

Part II, Lesson 27

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Our
Famous
God

Isaiah
55:8-13

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

Isaiah Part II, Lesson 27

Our Famous God

Isaiah 55:8-13

At the end of our last lesson, we read God's call to seek the Lord, to call on Him. The result would be that God would "abundantly pardon." Now, that seems impossible. We simply call on God and we will be pardoned. But, verses eight and nine tell us how and why that can and will happen. Read Isaiah 55, 8, 9.

There is a great distance between human ways and God's way. There is certainly a long way between human thoughts and God's thoughts. This mind-blowing comparison makes what we read in verses six and seven even more important. Israel needed more than a human hero to rescue them. Human sin needs more than human thoughts to find forgiveness. The wicked person needs someone greater than he or she is to overcome their sin. We need someone whose ways are much more right and powerful than our ways to get us on the right path. God is famous for being that someone.

When someone seeks the Lord, or needs mercy, or wants forgiveness, he or she must look beyond what humans can do. The only one who can pardon, the only one who can bring freedom from sins, is someone who is greater than the sinner. For the people to whom Isaiah was writing, a new time had come. Things would be different as the Israelites went back home. And, for things to be different, something powerful, something greater than the human ability was needed.

God was saying that what was coming was something too large, too far beyond human imagination for them to understand. The point here is the greatness of God, not the weakness and sin of humans. Do you remember what God said through Isaiah earlier? "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Humans are the great hindrance to God's blessing in the world. If we will call on Him and expect Him to do the best thing in our situation, if we trust Him and allow Him to have His way, He promised that He would make our way right and good.

We next see a picture of God's promise of blessing on His people. Read Isaiah 55:10, 11. Rain was a very important thing in those days, in that part of the world. Drought was common. The desert was all around. The people of the day, especially the worshippers of other gods, saw rain as the greatest gift of their gods. It was what life on earth came from in their religions. But, Isaiah wanted them to see a far more important truth in this story.

The rain and the snow (probably not too much snow there) came down and stayed down. (There was no idea at that time that water, in the form of vapor, also goes up.) The purpose of rain was to water the earth. The earth, with enough water, would then grow plants. And those plants would grow food and seed for more plants. That meant that people would have enough to eat, and enough seed to plant another crop.

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But, as before, the lesson here is not about farming and getting enough rain; God was making another point. He said that His word was like the rain. It would not be wasted.

Remember what Isaiah said earlier, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8. And God says, “By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked...” God’s word is certain...it will not change or die...it will never be without purpose...it will never be empty. God is famous for that.

Hundreds of years have passed since Isaiah wrote these words. Many have tried to change or even destroy the word of God, but they have all failed. God’s word continues to bring changes in the lives of humans. His word is still powerful and successful in doing what He intends for it to do.

In verses twelve and thirteen, Isaiah returns to the departure from Babylon. Read Isaiah 55:12, 13. He said, “You will go out...” There is no doubt that there will be another exodus, just like the one from Egypt many years before. It will be a very happy exodus. There will be no enemy army chasing them, as with the Egyptians. There will be no Red Sea blocking their exit. And they will be led forth by God Himself.

Everything will be singing the song of victory and the marching song to encourage them on their way. He spoke of mountains and hills singing and trees clapping their hands. Well we know that probably didn’t really happen, but as they made their way back home to Jerusalem, it probably seemed like everyone and everything were happy about it. See Isaiah 35:1, 2; 44:23.

What will happen then? Things that caused hurt, things to be feared and things that were not helpful would be replaced. No thorn bushes! No briar patches! We have seen several times in Isaiah the use of such things to show waste and destruction. We have read about cities being demolished and briars growing up where the buildings once stood and where the streets were once traveled. The people knew that back home, in Jerusalem, all that awaited them was a ghost of a city. Briars and thorns would greet them. But God wanted them to know that He was as good as His word and that the ghost town would soon be as beautiful as ever with pine trees and myrtle. The myrtle was a shrub or low tree sometimes ten feet high, with green shining leaves, and snow-white flowers bordered with purple. They give off a perfume more lovely, some say, than that of a rose. What a welcome home.

God is famous for being far greater than humans, for keeping His word, and creating beautiful things.

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

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Scripture Memory: “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

Lesson Goal: To remind students of the power, goodness and love of God for His people.

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Our Famous God—Isaiah 55:8-13

Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. We need someone whose ways are much more _____ and _____ than our ways to get us on the right _____. _____ is famous for being that someone.
2. If we will _____ on Him and expect Him to do the _____ _____ in our situation, if we _____ Him and allow Him to have His way, He promised that He would make our way _____ and _____.
3. What do we know about rain and how people looked at rain in Isaiah's day?
4. What, according to Isaiah, did the rain produce when it got in the ground?
5. So, what did that mean for the people of Isaiah's day?
6. God was making another point. He said that His _____ was like the _____. It would not be wasted.
7. God's word is _____...it will not _____ or die...it will never be without _____...it will never be _____. God is _____ for that.
8. When the people left Babylon, what would be singing and what would be clapping their hands?
9. Things that caused _____, things to be _____, things that were not _____ would be replaced. No _____ bushes! No _____ patches!

Page Four

Scripture Memory: "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

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.