

Part II, Lesson 35

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Worship,  
Four

Isaiah

58:11-14

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex  
Curriculum*

# Isaiah Part II, Lesson 35

## Worship, Four

### Isaiah 58:11-14

In this final lesson in the series on worship, we read more of God's promises to those who worship Him in the right way. Read Isaiah 58:11-14.

God continues to show His people what righteousness, expressed in true worship, will do for them. He promised again that He will guide them. For a people who had just returned from Babylon, crossing hundreds of miles of desert, through mountains and across rivers, they knew how important it was to have good guidance. They had suffered for many years as slaves who had no freedom to choose their destiny. They had been pulled this way and that by worshippers of false gods. Now they were back home and the Lord was telling them that they could count on Him to lead them "always."

They knew what it was like to be in a "sun-scorched land." They had come through the desert and they lived on the edge of desert. They knew what it was like to be thirsty in the heat that, not only came down from the sun but, also was reflected up from the sand. Think: really thirsty, mouth completely dry, lips parched.

Even if they were about to die from thirst and hunger, God said that He would satisfy their needs. What would that mean? Well we can only guess, but it could have brought a picture to the mind of the Judeans like an oasis in the desert. Between Babylon and Judea, if you took the southern route, there were several oases around which villages had been built. We have mentioned these in the past lessons from Isaiah. Think what it would have been like to be almost out of water for humans and their animals, pushing across the burning desert and looking up to see the tops of trees just above the horizon. Everyone would get excited and rush toward the water that kept those trees alive. It was the sign of hope.

God said that He was that kind of hope, but eternal and never-failing. He said that He would "strengthen their frame." This is a personal promise of good health. Did that mean that no one in Israel would ever get sick? No, it is another picture describing that God would watch over them, give them opportunity for health and see that they were provided for as individuals.

Then He drew another picture. He said that they would be like a garden that had been watered regularly and a spring that never ran dry. Beautiful. Gardens that do well and produce good crops, must have water. If they are watered on a schedule and with the right amount of water, they will give the gardener exactly what he or she wants. And to think, a spring with cool water bubbling up every day and night, all day and night is something these folks needed to provide safe water for their family and their herds.

The phrase "never fail" here not only means to keep on providing water, but it also means that the spring would never be a mirage. You know, a mirage is something that a person thinks they see, but is really their mind playing tricks on them. The people of God don't disappoint. They have a message from God which

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does not change and doesn't disappoint. The people of God must take this message to the world and not fail. God gets down to the work ahead in verse twelve. The people had come back from Babylon to find their cities and villages in ruins. The walls for protection were broken down. The houses they had lived in were just a pile of clay and rotten tree limbs. The streets were grown up in trees and weeds...some of them in briar bushes. God speaks His confidence in them to be builders and restorers.

They would rebuild. They would start with the foundations. As we know, the foundation is the most important part of the building. If the foundation is not strong and solid, the whole building will be in danger. These "ancient ruins" were what was left of the places where people had lived many years before. The first group of captives had been taken to Babylon about 597 BC, the last group about 582 BC. This means that some of the houses and buildings had been empty almost sixty years and most of them had been empty for more than forty years, since the Israelites didn't return until after 539 BC. So, buildings/houses and streets were left to crumble. The kind of structures of that day were, for the most part, blocks of mud hardened into bricks, and/or wood.

It was a big job to clean off old foundations, build some new ones, clean off the ruins of old walls and roofs and clean up the fallen walls surrounding the towns and cities. Once they had gotten rid of many years of trash, they started building new buildings and restoring the older ones that had potential.

They would be called restorers "of streets with dwellings." Where once there had been streets that were washed out, filled with weeds, shrubs and trees, there would now be places to pull your cart, herd your cattle, sheep and oxen and walk with your family to work, worship or fellowship with neighbors. Read the full story in the book of Nehemiah.

In the long thirteenth verse, we are brought back to the original thought of worship. God reviewed his expectations. *The Message* translates verse thirteen, "If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage, if you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration, if you honor it by refusing business as usual, making money, running here and there—Then you'll be free to enjoy God! And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." How clear is that?

Could God have been any clearer? If they worshipped Him as they should, they would love God, they would overcome the troubles of the earth, and they would possess the place God planned for Jacob's children, that is, they would again be God's chosen people.

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

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen you frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11

**Lesson Goal:** To guide students to a better understanding of what God calls worship.

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## Worship, Four—Isaiah 58:11-14

### Student Worksheet

**Listen during the lesson for this information:**

1. Now they were back home and the \_\_\_\_\_ was telling them that they could \_\_\_\_\_ Him to lead them “\_\_\_\_\_.”
2. God promised to supply all their needs. What picture does this lesson say it could have brought to the mind of the Judeans?
3. When God said that He would “strengthen their frame,” what picture does this lesson say they should have gotten?
4. Along with being like a garden that had been watered regularly, what else did God say they would be like?
5. What did the people find when they returned to Judah from Babylon?
6. If they \_\_\_\_\_ Him as they should, they would \_\_\_\_\_ God, they would overcome the troubles of the earth, and they would possess the place God \_\_\_\_\_ for Jacob’s children. That is, they would again be God’s \_\_\_\_\_ people.

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “The Lord will guided you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen you frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:11

**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.