

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 272 – Everyone One That Thirsteth Through Not Be Cut Off (Isaiah 55:1-13)

1. What can we learn from the first two verses of this chapter?

The verses say: “(1) *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (2) Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness*” (Isaiah 55:1-2).

- “Ho” is like a cry out for someone to listen (cf. **Proverbs 8:1-6**).
- Thirsting and hungering for God (**Psalms 42:1-2, Psalms 63:1, Psalms 143:6, Matthew 5:6, John 7:37-38, Revelation 21:6, and Revelation 22:17**).
- There was a reason for hunger and thirst for God’s people in a spiritual manner (**Amos 8:11**).
- The purchase in a spiritual fashion rather than with money (**Isaiah 52:3**).
- Why invest in that which satisfies not (**John 6:26-27 and Revelation 3:18**).

2. What does really listening to God lead to for the souls of men?

Living on: “*Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David*” (Isaiah 55:3).

- They needed to give their ear to God (**Psalms 78:1 and Matthew 13:9**).
- God’s invitation... “come unto me” (**Matthew 11:28-30**).
- “Hear and your soul shall live” (**Deuteronomy 4:1, John 5:24-25, Romans 10:11-17, and James 1:21-25**).
- Everlasting covenant and sure mercies of David (**II Samuel 23:1-5**). This ties directly to Jesus (**Acts 13:33-34**).

3. Did God leave a witness to His promises?

Yes: “(3) *Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. (4) Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people*” (Isaiah 55:3-4).

- Consider the thought that flows from David and then Jesus being the “faithful witness” (**John 18:37 and Revelation 1:5**).

4. Was Israel going to have an influence on other nations at some point?

Yes: “*Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee*” (Isaiah 55:5).

- **Isaiah 2:2-3, Jeremiah 4:1-2, Micah 4:1-2, and Zechariah 8:20-23.**

5. Is it possible for there to be a time wherein God cannot be found?

By implication, the answer is YES: *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near” (Isaiah 55:6).*

- **Psalms 32:6**; cf. **Hebrews 3:13**.
- There is a time when men are not heard when they cry unto God (**I Chronicles 28:9, II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 21:27, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:11-16, Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 6:19-20, Jeremiah 14:10-12, Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 23:14, John 9:31, I Timothy 2:8, and I Peter 3:12**).
- There is a point where God gives one over too (**Romans 1:28 and II Thessalonians 2:10-12**).
- *“While He is near” (Ezekiel 8:6; cf. Psalms 145:18).*

6. Can one come to God with his or her own way of thinking?

No: *“(7) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:7-9).*

- Wicked forsake His way (**Proverbs 9:6**).
- Forsake wicked thoughts (**Psalms 66:18, Jeremiah 4:14, Acts 8:13-24, and Ephesians 4:23**).
- Return to the Lord for mercy (**Proverbs 28:13**).
- God will pardon in that state of true, full repentance (**Ezekiel 18:21, Ezekiel 18:27, Ezekiel 33:11-16, Luke 19:1-10, Acts 3:19, and Acts 26:18-20**).
- God’s thinking is different than man’s thinking (**Isaiah 40:28, Romans 11:33-36, and I Corinthians 2:16**).
- His thinking is much higher (**Psalms 40:5, Psalms 92:5, I Corinthians 1:25, and I Corinthians 3:18-20**).

7. In what way is the word of God similar to rain and snow?

It is always productive (in that the publishing of it gives man the choice): *“(10) For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: (11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).*

- Water from Heaven has a purpose (**Acts 14:17**).
- The word of God comes from Heaven to men through the mouths of men (**Mark 16:15-16, Romans 10:14-17, and Colossians 1:23**).
- God’s word brings a response one way (**I Thessalonians 2:13 and James 1:18**) or another (**Luke 7:29-30 and Acts 13:44-46**).

8. Were troublesome times or joyous times ahead for Israel based on this context?

Joyous, fruitful times were coming: *“(12) For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (13) Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Isaiah 55:12-13).*

- God's has made promises (**Genesis 22:18**) that His word will accomplish (**Ephesians 3:1-11**).
- Even though some of this will be in the distant future, God will bring them joy as a nation even before then (**Jeremiah 31:10-12**).
- Instead of the thorn tree (**Proverbs 22:5** and **Isaiah 5:1-7**)...
- ... Coming is the fir, etc. that will show glory instead of punishment (**Isaiah 60:13**).