

Isaiah 55

The Mercies of the Lord

1. A Salvation Chapter

- a. Isaiah is called the OT evangelist, the fifth gospel, ch. 55 is the Lord calling men to him
- b. The popular church finds her place and gospel here, which explains the NT confusion.
- c. *“present gospel dispensation is here predicted and described”*, *“Salvation for Gentiles”*
- d. Isaiah 49-57, the Servant’s mission and mercy, 52, preach - 53, cross - 54, seed and city
- e. Isa 54 ended with a covenant wedding with a city established with no weapon against it.
- f. Now, there is free water and food (wedding reception?) - Rev 20, 21:6, 22:1-3, 17

2. 55:1-3 - Come, and Hear

- a. 1- The instruction is come to me, and hear me, and live.
- b. Jesus preached the gospel of living water in the kingdom - John 4:13-15, 7:37, 14:6
- c. Jesus told them how to quench their thirst and hunger - John 6:5, 27-35, 45
- d. Water, wine, milk, bread all describe the word of God which brings life - Deu 8:3
- e. God offers these freely, but they work to be satisfied w/o him.
- f. 2 - The great sin of Israel was forsaking the living water - Jer 2:13, 17:13

3. 55:3 - Sure Mercies of David

- a. The Lord’s mercy endureth forever = his promises to Israel - Jer 33:11, 14-26
- b. Remember the great mercy in Isa 49:6-10, 54:7-8, and Psalm 136
- c. An everlasting covenant of mercy to David - 2 Sam 7:12-16, 23:5; Psa 89:20-35, Hos 3:5
- d. Paul quotes this to affirm the promise of everlasting life - Acts 13:34, but also 2 Tim 2:8
- e. Prophecy speaks of the promise of sure mercy Isa 12, we presently possess God’s grace.

4. 55:4-7 - Return unto the Lord

- a. 4- *“him”* - David/Messiah (who is not yet on earth as leader and commander)
- b. 5- *“nations run unto thee[Israel]”* - why? *“He hath glorified thee”* = Israel is saved.
- c. 6- *“seek ye the Lord”* - An appeal to lost Israel - Matt 7:7, Jer 29:11-14, Joel 2:32, 3:18
- d. 7- *“wicked ... unrighteous”* - a call to sinners to change his mind - Matt 9:13, 23:23-25
- e. *“return”* the teaching to wicked Israel - Eze 18:27-32, Luke 15:11+, we were Eph 2:12

5. 55:8-13 - His Will Be Done

- a. 8-9 - Wrongly used to mean “God works in mysterious (unknown) ways”
- b. The thoughts of God can be known here, as are men. Man would not save the wicked.
- c. 9- *“as the heavens are higher... so are my ways”* - how big are the heavens?
- d. 10-11- Water = the word of God that was given from heaven - John 3:13, Eph 5:26
 - i. His word accomplishes what he pleases and returns to him - Ps 119:89
- e. 12- The song here is described in 1 Chron 16:32-33
- f. 13- The thorn and brier is the removal of the curse on the earth - Gen 3:18, Rev 22:3