

## There Will Be A Day: Of Great Celebration – Is 25

Is 25; Let me add my wishes for a Happy Mother's Day to those of you who are moms  
We thank God for you, and trust that your joy will be full on this day to honor you

I also want to thank all the men who showed up for the work day today/yesterday; You play a vital role in keeping our facility presentable and in excellent condition  
And it allows us to make the most of it for worship and ministry; God bless you for that

- That said (**Intro**), with the end of another school year upon us, I've been thinking a bit about that time in *my* life; Especially my high school and college days . . .  
With all the pressures and challenges and work  
And one of the thoughts that sustained me in those days, was graduation; That's what kept me going; The fact that there would be day, someday . . .  
When my drudgery would turn to delight; When my *frustration* would give way to *celebration*

And I knew it would happen, b/c the powers that be told me that if I stayed the course and fulfilled the requirements – the day would come; I'd graduate; And it spurred me on

Which is the very intent of this passage in Is 25

It's meant to spur us on, and sustain us, and fuel us – by giving us a glimpse of that day when our faith gives way to sight; When our salvation is completed

When our Lord and Savior brings life as we *now* know it, to a close – and opens a whole new chapter; A whole new vista; That's the intent of this passage; V1-5

- [1] *O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. [2] For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. [3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. [4] For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, [5] like heat in a dry place. You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down.*

In the midst of talking about all things future, both before and after this, it's like Isaiah pauses in the middle, to worship; To reflect a bit  
Implying that there will not only *be* a day like this, but it's already started; A day . . .

### When God is praised (v1-5)

Praised, b/c that's exactly what these verses represent – an expression of praise

[1] *O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name*

It's an expression of praise, and he's doing it; Which serves as an example for *us* to follow, b/c the reasons for it, still exist; They're still true

But notice that he *starts* with a declaration of lordship and commitment – *O LORD, you are my God*; My God; As in *you're* the one I follow; *You're* the one I love . . .  
*You're* the one I worship – *I will exalt you*; That's the foundation of true praise – a declaration of lordship and commitment  
Confessing God as God, and yourself as his follower  
Without that, you're just paying lip service

Have you settled that? Have you made a conscious, explicit declaration that Jesus is Lord of your life, and expressed your commitment to him once and for all? I hope so  
Otherwise your praise is just lip service, without the heart

- But if you have, you have much to praise him for, and plenty of reasons to do so  
4 of which Isaiah cites right here

Like the fact that God often removes those who oppose him – *you have made the city a heap* [v2], *the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt*; It's a reason for praise – then and now

As is the fact that he often changes the hearts of difficult people – *strong peoples* who end up glorifying him, v3; And even *ruthless nations* who end up revering him  
And it's cause for praise

And then there's his protection of the *needy* like he says in v4

Protecting them like – *a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, [5] like heat in a dry place.*

Despite the fact that the difficulties of the needy are constant and oppressive – like a storm that pounds the side of a building, and heat that never leaves . . .

Despite that, God protects; God upholds; God shelters; God sustains us  
And we ought to praise him for it

- And last here, the last reason Isaiah cites for praising God, is the evidence that he sometimes *subdues* the *ruthless* in this world; Instead of removing them altogether . . .  
*You subdue the noise of the foreigners* [Isaiah says to God in v5; That is, he diminishes their battle cry]; *as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song* [the victory song] *of the ruthless is put down.*

IOW just like the shade of a cloud diminishes and subdues the *heat*, so does the Lord diminish some of those who ravage the world

It may not always come quick enough for us, but a quick survey of history yields a long list; A list of those whose influence was cut short

Like Pharaoh; Or Nero; Or Hitler; Or Pol Pot; Or Mao; Or Bin Laden

Sometimes God squelches the victory song of the *ruthless* – he brings them down

And when he does, praise goes up; Not b/c their *lives* have ended, but b/c their *oppression* has ceased

- So how's your praise? How's your commitment?  
Is it from the heart? Or just your mouth?  
And do you see the things Isaiah saw? Things God *has* done and *continues* to do that add fuel to your fire?  
I hope so; B/c if the things of the *past* don't get you excited, it's likely the things of the future won't either – when God is praised then as well

2<sup>nd</sup>, and now speaking *entirely* of the future, Isaiah says there will be a day . . .

### When joy fills the air (v6)

And we know it's the future, b/c he refers to an event that obviously hasn't happened yet  
And won't, until the final state according to the NT

That day when God ushers in the New Heavens and New Earth; Look at v6  
*On this mountain* [which is a metaphor for God's kingdom, the place and presence of his rule and reign] *the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.*

IOW, we're gonna par-ty! And I don't mean a little Christian party where we're all uptight and smiling at each other like a Jr High dance – I'm talking about a *party* Where exuberance reigns; And joy fills the air; And you could care less what anybody thinks about the way you celebrate

Kind of like this little video clip from Austin Woods, one of our college students at Colorado Christian this year  
He and a group of friends made a quick trip to Taco Bell at 2 in the morning, and ran into Kari Jobe, a Christian singer and songwriter who was in town for a concert And as a result, a little party ensued in the parking lot, that somebody caught on **video**

- That's the idea of the feast Isaiah describes; It's going to be a bash; A flat-out celebration; Especially so, b/c it's the Marriage Supper of the Lamb as Rev 19 calls it That time when we're finally united with Jesus at the end of the age A day of rejoicing when God pulls out all the stops, buys the finest steaks, throws on the best brats, turns up the volume, and joy fills the air Kind of makes you want to dance

3<sup>rd</sup>, and even better, is that it's going to be a day . . .

