

Part II, Lesson 25

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

The New
Zion

Isaiah

53:1-17

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex

Curriculum

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 25

The New Zion

Isaiah 54:1-17

The lesson for today is like the last lesson; it speaks of the future. After the sadness and pain of the last chapter, there is a shout of joy. Read Isaiah 54:1-3.

Isaiah spoke of Israel as a woman who had no children. She was deserted by her husband and left alone in the world. She is someone who has no reason to sing. But Isaiah said, “Sing...burst into song, shout for joy.” Why would she do that? Because everything is going to change.

Soon there were going to be so many children that the house would have to be enlarged. In those days many of the people lived in tents. To enlarge the tent, it was necessary to raise the curtains, make the ropes that held the tent in place longer and be sure that the stakes that held the ropes were deep in the earth. Maybe these days we talk about adding on rooms. Of course Isaiah is really drawing a picture here. It is figurative language...speaking of a familiar thing to be sure that you understand what he is really trying to say.

Not everyone would go back to Jerusalem when Cyrus freed the slaves. We have talked about this before. Some people would stay in Babylon. They had been born there. They had work there. They had families there. It was home. Some had already moved on to other places in the world, or would be doing that when they were free to do so. Another way of seeing this enlargement would be the recognition of a worldwide stretch. God was telling them that not everyone that He was going to bless would live in Jerusalem.

“Do not be afraid...Do not fear disgrace...” The past will not return to haunt Israel. The widow would not be humiliated. When a woman was left by her husband, it brought shame on her, not necessarily on her husband. Read Isaiah 54:4-8.

There is no reason to be ashamed, because the husband who deserted her would come right back into her life, and they would be reunited forever. To be very sure who is making this promise, Isaiah furnished a number of names for God here. In verse five alone He is called *your Maker, your Husband, the Lord Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer and God of all the earth.* Just like a young bride was deserted by her husband...rejected early in their marriage...Israel would be reclaimed.

The return of God into the life of Israel will be like that of a passionate lover. It will not be cold forgiveness, nor will it be a return of convenience. This will be a happy coming together of a couple who loved each other very much.

God explained that Israel’s behavior had driven Him away. We read much more about this picture in Hosea, where Israel was shown to be an unfaithful wife. God was angry, verse seven says, and “For a brief moment I abandoned you.” But now, He is going to, in His “everlasting kindness” bring her back. The wife was the one who was kicked out of the home. She had to take care of herself. But God is going to take her back

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into His heart and take care of her. He is “the Lord, your Redeemer.”

God promised His everlasting love. He said that this was like the situation in the days of Noah. After the flood, God promised that He would never flood the earth again. And now, He was promising Israel that His love would never change. Read Isaiah 54:9-10.

God said that this promise would never end. Even if the mountains decide to take a hike, no matter how long things go on, His love will keep on going. His promise is peace, spiritual peace that is in the hearts of people. He repeats that it is “the Lord who has compassion on you.”

The next verses speak of the future. God said, “I will build you with stones.” He said, “I will make your battlements of rubies.” Read Isaiah 54:11-17.

Here is God’s preview of what is to come...what it will be like, living under God’s promise of peace. First, there is an amazing picture of the new, eternal Jerusalem. This would be Heaven. No one really knows the identity of all the stones, precious stones, mentioned here. What we have is the best human thought on what such a place could look like. We have the same kind of attempt to paint that picture in Revelation 20. There the angel told John to “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb (Jesus).” John said, “he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

It is interesting that both here and in the Revelation, the Holy City is pictured without a Temple. The Temple in the Old Testament, as we have said, is the place where God was. Of course, the reason that there is no Temple in the New Jerusalem is that God will be there in person...Jesus sitting on His right side.

This new Jerusalem will be a city of righteousness, there will be no cruelty, no fear no attacks. It will be a safe place. That would have been great news to the Israelites who had suffered so much because of armies that attacked them.

God said that since I am the one who creates the best weapons, I will see to it that no one else can build a better weapon with which to threaten you.

Finally, God said the servants of the Lord will inherit all this. He said that since His people get their justification, their vindication, from God, they are qualified for such an inheritance.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken. Isaiah 54:10a

Lesson Goal: To give students a preview of the New Jerusalem.

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Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. What did Isaiah tell the woman to do who had no reason to sing?
2. What names are given to God in verse five?
3. What had driven God away from Israel?
4. He said that this was like the situation in the days of _____. After the flood, God promised that He would never do that again. And now, He was promising Israel that His _____ would never _____.
5. Revelation 20. There the angel told John to “Come, I will show you the _____, the _____ of the Lamb (Jesus).” John said, “he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the _____, Jerusalem, coming down out of _____ from _____.”
6. Why is there no Temple in the New Jerusalem?
7. He said that since His people get their _____, their vindication, from _____, they are qualified for such an _____.

Page Four

Scripture Memory: “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken. Isaiah 54:10a

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

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