

There Will Be A Day: Of Great Salvation – Isaiah 11:10-16

Is 11:10-16 (p.576); I want to read it through to give you a quick overview

[10] *In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. [11] In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.*

[12] *He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. [13] The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. [14] But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.*

[15] *And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. [16] And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.*

After warning the people about their sin and judgment in chapters 9-10, and then telling of a messiah who would rise from the ashes in the first part of chapter 11 . . .

Isaiah goes on here in v10-16, to speak of his work – the Lord’s work

Prophecy that there will be a day, *someday* from his perspective, of great salvation

That’s the main idea here – there will be a day of great salvation

And while he talks about it *topically*, citing 4 different aspects of that day, I’m going to cover it *chronologically* – from what happens first, to what happens last

B/c that’s how we tend to think in Western culture

In either case it starts with this – there will be a day Isaiah says . . .

When people seek the Lord (v10)

Look at v10 again – [10] *In that day* [which refers to the time between Christ’s first appearance and his second; that’s what he frames in v1-9] *the root of Jesse* [the source of his lineage, the Lord himself], *who shall stand as a signal for the peoples* [something worth paying attention to]—*of him shall the nations inquire* [of him shall the peoples of the earth, Jew and Gentile alike – seek, or ask about, or pursue], *and his resting place* [not his grave, but the place where he settles, the place where he dwells; which is both heaven and our hearts; for those who love him anyway] *shall be glorious* [awesome; filled with his goodness, greatness, power, and peace].

The point being, there will be a day, when people will seek the Lord, and find him; Just like God said through Jeremiah (**Jer 29:13-14**), 125 years later

When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD

The evidence of which, is his glory revealed in our lives; The glory of his joy and peace and hope and love; There’s going to come a day like that Isaiah said*****

- And for you and I, it’s here; We’re in it; We’re *in that day* when people are seeking him Our church is living proof; And so are thousands others like us

Filled with people who inquired of him at one point in their lives, and continue to do so, having been indwelt by his Spirit and changed from the inside out

A day of great salvation for each of them, between Christ’s first and second comings God promised it, and it’s happening; People are seeking him

- The question is, are you? Are *you* seeking him?

If not, you’re missing out on the glory of the living God – his very presence in your life

You’re missing out on the greatest source of hope and peace the world has ever seen

You’re missing out on being a part of this prophecy

If that’s you, don’t wait any longer; Find the truth; Put yourself on a path of discovery

Start by asking yourself some foundational questions

Like – “Why do I believe what I believe?”

Is it based on something objective and true, *outside* yourself – like the Bible? Or something subjective and feeling-based, *inside* yourself?

Does it come from God, or the minds of *religious* thinkers over the years

Or maybe you’re well beyond that, and you just need to address a few doubts

You’ve *been* seeking him, and you’re *close* to stepping over the line of faith, but you’re not quite sure

Whatever the case, put yourself on a path of discovery, and find the truth

Ask people around you who’ve done the same, and don’t delay

B/c right now, you’re missing out

That’s the first aspect of the great day of salvation Isaiah’s talking about

The second, from v15-16, is that there will be a day . . .

When barriers are removed (v15-16)

[15] *And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt* [most likely he had in mind the northern bay of the **Red Sea**], *and will wave his hand over the River* [the river **Euphrates** in Mesopotamia; modern day Iraq] *with his scorching breath* [wind], *and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. [16] And there will be a highway from Assyria* [their captors in the East] *for the remnant that remains of his people* [those who remain true to him], *as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.*

Now, one of the difficult aspects of this passage, is determining what’s literal and what’s metaphorical; Which is necessary b/c it affects the application for our lives*****

And while these two verses *could* be literal, it seems that the metaphorical sense fits the text better, b/c the idea of a *highway* is metaphorical

Like when the Israelites *came up from the land of Egypt* as he says in v16b; There was no *literal* highway or roadway, just desert and mountains

And he *clearly* implies a metaphorical sense in **35:8**, where talking about the same thing, he says – *A highway shall be there* [in the place where God’s people are scattered], *and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it* [they won’t be allowed]. *It shall belong to those who walk on the way* [which we know from the book of Acts is the way of salvation].

