

Introduction: When God's Son took on human flesh and was born of a woman, He came full of Grace and Truth; and, it is in His gift of Grace through The Savior, that God is most Glorified (John 1:14-18). Because Jesus came the first time all may be saved by grace through faith and re-created IN Him into good works God ordained for them (Ephesians 2:8-10). ******* These 'last days' between Pentecost and the second coming of The Messiah-King are a time of great opportunity. All who seek Him during this time will experience His compassion and forgiveness. This truth was first revealed by God to Isaiah (saved of Yahweh) over seven hundred years before The Savior (Yeshua) was born in Bethlehem. It summarizes our passage this morning. And, all who receive Him receive eternal life starting now. ******* This is important because Jesus said (Matthew 24:4) that when He comes the second time in His Glory that He would separate the sheep from the goats: one would go to eternal punishment, the other into eternal life (Matthew 25:31-46). ******* Let's look closer at the richness of God's Grace IN Messiah.

I. All who hunger and thirst are invited to eat and drink under God's covenant with David; and to seek Him for compassion and forgiveness. (Isaiah 55:1-7)

A. The Holy One of Israel graciously gives food and drink through His glorified Messiah to those who hunger and thirst. (Verses 1-5)

1. Hoy! Each one thirsty, come to the waters, and he who has no silver (coins): come, purchase (grain) and eat; come, purchase (grain) with no silver and, without price, wine and milk; why do y'all spend silver for not bread and your labor for not satisfaction (vain things); hearken intently to Me and eat the good, and your soul will be delighted in fatness. (Verses 1-2)

Attention!: Hoy has two meanings: spoken quietly and slowly it means woe (a lament). Shouted quickly it means 'attention'! Here, God wants to wake His people up for an important Messianic truth.

Grace: The first truth is that The Covenant God of Israel (Yahweh) is full of Grace. He will give His people grain, bread, wine and milk and require nothing of them. He wants none of their silver pieces.

Paradox: He tells them to purchase food and drink, but they will not part with any silver coins; and, they must intently heed His spoken words.

Abundance: If they 'eat the good' (His Word) their soul will be abundantly nourished.

If they hunger and thirst for God and His Word as do the poor for bread and water, He will give them bread for life.

God gives the 'bread of life' to the thirsty poor

2. All of you must incline your ear and come to Me, hear and your soul will live, and I will make to y'all an everlasting covenant: steadfast love to David, I being faithful. (Verse 3)

Covenant with David: This is the covenant God made with David that one of his descendants would be the eternal messianic king (2 Samuel 7:11-16).

3. Behold! I have made Him a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people; behold! nations that Thou will not know Thou will call, and nations that knew Thee not will run to Thee because of Yahweh Thy God, and of The Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified Thee. (Verses 4-5)

For all nations: These speak of Messiah Jesus, along with other words God previously gave. He will rule all nations (Psalm 2). In 'servant' prophecies, He is called a 'light to the nations' (Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-7). When His mother Mary presented herself with Him at the Temple for her purification from childbirth on the fortieth day (Leviticus 12), Simeon prophesied Jesus is for people of all nations (Luke 2:25-35). Messiah-Jesus, The Bread of Life (John 6:35-37) is given to spiritually thirsty and poor nations.

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B. Seek The Covenant God in the time to find Him and He will have compassion and forgive. (Verses 6-7)

1. All of you must seek Yahweh in the time of His finding and call upon Him in the time of His nearness; the wicked will forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and he will return to Yahweh. (Verses 6-7c)

Turn to God: During the time of The Servant-Messiah, all people must seek The Three-IN-One Covenant God during the season to find him and the season to be near Him. Even wicked and unrighteous people will have opportunity to come to the end of their ways and to return to God.

2. [Yahweh] will have compassion to these individuals [who also return] to our God, because He will multiply forgiveness. (Verses 7d-f)

Compassion: In His Grace, The Covenant God always has compassion towards all those who turn to Him, especially those who were most estranged. In His first advent, Jesus said He came to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32).

Forgiveness: When sinners forsake their own ways and return to God, His compassion always leads to His forgiving all their sins, as many as they have committed.

