

Are you thirsty? Are you hungry? I want to tell you of a wonderful drink that is satisfying and a magnificent meal that will leave you satiated? O food, glorious food! John 7:37-38 says this, “Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, “From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.”’” John 6:35 and 6:48-51 say this, “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’ and ‘I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.’” During the Passover Meal, while they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples telling them to take and eat of it for it was His body. Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them telling them to drink from it for this was His blood of the covenant which was to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. While He was still preaching, He said this to those who were following Him in John 6:51-55, Again, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.” “The Jews therefore began to argue with one another, saying, ‘How can this man give us His flesh to eat?’” “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.’”

This week we are going to explore chapters 54 and 55 of Isaiah. Salvation is offered to the Jews in chapter 54 and then to the Gentiles in chapter 55. What has made the offer of salvation possible for both Jew and Gentile is in chapter 53 just preceding these two chapters? Chapter 53 is of course about the suffering Servant of God, the Messiah, who died on a cruel tree for the sins of all Mankind, both for the Jew and also for the Gentile. He made salvation possible for both Jew and Gentile.

Days 1-3 – Salvation Made Available for the Jews - Isaiah Chapter 54

This chapter is about “Israel’s future and salvation” and you certainly can put this as your chapter theme on your double-spaced worksheet for chapter 54. I would like you to work on your double-spaced worksheet for this chapter with the following:

Mark all key, repeated words, their pronouns, and their synonyms with your own special markings: for example, I marked, “O barren one,” and “the desolate one,” of 54:1 with the marking I use for “Israel.” Also, I marked “your husband,” and “your Maker,” as well as “your Redeemer,” and “the Holy One of Israel,” with the same marking as I use for “God.” Other key repeated words that I marked were “created,” “moment,” “lovingkindness,” and “compassion.” There may be others.

There are two time markers in verses 54:7-8. Note them with the clock out to the left of the margin for the verses. Make a list.

Also list in the margin of your double-spaced worksheet the names of God that are revealed in Chapter 54. Quite a number of them are expressed in Isaiah 54:5.

Also, list the names of Israel used.

What time period is Isaiah 54 speaking about for the nation of Israel? Is it in the future to Isaiah's day? Is it future to our day? What do we call this period of time in Israel's history?

This has to be in the time period of the future Millennial Kingdom when all of Israel has bowed her knee to the LORD. Remember from Lesson 1 of this part of Isaiah: the Remnant was given promises for being faithful. This time period represented in chapter 54 is the time when that Remnant (those who have hoped and believed) will receive those blessings, and will be delivered by their God.

During this Millennial time period, what will Israel do? Make a list in the margin of the double-spaced worksheet for chapter 54

What will God do for Israel during this time period? Make a list in the margin of the double-spaced worksheet for chapter 54.

Just like Sarah, the barren one, who brought forth a son, so the nation of Israel, who was barren for "a moment," will bring forth offspring in the future. Note Isaiah 54:1 and Genesis 17:16ff and Genesis 21:2-12. Who are the sons of the desolate one in 54:1?

In response to the joy expressed in Isaiah 54:1, Israel will sing a song (or cry and shout aloud joyfully). Who will be singing a song in Revelation 5:9-10? What will this song be about?

Some of the attributes of God's character are expressed in Isaiah 54:5 and 54:8. What are these attributes?

How will God comfort Israel? These points of comfort begin in verse 54:11 and are scattered throughout verses 11 through 17. Number them on your double-spaced worksheet for chapter 54. Again, when will these points of comfort come in the timeline of Israel's existence?

What will happen to those who are intent on wiping out Israel in the future?

Days 4-5 – Salvation Made Available for the Gentiles - Isaiah Chapter 55

This chapter is about salvation that is offered to the world, or the Gentiles. Again, you may put this as the theme for chapter 55 on your double-spaced worksheet.

Again, work on your double-spaced worksheet for chapter 55.

