. His “covenant love” endures. He keeps His promises.
- b. His promises to the Patriarchs, to Israel through Moses and the prophets, He will keep. His gifts and calling to and through Israel are without repentance (Rom 11:28-29). His gifts and calling to and through His church (both Jew and Gentile) as well. All that Israel had accomplished, God had done for them (vs 12).
 - Their oppressors were gone, dead and judged.
 - God’s people endure/prosper to His glory.
 - They came to God in their distress when under His discipline.
 - * Before God, all our struggle, striving and efforts to make our will happen are akin to a woman in labor. But all we give birth to is wind.
 - * But God’s dead will live! Their bodies will rise. (Is 25:8, Jn 1:4, 11:25; 1 Cor 15:43)
 - * There is a resurrection. For the justified and the unjustified.
 - * God the Son, the Son of Man, will come to judge and reign! (Dan 7:13-14)

Jesus is the firstborn from the dead - on this day we celebrate the fact that those who die in faith are not lost. Because He rose, and lives, we will rise and live. He reigns and we will reign with Him!

So, a few things to take away on this resurrection day!

1. God has swallowed up death forever, and prepared a rich banquet for all peoples.

- **He did it on “this mountain” (Is 25:6-9, Gen 22, 2 Sam 24:18/1 Chr 21:18, 2 Chr 3:1).**
Isn't the precise plan and fulfillment of God's promises a beautiful thing?
- **Our strength and peace are rooted in our relationship with God.**

2. He works in the lives of His people.

- He does this in and through things, all things, even the hard things. Which is why we are to praise Him in all things (Ps 34:1, Eph 5:20, 1 Thes 5:16-18).
- He has a message for the world, if they will see it.

3. This world is crazy from our vantage point. It seems chaotic and unstable. Nations rise, fall, and are in upheaval. But because He lives, we live!

- Like an anvil that outlasts a hammer, God's people endure while others fade.
- In all humanity's striving, we produce but wind.
- But, in contrast with humanity's empty efforts that result in death and judgment, God's dead will live! Their lives have a future and purpose.
 - * They will rise renewed.
 - * The just will live again (and the unjust will also live. Rev 20:11-15).

Praise God for His plans!

Praise God for His faithfulness!

Praise God for our future!