

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 244 – A Song Is Sung (Isaiah 26:1-21)

1. Where is “this song” going to be sung?

In the land of Judah: *“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks” (Isaiah 26:1).*

- That day (**Isaiah 25:1-12**).
- Judah (**Psalms 76:1-12**).
- Whether physical or spiritual, God’s people of old knew salvation was of God (**Exodus 14:13, I Samuel 11:13, II Chronicles 20:17, Psalms 3:8, Isaiah 49:8, and Jeremiah 3:23**).
- Walls (**Isaiah 60:18**) and bulwarks (**Psalms 48:11-13**).

2. What nation was going to be able to enter into the open gates?

The righteous nation that kept the truth: *“Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in” (Isaiah 26:2).*

- **Psalms 118:14-21**.
- Righteous people walk in the commands of God (**Luke 1:5-6**).

3. In whom does this song teach the people to put their trust in?

Jehovah: *“(3) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. (4) Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (Isaiah 26:3-4).*

- The mind is important in service to God (**Proverbs 21:27, Matthew 22:37, Luke 12:29, and James 1:8**).
- God wants us to trust in Him (**Psalms 62:8, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Isaiah 50:10**) and blessing were the results (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**).
- We you have faith and trust in God you will be at peace (**Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:6-9**).

4. Was it the high and lofty or the poor and needy who faired better?

Poor and needy: *“(5) For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust. (6) The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy” (Isaiah 26:5-6).*

- He bringeth down them that dwell on high & lofty (**Proverbs 29:23, Isaiah 2:12, Isaiah 13:11, Isaiah 24:21, Jeremiah 50:31-32, and Luke 14:11**).
- Reversal of who has and who has not (**Luke 1:51-53; cf. James 2:5**).

5. What did the just do?

They were upright, in the way of God's judgments. They waited, desired, and remembered the Lord: "(7) *The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just. (8) Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee*" (Isaiah 26:7-8).

- **Psalms 37:1-7, Psalms 77:10-12, Psalms 106:3, Proverbs 20:7, and Isaiah 25:9.**

6. Isaiah desired God, but what did the wicked do even when God showed favor?

They didn't learn or see: "(9) *With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (10) Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. (11) LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them*" (Isaiah 26:9-11).

- Soul and spirit desiring God (**Psalms 63:1-7**).
- The world saw God's judgment and learn from it (**Ezekiel 39:21-23**).
- Though God be merciful to some, that doesn't mean they'll learn and repent (**Nehemiah 9:14-17** and **Isaiah 63:9-10**).
- Ultimately however, all will see (**Romans 14:11-12**).

7. Why did Judah have trust in God for providing peace to them more than other lords?

Because of His works in them and what happened to those others who lorded over them: "(12) *LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. (13) O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. (14) They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish. (15) Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth*" (Isaiah 26:12-15).

- God promised and abundant of peace to the remnant of Israel (**Jeremiah 33:1-6**).
- Isaiah established that God established their works in them (**Ephesians 2:10**; cf. **I Peter 4:11**).
- Those whom had lordship over Israel in the past were dead (**Exodus 14:30, Psalms 9:6, Isaiah 14:22, and Habakuk 2:18-20**; cf. **Isaiah 51:12-13**).
- They recognized God for their increases (**Deuteronomy 10:22**) and the one who scattered them too (**II Kings 17:23**).

8. When they came to the Lord in times of trouble due to their being corrected, what imagery was used to describe how much pain they were in?

Like a woman delivering a child, that is how they came to the Lord when He corrected them: *“(16) LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. (17) Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. (18) We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen” (Isaiah 26:16-18).*

- They could go to God when in trouble (**Palms 50:15**), with one qualifier (**Deuteronomy 4:29-30**, **Proverbs 28:9**, and **Isaiah 1:11-16**).
- At this reference point, they cried to God when He was correcting them (**Lamentations 2:18-20**).
- The image of a woman in labor surely defines the way the came crying to God (**Psalms 48:1-6** and **Jeremiah 4:31**; cf. **Jeremiah 30:6**).
- Yet, a woman in labor delivers a child, but in all their pain they hadn't accomplished anything (**Hosea 8:7**).

9. Did they have some confidence that the dead of the Lord would live?

Yes: *“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead” (Isaiah 26:19).*

- **Isaiah 25:8**.
- Though, they did not have a grasp of the resurrection (**I Corinthians 15:51** and **Colossians 1:26-27**).

10. Why were the people of God instructed to hide?

To wait for the passing of the judgment of God on sinners in the earth: *“(20) Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. (21) For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain” (Isaiah 26:20-21).*

- Even in times of God's judgment, He still provided refuge for the faithful (**Isaiah 32:13-20** and **Jeremiah 16:19**; cf. **Proverbs 14:26**).
- He cometh out of His place (**Isaiah 18:4; 7**) to punish (**Hosea 5:14-15**).
- The imagery of uncovered slain and blood (**Ezekiel 24:1-8**).