Open the Gates, that the Righteous Nation May Enter In

(Isaiah 26)

Isaiah 26 is a song of salvation which the church sings in the present day as it awaits the coming of the Lord and the completion of its salvation on the last day.

**The Song of the Saved**

This song is sung by the redeemed who have found refuge and salvation in Zion as they await the LORD’s return and the day of resurrection.

1. **The Present Security of the Saved (vv. 1–6)**

Isaiah depicts salvation as a pilgrimage to the holy city where the saints seek refuge from the coming storm of God’s wrath upon the nations.

* *Why are the saints secure in Christ?* Christ’s blood and righteousness form an impenetrable fortress of salvation (v. 1). It is built upon the foundation of God’s eternal covenant (v. 4). And it is safe because God has defeated our enemies (vv. 5–6).
* *Who is secure in Christ?* Those who are righteous through faith (v. 2); those with a persevering trust in Christ (vv. 2–4).

1. **The Present Sadness of the Saved (vv. 7–18)**

Though spiritually we are safe within Zion, in our flesh we must struggle against enemies within and without as we make our pilgrimage through this world. This means our joy will be mixed with sadness, our praise mixed with lament.

* We lament our absence from God’s presence (vv. 7–9).
* We lament the world’s blindness (vv. 10–11).
* We rejoice in God’s sovereign grace (v. 12).
* We lament the church’s idolatries (vv. 13–15).
* We lament the church’s weakness and distress (vv. 16–18).

1. **The Future Salvation of the Saved (v. 19)**

The Christian pilgrimage ends in death, but death will be swallowed up forever (25:8). The hope of the resurrection sustains the weary saint.

**The Siren of the Seer (vv. 20–21)**

The prophet concludes this song by sounding the alarm to those with ears to hear. We must find our refuge within Zion. For there, and there alone, are we safe from the wrath to come.