The means of reconciling with God, through faith in Jesus and repentance of their sins They were called people of the Way

So while Isaiah could be referring to a physical return from captivity, like when some of the Israelites returned to Jerusalem in 538BC . . .
More likely he's referring to a *spiritual* return from captivity, and the *barriers* he would remove to make it possible*****
Like when God made it possible for the Israelites in Egypt – to journey from bondage to freedom; Suffering to salvation; He removed barriers for a spiritual return

That's the point; There will be a day Isaiah is saying, when God removes more and more barriers for people to come to him; To seek him; To know him
And once again, we're in it; We're *in* that day

- It started when Christ came – removing the barrier of distance
And continued at the cross – when he removed the barrier into God's presence, so we could draw near to the throne of grace (Heb 4:16)
And then at Pentecost, when he removed the barrier of language; Which continues with all the translation work around the world
And then through visions and dreams promised by the prophet Joel; So that people in closed countries could hear and believe

It started with good roads and easier access in the *Roman* empire – and continues with air travel to some of the most remote villages in all the earth
It started with a *few* countries open to the gospel – and continues with more and more
It started by word of mouth face to face – and continues by radio/internet over the air
From donkeys, horses, and wagons, to planes, trains, and automobiles – God is, and has been, removing more and more barriers to knowing him; Awesome

- But it's all for naught, unless we take advantage of it
Like some of those in our church who went on a short-term missions trip to East Asia a few years back, and continued to correspond with those they encountered . . .
Via email and Skype; A century ago, the *trip* wouldn't have even been possible
But now, not only is it possible, but so is the follow up – personally
Allowing more and more people to seek the Lord in this day of salvation, including you and me – b/c more and more barriers are being removed
Just like God said would happen, through Isaiah
There will be a day, and now is – when barriers are removed

That's good news, but that's not it; Isaiah also indicates some *future* aspects of this great day of salvation; Namely . . .

When enemies are conquered (v14)

There will be a day of great salvation, when enemies are conquered
No longer will God's people *fight* amongst each other, like they were in Isaiah's day . . .
[14] *But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.*

The Philistines, Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites were most likely a representative list of Israel's enemies at the time; And they were to be *conquered* at some point in time
That much is clear – there will be a day when God conquers his enemies, accompanied by his people

- What's not so clear, is whether it's a military conquering, or a spiritual one
And that depends, once again, on whether you take this verse literally, or metaphorically
If it's literal, it's a physical conquering; If metaphorical, it's a spiritual conquering

And while there's *some* support for taking it metaphorical – I don't think that applies in this case; B/c there's nothing in this sentence that indicates that
And even more important, the book of Revelation says otherwise
It says that there will be a day when the enemies of God and his people, are *literally* conquered; And I want to show it to you; Starting in Revelation 16 (**Rev 16:13-16**)

That's where the Apostle John says – *I saw . . . demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty . . . And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon* [a famous battleground in ancient Israel].

And then, in **17:14**, still referring to this battle of Armageddon at the end of The Great Tribulation, one of the angels says to John . . .
They will make war on the Lamb [that's Jesus], *and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful* [referring to believers, the people of God].

- And then, after describing the sin and debauchery of God's enemies in Rev 18, I want you to see for yourself, what he says in chapter 19 – **Rev 19:11** (p.1040)*****
I'm not going to read every verse, but only those that are pertinent to the point
That there's going to come a day of great salvation, when God's enemies are literally conquered

[11] *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse* [probably symbolic of power and authority and victory]! *The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True* [that's Jesus], *and in righteousness he judges and makes war . . .*

[14] *And the armies of heaven* [again, consisting of believers], *arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations* [referring to the power of his spoken word to defeat his enemies], *and he will rule them with a rod of iron* [i.e. with absolute authority and little tolerance for sin].

