

A Trek Through Isaiah 72 - 55:1-13

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For this week:

- The whole world invited 55:1-13

Context

Worldwide Salvation 54:1 - 55:13	
Zion restored 54:1-17	The whole world invited 55:1-13

- In the book of the Servant (38 - 55): How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- This section (49 - 55) describes the greater deliverance (redemption from sin) accomplished through the Servant.
- This part (54, 55)
 - Two-part tailpiece to the fourth Servant Song
 - Zion restored (54)
 - The whole world invited (55)

- The Whole World Invited 55:1-13

- V1-2 Free **provision** for every need

1 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

- Come.
 - Cry to get attention
 - As a water-seller.
- Everyone
 - The whole world
 - As Is 42:4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.
 - God's law established throughout the whole world.
 - Purpose of the law is to reveal sin.
 - Also Is 48:6 I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
 - For all the nations
 - The salvation provided by the Servant.
- Who thirsts
 - Intense need. As Mt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - They realize their need. Not numb or distracted.
- who has no money
 - They realize their helplessness. Not self-sufficient.
 - As Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman in Jn 3:10: Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."
 - She realized her need.
 - She realized her helplessness.
- Come
 - The person is not at the place of relief and must come to that place.
- Waters...wine and milk...rich food
 - Metaphors for spiritual blessings

- he who has no money, come, buy and eat!...without money and without price
 - Unable to pay so cannot buy
 - Encouraged to buy
 - The price has been paid by the Servant.
 - Exclamation of wonder
- wine and milk
 - Wine.
 - Exhilaration and enjoyment
 - As Jn 2 when Jesus provided wine for the wedding: six large urns filled to overflowing with the best wine.
 - Milk
 - Nourishment.
- Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 - Isaiah has described the money and labor put into idolatry for no result.
 - 46:6-7: Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place,
 - 44:20 He feeds on ashes;
- Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
 - Listen diligently. Lit “listen, listen”. 2x for emphasis.
 - What is good...rich food. Contrast with “that which does not satisfy.”
 - This is the antidote to empty false religion: God’s word

■ V3-5 Co-equal **citizenship**

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

- Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;
 - Parallel
 - Incline your ear <> hear
 - Come to me <> that your soul may live
 - Incline your ear.
 - Listen positively.
 - Come to me
 - In the LORD Himself is found the place of relief
 - that your soul may live.
 - Result of coming
 - Not just a handout. Rather real life.
 - Opposite of the need and futility of v1-2.
- and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
 - I will make with you an everlasting covenant.
 - I will make. Divine imperative
 - With you. in favor of you.
 - Everlasting. Without end
 - Covenant. Agreement governing the relationship.
 - my steadfast, sure love for David.
 - Love. Plural: loves, mercies
 - Described in Ps 89
 - V1. Theme: the loves of the Lord.
 - V3-4. Expression of those loves: a covenant with David
 - V5-18. Praise to the LORD.
 - V19-21. David the servant.
 - V27. The first love that promises universal rule.
 - V36-37. The second love that promises an enduring throne.

- Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
 - Witness.
 - Here is Messiah as Servant.
 - Witness to the Gentiles since they did not have the word of God.
 - As Is 50:4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.
 - Leader and commander.
 - Here is Messiah as King.
 - As Ps 2:7-87 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
 - They are the same person.
- Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you
 - Spoken to the Servant
 - Call...shall run to you. An authoritative call that brings the nations into His kingdom
 - That you do not know...that did not know you
 - Not part of the household of faith.
 - As the Servant in Is 49:7 Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”
 - In the Servant’s work is the fulfillment of the promise to Abram Gen 12:3 ...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 - But there will be those who refuse to submit to the Davidic king, as Moab in Is 16:5-6: then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness.” 6 We have heard of the pride of Moab— how proud he is!— of his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence; in his idle boasting he is not right.

- because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
 - Why the Servant can provide benefits to all: the LORD has glorified Him.
 - As Jesus said in the high-priestly prayer in Jn 17:1-2 “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

■ V6-7 The way of salvation

6 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

- V1-2 pictured the Servant's blessings as rich food and abundant drink.
- Here Isaiah speaks directly in religious terms
- Parallel
 - Seek the LORD <> call upon him
 - While he may be found <> while he is near
- Seek.
 - Vines: seek to secure; pursue what is determined; be devoted to.
- Call upon Him.
 - Acknowledge Him as God
 - Appeal to Him in need
- While he may be found...While He is near.
 - God may only be found when He allows Himself to be found
 - Urgency to take advantage of the time of grace.
 - As Ps 95:7-8 Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts
- Parallels within parallels
 - Outer parallel: let the wicked forsake his way <> let him return to the LORD.
 - Two sides of repentance
 - Turn away from evil
 - Turn toward God
 - First inner parallel: let the wicked forsake his way <> the unrighteous man his thoughts
 - Both his deeds and the thoughts behind the deeds
 - Second inner parallel: return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him <> to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 - Return.
 - Come back to where he once was
 - Compassion
 - Vines: to have compassion, be merciful, pity.
 - Abundantly pardon
 - Declare not guilty
 - As Ro 5:20 ...where sin increased, grace abounded all the more

■ V8-9 The incomparable God

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- For.
 - The first of two reasons why the seeking and repentance of v6-7 are effective.
- my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
 - Chiastic structure in the suffixes: my - your - your - my
 - Not. Emphatic: God is completely different from mankind.
 - Thoughts. In His thinking.
 - Ways. In His actions.
 - This is faith's answer to the question, "Why?"
- as the heavens are higher than the earth
 - A picture of the gap between God and mankind.
 - God's thoughts and ways are righteous; people's thoughts and ways are wicked.
 - God's thoughts and ways are so high that people cannot comprehend them.
 - Mankind is unable to bridge the gap between them and God, but in Christ the gap is bridged.

■ V10-11 The sure word

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- For
 - The second reason why seeking and repentance are effective.
- Picture of rain and snow watering the earth and bringing forth a crop.
 - Rain and snow come down from heaven.
 - They do not return. They accomplish God's purpose.
 - They water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout.
Transformation
 - giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater. The result.
- Likewise with God's word
 - Goes out from God's mouth
 - Does not return empty. Accomplishes His purpose.
 - By implication: brings about transformation, new life, much fruit.

■ V12-13 Promise of a new world

12 “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

- For.
 - Introducing the sure result for those who respond.
- Go out
 - As in the Exodus, from bondage to freedom; from alienation back to God.
- Be led forth.
 - In a festive procession
 - By the Lord Himself = the Servant
 - Is 52:12 For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.
- Joy...peace
 - Describe how the people will go out
 - Transformed emotions
 - Transformed relationships
 - Complete security
- the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
 - Transformed environment
 - Mountains and hills. Not obstacles but rejoicing.
 - Reversal of the curse of Gen 3:18: ...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...
- it shall make a name for the LORD
 - Name. Revealed character.
 - As Is 9:6 ...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.
 - An eternal memorial.

Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. The questions are

1. **Free provision for every need 55:1-2**
 - a. **Come buy without price**
 - b. **Spending money for and laboring for what does not satisfy**
 - c. **Listen to me and eat what is good**
2. **The way of salvation 55:6-7**
 - a. **Seek the Lord while He may be found**
 - b. **Call upon Him**
 - c. **Forsake wickedness**
 - d. **Return to the Lord**
3. **The incomparable God**
 - a. **My thoughts are not your thoughts**
 - b. **My ways are not your ways**
 - c. **Ps 50:21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself.**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

For next week:

- The Sabbath people 1 56:1-8
- The divided people (part 1): failure of the leaders 56:9-12

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