**The Great Invitation**

*Isaiah 55*

**Introduction**

1. In dealing with the future of Babylonian captivity, and the efforts of Jehovah to return Hiss people to Him, a greater deliverance is foreshadowed – the Salvation in the Messiah.
2. **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** – the Servant/Messiah provides salvation for the entire world through His vicarious death.
3. **Isaiah 54** – the borders of Zion have been enlarged to accommodate a great many people belonging to God, and the unfaithful people of God are shown compassion and promised blessings – spiritual Jerusalem.
4. **Isaiah 55** – God invites all people to partake in the wonderful blessings of abundant spiritual life through His Christ.
5. The Value of the Invitation **(vv. 1-2)**
6. Salvation for Those Who Lack
   1. **(v. 1)** – Lacking water and food – essentials to life.
      1. Water – **John 4:7-14** – Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.
         1. **(v. 10)** – living water only offered by God as a gift.
         2. **(vv. 11-14)** – Jesus Himself is the source – spiritual, everlasting life, overflowing **(cf. John 7:37-38).**
      2. Bread – **John 6:26-27, 32-35** – parallel to the water. (**cf. Deuteronomy 8:3** – lesson of the manna)
   2. **(v. 1)** – Impoverished – ***“you who have no money”*** – nothing with which to buy those essentials.
      1. **Matthew 5:3** – recognition of spiritual poverty leads to blessings.
      2. **Ephesians 2:4-10** – by grace through faith, not of works to boasting.
   3. **(v. 1)** – ***“wine and milk…abundance”*** – this is not barely getting by, but an invitation to immense wealth.
      1. He who has God and everything else has no more than He who only has God.
      2. “not just the water of bare necessity but the wine and milk of luxurious satisfaction.” (Tyndale OT Commentary)
      3. ***“the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8)*** – **Colossians 1:27; 2:2-3**
7. Salvation for Those Who Desire
   1. **(v. 1)** – ***“Everyone who thirsts”***
   2. This is something which must be desired:
      1. **Psalm 42:1-3** – longing for God.
      2. **Matthew 5:6** – hunger and thirst.
      3. **Mark 8:34** – desire (NOTE: desire must exceed the sacrifice.)
   3. This will not be given to those who don’t want it. This is not forced but offered.
8. Salvation for Those Who Receive
   1. As verse 1 indicates, this is not something we can afford ourselves. We are destitute and have nothing to offer (**cf. Micah 6:6-7**).
   2. ***(v. 2a) – “spend money for what is not bread”*** – Yet some try to purchase substance **– cf. 1 John 2:16-17; Mark 8:36-37**
   3. It isn’t substance!
   4. ***“LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ME…” (v. 2b)*** – It is only God that Has something to offer – we must receive it! (**cf. John 4:11-12** – did she have something Jesus didn’t? Of course not.)
9. The Faithfulness of the Invitation **(vv. 3-5)**
10. The Faithfulness of God’s Promise
    1. **(v. 3)** – the abundance for those who lack but desire, and that those will receive is wrapped up in the faithfulness of God’s promise toward and concerning David.
       1. God will make a covenant with those the invitation is extended to, according to the mercies of David.
       2. ***“According to the faithful mercies shown to David.” (NASB)***
       3. ***“my steadfast, sure love for David.” (ESV)***
       4. ***“sure,” “faithful”*** – *’âman* – root of *’âmên* – “to be firm, endure, be faithful, be true, stand fast, trust, have belief, believe.” (VINE)
    2. **2 Samuel 7:11-14** – God would make him a house and set up his seed forever on the throne – the Christ.
       1. **Psalm 89:1-4** – Faithfulness, mercies, covenant with David, throne.
    3. Paul applies this verse to Christ – **Acts 13:22-23, 34-39** – how sure? Not even death could thwart God’s promise, forgiveness through this Man (David’s Seed).
       1. ***“sure”*** – *pistos* – trustworthy (STRONG)
11. The Faithfulness of Christ’s Reign
    1. **(v. 4)** – speaking of David – in the sense of David’s Seed, the Messiah.