Which is why he says earlier (**Rev 6:15-17**), that – *the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, [16] calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, [17] for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"* God's enemies are going to be conquered, and when it happens, they are going to wish they were dead*****

- Back to 19:19 – *And I saw the beast* [the Anti-Christ; the leader and epitome of evil and oppression and persecution in The Great Tribulation] *and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.*

[20] *And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet* [the person representing the false religions and lies that support the Anti-Christ] *who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast* [the mark of allegiance and control] *and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*

[21] *And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh* [an image taken from Ez 39].

The point being, there will be a day when our enemies, the enemies of God . . .

Those who rebel against him, reject him, continue in sin, think wrongly, and oppress his people, the church . . .

There will be a day when they will be conquered, defeated, and many of them, killed

A day of great salvation, when God rescues those who are his – literally

Isaiah *alludes* to it in chapter 11, and John confirms it in Revelation

- All of which should help sustain you, just like it did the faithful remnant in Isaiah's day when you encounter persecution

It should give you hope when people oppose you, for taking a stand

And enable you to persevere when you're insulted or reviled, for doing what's right

That's one of the reasons Isaiah included this in the first place – to give us hope, then *and* now; B/c salvation *will* come; There *will* be a day – literally

And then last, and best of all – there will be a day of great salvation . . .

When the Lord gathers his people (v11-13)

That's v11-13 – *In that day* [again, sometime after Christ's first appearance as a signal for the nations, a signal of great salvation] *the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people* [the first time was when he rescued them from the bondage of slavery in Egypt; the remnant referring to those who remain faithful to him; those who are his; the elect], *from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea* [which pretty much covered north, south, east, and west in that day].

[12] *He will raise a signal for the nations* [plural] *and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

So it's a world-wide gathering; And we know from the NT, it includes both Jews *and* Gentiles – *all* those who love God and are called according to his purpose

B/c Paul says in **Gal 3:29**, speaking to Gentiles – *If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring* [you are Israel], *heirs according to promise* [not descent, but promise; God's promise to save and keep you].

IOW people are not Abraham's offspring and a part of Israel just b/c they descend from his bloodline, his lineage (**Rom 9:6-7**)

Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel [Paul says in Rom 9:6], *and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring*

Rather, it's the children of *promise* who are God's people – Jew and Gentile alike

Heirs of his inheritance, his gift of life forever and life to the full – b/c he's *promised* to forgive their sins and save their soul, based on their faith and belief in Jesus*****

So this prophecy in Isaiah, is not just limited to ethnic Israelites

In fact, it doesn't even *apply* to ethnic Israelites, unless they *too* are children of promise, Rom 9:8; Hence the *remnant* Isaiah speaks of

The point being, there's going to come a day when the Lord gathers his people, those who are his by faith – from all over the world; From every tribe, tongue, and nation

- And when he does, peace will reign; That's v13 – *The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.*

IOW there's going to be peace; Peace on earth and goodwill toward men

Despite our hardship, despite our grief, despite our suffering, despite the discipline and judgment of those around us – God will one day recover, assemble, and restore us
Minus any ill-will, bad blood, or infighting

- And we know from the NT, it happens when Jesus returns, doesn't it
When the roll is called up yonder; And we're caught up *together*, in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess 4:17); It's coming

There *will* be a day when the Lord gathers us to himself (**Summary**)

A day of great salvation, when we all see Jesus as the hymn goes, and sing and shout the victory

Pray – What a day of rejoicing that will be; When those who seek you now, are with you then; Together, with all the saints; We long for that, Lord; And count on it; In the meantime, help us take advantage of lowered barriers and golden opportunities – reaching out to as many as we can before your day of judgment

That's why we give; Use it for your glory