Mark the following key-repeated words: the Gentiles and all their pronouns and synonyms, i.e., “every one” and “you who have no money,” in 55:1. Also, mark “David,” the names of God, and “covenant” (“memorial” and “sign”-all parts of covenant).

How is the Gentile described in Isaiah 55:1-5? Make a list in the margin of your double-spaced worksheet for chapter 55. Please cross-reference these verses with John chapter 6 and 7:37.

Is Isaiah 55:3 referring to the Everlasting Covenant or the Davidic Covenant? Note that the Davidic Covenant was also an everlasting covenant.

How would you describe David according to 55:3-5? Has God made King David a witness, a leader, and a commander for the peoples or is “David” referring to another?

There are at least five comparisons/ contrasts/ conflicts mentioned in verses 55:8-13. Make a note of these on your double-spaced worksheet.

Each hearer of the Word is commanded to seek the LORD in verses 55:1-2. From where does this “seeking” come from? Is it innate to Man? Or does it come from God?

If a man has his cup filled up with orange juice or Pepsi®, will he desire the living water that Christ offers? What am I getting at here? Can we substitute something else for God?

For what should we be spending our wages? What is the food and drink that satisfies?

There is a definition of salvation found in verses 55:6-7. What is this definition.? There are at least seven points mentioned.

There are attributes of God revealed in Isaiah 55:7 and 55:12. What are these attributes of God and how are they similar to the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23?

So often, in the Scripture, God refers to the Israelites as His divorced wife. He is their husband and she has been unfaithful to Him by going after adulterous lovers (idolatry). In the same manner, God speaks of the Church as His chaste bride (usually referring to the bride of Christ). Whether Jew or Gentile, Israel or the Church, He offers salvation to both through belief in Him and through His means of saving them, and not through their own ways. His salvation includes the forgiveness of sins through His means of atonement. Jews and Christians alike have the responsibility of agreeing with God that they are sinners, repenting of their wrongdoings and returning to Him and His ways. God is the One and Only God, and He wants His own to realize His exclusivity in their lives.

