

“EVERYONE WHO THIRSTS, COME TO THE WATERS”

Isaiah 54-55

Introduction

- 1) Invitations are found in the Scriptures:
 - a) To reason with God (Isa. 1:18)
 - b) To return to God (Hos. 6:1)
 - c) To receive rest (Matt. 11:28-30)
 - d) To receive the water of life (Rev. 22:17)
 - e) To inherit eternal life (Matt. 25:34, 46)
- 2) Invitations are special opportunities to be partakers of the blessings of God
 - a) Sadly, not everyone who is invited will come (Lk. 14:15-24)
- 3) A great invitation is found within **Isaiah 54-55** – great blessings from God to be enjoyed!

I) **God’s Blessings on His Redeemed People (54:1-17)**

A) *Their number would be greatly increased* (vv. 1-3; cf. 49:14-23)

- 1) Were desolate and barren in captivity, but later would be enlarged in number – joy!
- 2) Verse 1 quoted in Galatians 4:27
 - a) Spiritual descendants of faithful remnant would be more in number than physical Israel
 - b) Christians [Jew and Gentile] are the spiritual children of the barren woman [Sarah] and are the children of promise through Christ

B) *God will have abundant mercy and perpetual peace on His people* (vv. 4-10)

- 1) Their God/Maker/Husband/Redeemer will mercifully call them back to Himself
- 2) His perpetual kindness and covenant of peace will not be removed
 - a) Like God’s covenant with Noah – not flood world again (Gen. 8:21; 9:11)

C) *God will provide glory and protection for His people* (vv. 11-17)

- 1) God will beautify them with glorious gems (cf. Rev. 21:18-19)
- 2) Their children will be taught by God and enjoy peace (cf. Jn. 6:45)
- 3) Their enemies would assemble but not prevail by weapon or word (cf. Rev. 17:14)

II) **The Great Invitation (55:1-5)**

A) “Ho!” – Hebrew interjection arousing attention (v. 1a; “alas!” “ah!” 1:4, 24)

- 1) How sad that God should have to arouse the attention of sinful men who need to hear Him

B) An urgent invitation to:

- 1) **Drink** – everyone who thirsts, come to the waters (cf. Jn. 4:14; 7:37-38; Rev. 22:17)
- 2) **Eat** – buy in abundance without money and without price (cf. Jn. 6:35, 54; Rom. 3:24)
- 3) **Live** – God will make an everlasting covenant and provide the sure mercies of David to Jews and Gentiles (cf. Isa. 61:8; Heb. 8:6; 10:9; 13:20; Acts 13:33-37; 2:31)

C) A new nation, made up of nations, will be glorified by the Lord – *messianic kingdom*

III) **Seek the Lord (55:6-13)**

A) An admonition to seek the Lord while He may be found, to call upon Him while He is near (v. 6)

- 1) Wicked must forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts (v. 7a)
 - a) God will have mercy and abundantly pardon (v. 7b)
- 2) Implies that there will come a time when Lord will not be found (cf. 2 Cor. 6:2; Matt. 25:10)

B) Why should man seek the Lord?

- 1) Our thoughts and ways are not the Lord's thoughts and ways; God's ways and thoughts are higher [like the heavens over the earth] than our ways and thoughts (vv. 8-9)
 - a) Our thoughts and ways are not wonderful and high like the Lord's because our thoughts and ways are unrighteous, wicked, and earthly (see v. 7)
 - b) Only by turning to God and thinking as He thinks and walking in His way can we be what God wants us to be
 - i) Accomplished by hearing, understanding, and obeying His word (Jas. 1:21-22; Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 17:27)
- 2) The word of God will not return to God void (vv. 10-11)
 - a) Compared to the rain and snow that waters the earth and brings forth food
 - b) Divine revelation will accomplish its purpose – *save* those who come to God and *judge* those who reject His way
- 3) Joy and blessings will follow (vv. 12-13)
 - a) Nature symbolically rejoices as man is reconciled to God

Conclusion

The worst thing that man can do is ignore God's gracious and loving invitation to be saved and enjoy His many blessings. The invitation will be open to come to the living waters until the Lord returns. The day of salvation is now!