

As we have entered into this season of Thanksgiving, I think it would be appropriate to look back through our study in Isaiah and remember some of the things this book has taught us for which our hearts should be filled with thanks. If you'd like to follow along and note these verses in your Bible, I'm just going to go through Isaiah from the first chapter on picking out a few for which I am grateful.

The very first chapter is a rebuke from the Lord for the depths of the idolatry into which the nation had fallen. Even under such conditions God still calls us to Himself. ¹⁸ *"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;* Isaiah 1:18-19 If God had such mercy to call Israel back to Himself and offer to cleanse them from their sins of outright rebellion, will He not do the same with us? If we hear His invitation to come, and if we sit down and allow Him to direct us, and of our own free will we choose follow His instruction, He promises we will eat the good of the land. How gracious of God.

No matter how far you have fallen, grace has an outstretched hand reaching out to you. If we just heed God's invitation to come and reason with Him, the stain of sin can be made as white as snow. And if we are willing and obedient, the promise declared that we will eat of the good of the land. We've seen throughout Isaiah that this means the rich spiritual food that we have in Christ. If you've accepted the invitation and experienced His cleansing you have the greatest reason to be thankful. But if you've gone further by being willing to yield to the Holy Spirit's instruction and obedient to Him, you've tasted of the rich spiritual food God has for His children. You've heard God's Word come alive and speak to your heart again and again. You know that joy of realizing the God of creation loves you, and cares about you enough to personally speak to your heart. How grateful should we be for that?

Isaiah 7:14 ¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* Isaiah was assuring King Ahaz that from the line of David would come the Messiah. The thing for which we are thankful is that His name is Immanuel, God with us. He isn't a distant, uncaring God, but one who took on flesh and knows exactly what we experience while demonstrating for us how to live the truth He taught. How different from every god man has imagined!

Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶ *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.* Here is Immanuel. He is born to us as a child, and given to us as a son, the Son of God. Could God be any more gracious to us rebels? He is our wonderful counselor who is always available. He is our mighty God for

whom nothing is impossible. He is a Father who will never leave us. He is our prince of peace, the only real source of peace. **One of these things would be enough. How grateful should we be for them all?** And to top it off, He will reign forever. He will always be each of these wonderful qualities to all those who are His.

Isaiah 11:3-4 ³ *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,* ⁴ *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.* Jesus does not judge by appearances or by the testimony of others. He sees the heart. He knows all. He will judge impartially. It's one thing all godly people long for, **justice to reign and evil to end.** Thank God we have that promise in Jesus.

Isaiah 12:1-4 ¹ *You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.* ² *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."* ³ *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.* ⁴ *And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.* We return to the theme of salvation that runs throughout Isaiah. God is angry with us like a loving father is with a disobedient child. When we turn to Him we find comfort. **He becomes our salvation, our strength, and our song.** Trusting in Him means we need fear nothing. When we draw the refreshing water from the well of salvation, which is Jesus, who invited us to come to Him and drink, we want to give thanks to Him, proclaim His name, and tell the world of His goodness and grace.

Isaiah 25:8-9 ⁸ *He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.* ⁹ *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."* Jesus has defeated our greatest enemy, death. He promises to wipe every tear from our eyes. I believe that means **every pain you have experienced in life, every scar on your heart, He will remove in that day.** Thank the Lord that in that day you and I will, without reservation, rejoice and be glad in His salvation. He has removed the reproach of our rebellion toward God and His goodness.

Isaiah 28:16 ¹⁶ *therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: "Whoever believes will not be in haste."* God is telling us that He is the One who is placing Jesus as our unshakable and sure foundation. If we place our trust in Him, we will not be running around trying to figure out what to do. In time, He will show us. And when we stand on that sure foundation, **we will never end up ashamed.** What does the world have to look to but its ever changing philosophies that fail? We have something totally dependable that is tested and true. Jesus will never disappoint.

Isaiah 30:18 ¹⁸ *Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.* Could we ask for a better God, One that waits to be gracious to us and **exalts Himself to show mercy to us**, who blesses us when we wait for Him?

Isaiah 30:20-21 ²⁰ *And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.* ²¹ *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.* How gracious of God to show us His nature by allowing Christ Jesus to be made flesh! In Him we see God's heart. **How loving He is to guide us** by His Holy Spirit when we will listen to Him.

Isaiah 32:1-2 ¹ *Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice.* ² *Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.* We grow despondent now of the failures of earthly rulers. Don't we? What wonderful promises we have of a future day when **righteousness and justice will reign forever**.

Isaiah 40:10-11 ¹⁰ *Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.* ¹¹ *He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.* These verses are telling us that Jesus (the arm of the Lord) who died for us, will rule over all. For those of us who know His love, grace and mercy, that is music to our ears. His gentleness with us reassures our hearts. We saw there is always only one set of footprints in the sand because **He is carrying us through our whole life**, beginning to end.

Isaiah 40:28-31 ²⁸ *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.* ²⁹ *He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.* ³⁰ *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;* ³¹ *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* This passage is a favorite to many of us. God never grows weary. He is always able to empower us when we are weary. If we wait for the LORD, He promises to renew or strength. We can rise above our situations and soar. **He helps us endure through the daily struggles of life without fainting**. Can you recall those times?

Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰ *fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* We have nothing to fear when we are in Christ, for what can man do to us. Whatever we face we can endure for **God promises to strengthen, help, and uphold us with His righteous right hand**. If God is upholding you with His mighty right hand, how can you fall?

Isaiah 41:13 ¹³ *For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."* Not only does the LORD uphold us with His right hand, but He holds our right hand. We pictured how both expressions together

would look, **embraced with His right arm while holding our right hand**. That is such a picture of intimacy. And if the all-powerful God is so intimate with us, is there any need to fear anything. If He is holding our hand through whatever we face, we can get through it. People go through life constantly afraid. You never need to fear!

Isaiah 42:6-7 ⁶ *"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.* This is a prophecy of **Jesus establishing the New Covenant based on what He did for us**, not like the old one based on our obedience. That is something to be truly thankful for! We were blind to the things of God and enslaved to sin. Now we are free! I see people captive to drugs, or driven by the hope of wealth, or enslaved to lust, and I realize how precious my freedom in Christ is. Are you experiencing the freedom Christ came to give us right now? Can you say, "Thank you Jesus!" for that freedom?

Isaiah 46:4 ⁴ *even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.* What a comfort to us as we age. God isn't giving up on us. He won't forsake us when our bodies fail. **He'll carry us all the way to the end of this life** and right on into the next. So many fear old age. We don't need to. Hallelujah!

Isaiah 49:6 ⁶ *he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* The world complains about Christianity being exclusive. It is totally inclusive. It's for the whole world. Jesus is that light that lights every man that comes into the world (John 1:9). We can gladly say **Jesus draws everyone** throughout the world and gives all people the freedom to choose or reject Him. What a Savior!

Isaiah 51:6 ⁶ *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.* Praise God that our salvation isn't a temporary thing. It is more durable than created things. We won't wake up and find out one day that God changed His mind. This is wonderful assurance. **Our eternity is secure** because God is never dismayed and never changes!

Isaiah 53:4a ⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;* When I preached this passage recently, I realized for the first time the incredible truth in this verse. **Every grief and sorrow we go through has already been carried by our Lord.** That means we don't have to go on carrying them. Let them go. Even the scars will disappear on the day He wipes every tear from our eyes! Aren't you thankful that day is coming?

Isaiah 53:5 ⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.* Wonder of wonders, **we have peace with God and our souls are healed**

because Jesus took the punishment our sins deserve. Oswald Chambers wrote, "...the thing that awakens the deepest well of gratitude in a human being is that God has forgiven sin. When once you realize all that it cost God to forgive you, you will be held as in a vice, constrained by the love of God."¹ Praise God for being held in that vice!

Commented [PW1]: Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, November 20

Isaiah 54:4-5 ⁴ *"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.* ⁵ *For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.* Are you ashamed of your past? There's **no need to be ashamed** anymore. When Christ forgave you, He made you His bride. **Our slate was wiped clean.** Your future is brighter than you can imagine, for you are His, and He is yours.

Isaiah 54:10-13 ¹⁰ *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.* ¹¹ *"O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.* ¹² *I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones.* ¹³ *All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.* When God says something numerous times, He's making sure we get the point. If you have entered that covenant of peace with God through Jesus, He is going to glorify you. His steadfast love will never, ever, ever, depart from you! **Your future is more glorious than you can imagine.**

Isaiah 54:17 ¹⁷ *no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."* You have a powerful enemy who wants to destroy you. But you have an even more powerful **Savior who will see to it that the enemy's weapons will fail** to harm you. Every person who accuses you or attacks you will fail in their objective. The LORD Himself vindicates you. It's your gracious heritage from the LORD!

What an awesome God we serve! How He loves us! What great promises He will certainly fulfill. How grateful we should be today and every day throughout eternity. Why do we get caught up in the little trials of life when such great truths are ours? Let your spirit bask in the glow of these verses. Savor the truth they declare. Let these truths put a different perspective on every situation you face. This Thanksgiving, you have these truths for which to be truly grateful!

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your steadfast love that patiently pursues us. We praise you for the gift of salvation that You provided at such a cost to Yourself. Thank you for being with us through life, for embracing us and holding our hand now and forever. Thank you for the promises of a glorious future, promises to see us through our old age, and to one day wipe every tear from our eyes. Help us increasingly realize the greatness of Your love. Thank you that You will never change. Fill our hearts with gratitude continually. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Questions

- 1 Even when we are in sin, what is God's invitation to us?
- 2 What do Isaiah's names of the Messiah mean to you?
- 3 12:2-4 Joy in the LORD has us saying...
- 4 Describe the future promise 25:8.
- 5 30:18 What does the LORD wait to do, and in what does He exalt Himself?
- 6 Why should we be thankful for the coming reign of the LORD?
- 7 What does God promise to those who wait for Him?
- 8 Why should we have no fear of the future?
- 9 For whom did Jesus die?
- 10 For which of these wonderful truths are you most thankful?
- 11 Which one do you need to cling to at this time in your life?