#### **When death dies (v7-8a)**

It gets better and better; Look at v7 – *And he* [God] *will swallow up on this mountain* [again, the place and presence of his rule and reign] *the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. [8] He will swallow up death forever*

Wow; No *wonder* there will be a day of great celebration  
No longer will we live under the curse of death; No longer will we move in the reach of its shadow; No longer will we suffocate under its cloud . . .  
It's going to be life – period

No more miscarriages; No more infant mortality; No more accidents; No more suicides  
No more premature deaths in the sunset of life; No more cancer; No more heart failure  
No more murder; No more old age; No more anything; Just life

Forever; He's not going to *suspend* death, he's going to do *away* with it  
He's not going to delay it, he's going to kill it

4<sup>th</sup>, and closely associated, is that there will be a day of great celebration . . .

#### **When pain is removed (v8b)**

After saying in v8 that God will swallow up death forever, v8b says – *and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces*

Not only will God do away with death and the sin that causes it, but he'll remove the pain that's all wrapped up in it; *Any* pain; For *any* reason  
That's the idea of wiping away tears from our faces

It's like when you were a kid and your Mom held you in her arms after you fell off your bike and hurt your knee  
There's just something about having those tears wiped away by a gentle touch, isn't there? And having your confidence restored by a soothing voice  
It makes it all better; And God's going to do the same

In fact, at the beginning of the eternal state in **Rev 21:4**, the Apostle John records a voice from heaven, saying – *He* [God] *will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*

What Isaiah alluded to, John made explicit; There will be a day when there's no more emotional pain, physical pain, or any pain; It's all going to be removed\*\*\*\*\*

5<sup>th</sup>, our shame will be forgotten; That's the next part of v8; There will be a day . . .

#### **When shame is forgotten (v8c)**

V8 – *the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth*

Former things, including our *reproach*, our shame, our humiliation due to sin – will be taken away

It doesn't matter whether that shame comes from w/in, from yourself – due to feelings of regret and remorse for things you did or didn't do . . .

Or from without, from others – when they cast stones, or hold it over your head  
Whatever the source of your shame, it's going to be taken away

No longer will you struggle to believe that in God's eyes, it's already gone  
No longer will you fight to take those thoughts captive, and stop dwelling on them  
No longer will you have to work to forget the mean things people have said to you  
No longer will you have to battle to *dismiss* the reproach of others – b/c it won't even be there; It will be taken away

- And the same is true on a *corporate* scale – as the church; *The reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth*

Including the taunts of those in the last days, who will undoubtedly say we're fools for following a God who allows us to suffer alongside everyone else

Or just fools in general b/c we love the Lord at all; Which has already started

There's going to be a day when it stops

A day of great celebration when there's no more false accusations from those who hate you but say they love you; No more derision from people who can't be pleased  
And no more embarrassment for what you've done, or dishonor for what you haven't  
Just grace; Just peace; Just healing; Just joy

*For the LORD has spoken*; And what he says, he'll do; There *will* be a day

A day, #6 . . .

#### **When perseverance is rewarded (v9)**

Isaiah writes in V9 – *It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."*

It's almost like we can hardly believe it when the time comes

“Look! It's him; It's actually him; He's here; Can you believe it?”

- It's a feeling that those who have been liberated from the throes of war, have known the world over, resulting in massive celebrations  
Like the French at the end of WWII on V-E Day (**Photo**) – which we just marked the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this past week

After years of occupation by the German forces, they could hardly believe it was over  
And when the Allied troops rolled through their towns, they were *giddy* with excitement  
Their hope and faith had finally given way to sight  
Their liberators had *finally* arrived, and their perseverance had paid off

Now, multiply that times *infinity*, and replace the troops with God himself – and you get the picture; There's going to be a day of great celebration . . . \*\*\*\*\*  
When our perseverance in waiting, in staying true, in keeping the faith – is rewarded  
Rewarded with the presence of Jesus, the salvation he promises, and a war-ending celebration that beats all; There will be a day

And last, it will be a day . . .

**When enemies are absent (v10-12)**

[10] *For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, and Moab [one of the enemies at that time, and representative of all God's enemies, for all time] shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in a dunghill.*

[11] *And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it [in the middle of his filth and rebellion] as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim [IOW he'll try to escape; trampled down that he is, he'll still try to escape God's judgment], but the LORD will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his hands [he won't be allowed to escape].*

[12] *And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down, lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.*

The things in which he puts his trust, the beliefs on which he bases his life – will be destroyed right along with him

Which means there will be a day of great rejoicing, not only b/c death dies, pain is removed, shame is forgotten, and perseverance is rewarded . . .  
But b/c those opposed to God, those who rebel against him, those who reject him, those who disobey his call to faith and repentance – will be absent  
IOW there won't be any party-poopers

- Which is *good* for those who know the Lord; But bad for those who don't; Very bad  
And if that's you, you need to get right; You need to get right with the Lord  
You need to admit your sin and your need to be saved; And believe in Jesus who died in your place; And receive him into your life as Lord of all; You need to get right

So that one day, you too can party like it's 1999 (**Summary**)

You too can celebrate the passing of death; You too can rejoice when your perseverance is rewarded; And you too can praise him, starting right now

Pray – Lord, hear the prayers of those who need to get right – who are on the wrong side of the fence when it comes to your day of celebration

And for the rest, would you increase our anticipation, and longing? And fortify our perseverance? And receive our praise? Our hope is in you, Lord

Receive our tithes and offerings now, for the work of ministry you've given us