THE WIFE AND THE BRIDE

Israel - God's Unfaithful Wife (Isaiah 54)	The Church - Christ's Bride (Isaiah 55)
<p>THE NATION - SALVATION OF THE JEW FIRST - Rom. 1:16-17, -Sarah was the barren one, who at first had no offspring. God promised Abraham that his offspring would become great in number 54:1 See Genesis 15:5 -numbers have fallen off throughout hx - but always remain a nation see Jeremiah 31:35-36 -promise numbers will increase again - Millennium - See Isaiah 54:2-3; they will increase in size as a nation & will outgrow land in future -The Jews are the offspring of the married woman, Sarah, Abraham's wife -The Arabs are the offspring of the desolate woman, Hagar, Abe's concubine; early on & even now, the Arabs' numbers are greater than the Jews' numbers</p> <p>THE LAND -dimensions of the land given to Israel in Joshua 1:4: "from the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory." -land occupied is only 1/10th land promised? -promise that the land will enlarge again to include all of this in Isaiah 54:2-3</p> <p>THE MARRIAGE -during Millennium of the future, there will be no shame for Israel, no humiliation, no disgrace, no reproach of widowhood Isaiah 54:4 -God is Israel's husband, also, her Maker, His names: LORD of Hosts, Redeemer, Holy One of Israel, God of all the earth 54:5 -God has called Israel like a wife forsaken, grieved in spirit; forsaken by God for a brief moment, His anger burst out at her 54:6-8</p> <p>ISRAEL'S FUTURE -but future to Isaiah's day, He will restore w/ lovingkindness and compassion 54:6-8 -In future, God will not be angry w/ her & will not rebuke her in the future 54:8-9 -In future, God's lovingkindness will not be removed from her, His covenant of peace will not be shaken 54:10 -In past, Israel has been, afflicted, storm-tossed, lacked comfort, but in the future God will set her stones in antimony & foundations in sapphires, make battlements of rubies, gates of crystal, entire wall of precious stones 54:11-12 -In future, God will teach all their sons, & well-being of their sons will be great 54:13 -In future, God will establish Israel in righteousness & no oppression, no fear, nor terror will come near them 54:14 -In future, God will cause those who assail Israel to fall b/c of Israel, i.e., Haman, Hitler 54:15-16 -In future, God will vindicate Israel; this is their heritage and they are called servants of the LORD 54:17</p>	<p>THE GENTILE CHURCH - Isaiah 49:6 "too small a thing," just for Israel, but God's Servant the Messiah also light to nations so salvation reaches to end of earth THOSE WHO "THIRST" - only requirement for Jew & Gentile - Revelation 5:9-10 - every tribe, every nation -prerequisite for coming to Him to satisfy - see Isaiah 55:1 -do not have to pay for food & drink & coming to Him (satisfaction) b/c Christ paid it all in Isaiah 53 - see Is 55:1-2 -God tells them to listen carefully to Him 55:2-3 to eat what is good to delight in abundance to come to Him to live -God has made an everlasting covenant with them a.t. faithful mercies shown to David - see Is 55:3</p> <p>SALVATION -seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near - see 55:6 (today is the day of Salvation) -let the wicked forsake his ways (repentance) 55:7 -let the unrighteous man forsake his thoughts (repentance) 55:7 -let the man return to the LORD & God will have compassion on him & will abundantly pardon him 55:7</p> <p>GOD'S WORD/ GOD'S THOUGHTS God's word has gone forth from His mouth 55:11 God's ways & thoughts higher than Man's 55:8-9 -rain, snow come down from heaven <u>vs.</u> God's word going forth from His mouth 55:10 -rain, snow do not return to heaven without watering the earth & making earth bear & sprout; furnishing seed to the sower & bread to the eater <u>vs.</u> God's word shall not return to Him empty, without accomplishing what God desires & without succeeding in the matter for which He sent it. 55:10-11 God's word will cause the believer to go out w/ joy, be led forth w/ peace 55:12 God's word will cause the creation to break forth w/ joy & applause 55:12 God's word will cause the creation to produce good plants like the cypress & the myrtle instead of pricklies like the thorn & the nettle 55:13 God's word will be a memorial to the LORD & and everlasting sign which will not be cut off - speaks of the covenant above in 55:13</p>

WATER, WINE, MILK AND BREAD - THE MEAL THAT SATISFIES*

Water	Wine	Milk	Bread
<p>- “waters” plural in Hebrew; superlative: too great to be expressed as singular</p> <p>-speak of abundance - quantity as well as quality</p> <p>-water for the soul</p> <p>-Jesus offered this water in John 7:37: “if any man thirsts, let him come unto me, and drink.” (KJV)</p> <p>-the fountain is Christ</p>	<p>- symbolizes joy - See Proverbs 31:6</p> <p>-joy in affliction I Thessalonians 1:6</p> <p>speaks of the Spirit when He is Savior & LORD (Master), too.</p> <p>-when you come to know Him you have joy I John 1:4</p> <p>-“Joy is the flag that is flown in the heart when the Master is in residence”</p>	<p>- when young, milk is essential for growth & development</p> <p>-word of God is essential for growth & development of Believers</p> <p>- we are to desire it (I Peter 2:2)</p> <p>-a child of God ought to desire the word of God with longing</p> <p>-too much entertainment in churches today, not enough of the Word of God</p>	<p>- what are you spending your wages on? anything that will feed somebody?</p> <p>-word of God is bread</p> <p>-do you put your money into that which is not bread</p> <p>-this bread will satisfy your heart and life; the pleasures of this world are expensive & do not satisfy the soul</p>

* J.Vernon McGee, *Isaiah, Volume 2*, LaVerne, CA, El Camino Press, 1978, pp.131-132.