

God Saves

Oct. 4, 2020

Isaiah 25:1-10

We usually admire people who have a plan and implement that plan. Almost always that kind of planning and strategy results in success. Well, the Bible teaches us that God has a plan.

In our Scripture this week, Isaiah celebrates with praise and a declaration of confident trust in God. Ultimately, God is sovereign, holy and worthy of praise. He is a God who saves!

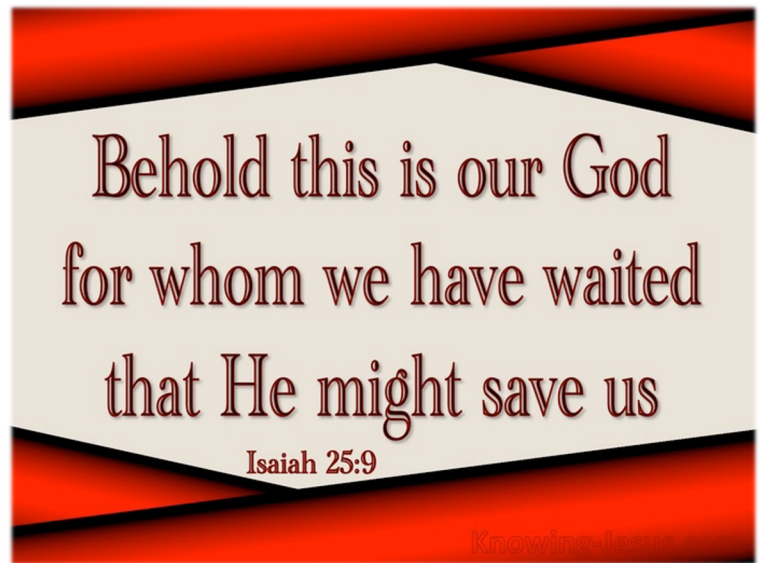
God saves. Those two words describe the narrative of the Bible. They are the purpose for which God has communicated to us through His written word and ultimately through the Living Word, His Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah praises God for His heart, His truth, faithfulness, power, provision and salvation. Listen to Isaiah's testimony. In verse 4, he said, *"You have been a strength to the poor" and a "strength to the needy in his distress" and also a "refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat."*

God saves today. In fact, the best is yet to come! In Isaiah's words, *"He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces. ..."* ***This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.*** [excerpts from Glenn Metts]

Singing Praise (Isaiah 25:1-5)

- **"O Lord thou art my God;"** – A song of praise, but who is the singer?
 - Isaiah? An unnamed person? Most likely the singer represents the faithful remnant.
 - The song is both a statement of thanksgiving and a renewed commitment to God.
 - *"I will be your God and you will be My people"* Exodus 6:7; 29:45-46
 - **"I will exalt thee"** - this is not a normal English expression...
 - In ancient times, a king could take possession of something just by putting his name on it.
 - Here, the remnant of the faithful acknowledge that they belong to God (Yahweh).
 - God is not 'winging' it, He has a plan **"of old."** He executes the plan in faithfulness and truth.
 - In the USA, the Legislative branch makes laws, and the Executive branch executes the laws.
 - God executes His plan for the world and us. He is always in control.
 - God has proven His power – think of Jericho's destruction.
 - While God brings destruction to the prideful, He is a strength to the poor and needy.
 - **God is "a refuge from the storm."** He protects.
 - God will set all things right in His perfect timing.
 - This message provides encouragement and a warning.
 - God's justice is coming!
- **Does our culture provide adequate refuge to the poor?**
- **List things Christians do to show God is in control of world events; justice; the upcoming election; etc.?**



Feasting Together (Isaiah 25:6-8)

- ***“this mountain”*** refers to Mount Zion.
 - A relatively small mountain compared to other mountains, but this is often the way God does things. It’s not the person or place but God’s presence that makes things amazing.
- That God would prepare a feast for all the peoples, is a metaphor of a changed world. The remnant is renewed in God’s presence.
- How would you describe a feast fit for God’s people? Isaiah says:
 - *Prime cuts of choice meat* – not only is the meat taken from well fed animals, but prime cuts of choice meat. In other words, nothing short of the best cuts of the best meat.
 - *Aged wine of a fine vintage* – for drink, feast goers would have the finest wine (aged and of fine vintage).
 - *Note the great care that God, the banquet host, would take to bless His redeemed people.*
- For the feast to happen, victory must be complete, so the ***“face of the covering cast over the people, and the vail that is spread over all nations”*** must be destroyed.
 - The covering (and vail) is the burial cloth which represents death.
- ***“God will swallow up death in victory”***
 - All the faithful people will be delivered from death forever!
 - There will be no more tears. ***“God will wipe away tears from off all faces.”***
 - The ones who remain faithful (the remnant) will have their faith vindicated.
 - How do we know for sure this will happen? ***“For the Lord hath spoken it.”***
- **What’s the difference in attending a feast and hosting a feast?**
- **Why does the host want things to be perfect at the feast?**
- **Why does God want us to accept salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ?**



Trusting God (Isaiah 25:9-10)

- Note the bookends, verse 1 ***“Thou art my God”*** and verse 9 ***“This is our God”***.
 - This is a declaration of commitment to God and His covenant with His people.
- ***“He will save us”*** – God is the one who has done the saving. ***“His salvation”***.
 - God provides it as with all other good gifts. Salvation comes from God.
- ***“For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest.”***
 - God is present. The divide between God and humanity caused by sin has been removed.
- Human history is going somewhere. It has a destiny, a goal, an end point.
 - On the day the Lord Jesus returns, every knee will bow to him (Phil 2:10. Rev. 1:7).
- When we align ourselves with God’s purposes, we step into our destiny and embrace the life God calls each of us to live. He will direct our lives according to His sovereign plan.

Isaiah penned God’s Word about 2700 years ago.

- **How could he predict the coming of the messiah, Jesus Christ?**
- **How could he predict the second coming of Jesus?**

Biblical Truth:

***God’s sovereign plan provides salvation
for those who believe in Him.***

Read 1 Thesolonians 4:13-18

