

God's Merciful Provisions

Text: Isaiah 55:1-13

Date: 2-19-23 10:30 AM

I. The Great Invitation (Isa. 55:1-2).

God has made the promise of life-changing water. God gave the provision of the water. God is now begging the people to partake of that water. Those who come to drink are in essence trusting God and relying upon Him for salvation. This is equivalent to Jesus when He told the people to "Come unto me, and I will give you rest" Matt. 11:28).

Eternal life cannot be bought. It can only be received through the gracious gift of God (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9). It is God who abundantly provides His gift of redemptive salvation. It is God who graciously invites all to come and partake of His gift. It is God who alone can satisfy man's deepest needs with the spiritual life-giving water of His Son's work.

II. The Great Promise (Is. 55:3-4).

A covenant is a contractual arrangement or legal obligation between God and a person (people). Here the covenant was for the purpose of God's redemptive work on behalf of His people. This covenant is unconditional for God alone made and will keep the conditions according to His gracious work toward His people. The covenant is everlasting and not just for the duration of a period of time. The covenant's basis is rooted in the *sure mercies (hesed)* of God.

III. The Great Calling (Isa. 55:5).

This word points to the future where the Messiah will call a nation that He does not know. That nation is probably Israel who at this time doesn't know God. In the future though they will become what He envisioned them to be: A holy nation, a royal priesthood, and a peculiar people (Ex. 19:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9).

The emphasis remains on the work of God, His holy character, and His glorious actions. These nations will recognize the splendor of the Lord and it will cause them to seek God. These are real promises. This will happen. One day Jerusalem will be the center of worship, Jesus will be on His throne, and God will be glorified when the nations come together to honor Jehovah.

IV. The Great Plea (Isa. 55:6-7).

What does it mean to *seek*? It means to *come to God*. "For one thing, it means admitting that we are sinners and that we have offended the holy God. It means repenting (55:7), changing one's mind about sin, and turning away from sin and to the Lord. We must turn to God in faith and believe His promise that in mercy He will abundantly pardon.

V. The Great Comparison (Isa. 55:8-9)

Man should follow the admonition of the prior two verses. God's thoughts and ways are grace, mercy, and redemption on the basis of His giving nature. Man is selfish, evil, and is totally separated from God by his sin and iniquity. But God is waiting for man to repent and He will willingly pardon his sin and reclaim him as His own child.

Quote: "God's love stems from a plan infinitely superior to anything man could have devised" (Ryrie Study Bible Notes 1074).

If the heavens are far above the earth and God is far above the heavens, what is man to think that he has any ways and thoughts comparable to God? See Psalm 139:6. If it were not for the special revelation of His word man would never be able to grasp God's thoughts and ways. God's ways are perfect, of His own choosing, loving, and righteous. There simply is no comparison.

VI. The Great Promise (Isa. 55:10-11)

VII. The Great Change (Isa. 55:12-13).