       1. A King sitting on His throne.
    2. **Witness** – **John 18:37; 1 Timothy 6:13; Revelation 1:5** – to the truth – would reign and truth and bring people to truth.
    3. **Leader** – **Hebrews 2:10, 18** – leads from the front – goes through it successfully first and calls us to follow.
       1. Captain – *archēgos* – one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer (THAYER)
    4. **Commander** – **Isaiah 9:6** – government on His shoulder. (**cf. Matthew 28:18**)
    5. Our role of faithfulness under His faithful reign – **2 Timothy 2:11-13**
12. The Faithfulness of Christ’s Territory
    1. **(v. 5)** – The blessings of His reign would not be limited to any particular nation or people, specifically, not limited to physical Israel.
    2. **Matthew 28:18-20** – all the nations.
    3. Those far are brought near – **Ephesians 2:11-13, 17**
    4. **Isaiah 66:1-2** – any who are contrite and tremble at His word.
    5. And ANY who are not are rejected – **Romans 10:19-21**
13. The Exclusivity of the Invitation **(vv. 6-13)**
14. Exclusively for the Urgent
    1. Such an incredible invitation is worthy of swift and vigorous response. To delay is to show an ignorance of the glory of the invitation, or an indifference.
    2. **(v. 6)** – Time is not unlimited.
       1. Physical life – **James 4:14**
       2. Coming of the Lord – **2 Peter 3:10**
    3. Those who delay will not receive:
       1. **Acts 24:25** – not a more convenient time than now.
       2. **Luke 8:18** – hearing with stubbornness may lead to what you have being taken away – **Amos 8:11-12** – famine of the word.
15. Exclusively for the Penitent
    1. **(v. 7)** – this invitation is conditioned upon repentance.
    2. The whole problem of Israel in captivity and the captivity of sin is a result of following our own ways – **Isaiah 59:1-2, 12-15, 20-21** – sin separated, turned away from God, Redeemer sent for those who repent and follow Him.
    3. ***“Let him return to the Lord”*** – i.e. in faithfulness is where the blessings of the invitation lie:
       1. Mercy – compassion – **Isaiah 54:4-8**
       2. Abundant pardon – complete/total forgiveness – **Isaiah 1:18**
16. Exclusively in the Word
    1. Why must one seek the Lord? Call upon Him? Forsake his ways and return to Him?
    2. Blessings are dependent on Him, and He and His ways are not the same as our own – **(v. 8)**
       1. To turn to our ways and away from His is to turn away from His blessings.
       2. **Isaiah 40:13-14** – His ways cannot be found among our own, but we must make His ways our own.
    3. His ways transcend ours in value and power – **(v. 9)**
       1. Not only do His differ from ours, but ours pale in comparison.
       2. **Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12** – our ways fail.
    4. **(vv. 10-11)** – God’s word accomplishes what He sets it out to accomplish.
       1. Our wills fail, and our plans don’t pan out.
       2. God’s word will always be successful.
       3. All the blessings spoken of in the great invitation will come true because of the power of His word.
       4. It can be relied upon.
17. The Exclusive Blessings
    1. **(v. 12)** – great joy in the blessings from the Lord expressed with figurative language of the creation rejoicing.
       1. ***“you shall go out with joy”*** – from the captivity of sin.
    2. **(v. 13)** – the result is transformation and fruitfulness which speaks volumes about God’s glory.
       1. **A name** – who He is, and what He is capable of – His nature and Character.
       2. The transformation and blessings stand as an ensign to the world of God’s greatness and graciousness.
       3. **Ezekiel 36:23** – name sanctified when hallowed in our eyes.
       4. **Ephesians 2:7** – to show all His grace and kindness – ***“an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Isaiah 55:13).***

**Conclusion**

1. God’s invitation surpasses any we could ever receive.
2. We must see its value, trust in its offer and supply, and yield to its conditions.