II. The Word of The Covenant God succeeds to His delight so creation breaks out in ringing singing; and, His Living Word gives the 'living water' of eternal life. (Isaiah 55:8-13; John 4:13-14)

A. The Word of The Covenant God expresses His higher thoughts and ways and succeeds in bringing joy that breaks into singing of all His Creation. (Isaiah 55:8-13)

1. For My thoughts are not thoughts of y'all, nor are your ways My ways, says Yahweh; because (as) are higher heavens from earth, thus (are) My ways from ways of y'all and My thoughts from thoughts of y'all. (Verses 8-9)

Thoughts and ways: There is a vast difference between the thoughts and ways of the infinite Creator God and the thoughts and ways of His finite human creatures.

Higher: Both His ways and thoughts are as much higher than ours as the heavens over the earth. This explains why God is gracious and does works of Grace but people can be graceless at times. The same goes for His compassion and willingness to forgive sins.

2. For as the rain and snow will come down from the heavens and return not there except they have watered the earth and caused it to bring forth and sprout, and have given seed to the one sowing and bread to the one eating, thus will be My Word which will go forth from My mouth. (*Verses 10-11a*)

Water cycle: God uses the water cycle, on which life itself depends, as a simile of His Word. People know food grows from rain watering planted seeds.

Word: God says precipitation watering seeds to make them grow is as The Word from His mouth.

Seed and bread: And, the rain He gives provides enough grain to make some into bread AND have seed left over to plant to get more grain. Such Grace to even poor people who thirst after God!

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3. It (My Word) will not return to Me empty, but it has done that which I desired and has prospered (brought success for) which I sent it. (*Verses 11b-c*)

Do: Whatever God says, He does. All His words are as good as done whether sooner, later, or after a long time.

Jesus defeated the accuser on The Cross more than four thousand years after Yahweh spoke concerning Eve and the accuser (Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:13-15). We still await His second coming after two thousand years.

Success: People do not define success (prosperity). Our ways are not God's ways. God defines success (prosperity) by His Word, by which He always does what He desires.

4. For in joy y'all will go out and in peace y'all will be led forth; the mountains and the hills will break forth (into) ringing singing before y'all, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (*Verse 12*)

People and creation: All creation, from inanimate, to plants to people will have joy and peace that will result in exuberant singing to God.

5. Instead of the thorn bush will come up the cypress, instead of the brier will come up the myrtle (tree), and this to Yahweh a Name, an everlasting sign, (that) will not be cut off. (*Verse 13*)

Reverse of curse: Yahweh God said to Adam the ground would be cursed because of what he did, and it would produce thorns and thistles so he will eat bread with sweat (Genesis 3:17-19). Yahweh is giving His Word that through The Servant-Messiah this curse will be broken, reversed!

Glory of God: The end result is God's Name will be forever glorified: 'To God Be The Glory'!

- B. Jesus says His water eternally quenches thirst; and, all to whom He gives His water will have eternal life. (*John 4:13-14*)

1. And Jesus having answered said to her, each one drinking out of this water will thirst again. (*Verse 13*)

Samaritan woman: Jesus is talking to a woman from Samaria at the well that Jacob had dug in Sychar (to drink) one thousand nine hundred years before this.

Natural water: He is telling her that natural water does not permanently quench thirst.

2. But, the one who may drink out of the water that I Myself will give will in no way ever thirst into eternity; but the water that I will give will be in that one a well of water, springing up into eternal life. (*Verse 14*)

Jesus' and water: Jesus' water is 'living water' (*verse 10*). Unlike natural water, 'living water' will quench spiritual thirst forever.

Life eternal: Jesus describes the water of eternal life as present (it is springing up) and future (it will be given).

Let us realize that the eternal life Jesus gives is a present reality that will last forever!

Joy comes from the 'living water' of eternal life

Bottom line: God's Grace is IN Jesus. By Grace, God gives people faith in His Faithful Savior Son. As they receive The Holy Spirit, they also receive His fruit, which includes Joy. The Joy of all who have eternal life IN Jesus will be complete when He comes the second time.

Conclusion: All who hunger and thirst are invited to freely eat and drink, not laboring for vain things. They must hearken to His covenant with David and live, calling to the nations. They must seek Him in the season He is near, and He will have compassion and forgive them. The Word of The Covenant God is high and always succeeds, resulting in praise from all Creation to His Glory. Finally, Jesus says all to whom He gives 'living water' are alive now and forever.

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