

Isaiah 55.

God's word, His Servant

Introduction. The whole world is invited into this new world which the Servant of the Lord will inaugurate. Chapter 55 spells out how the saving work set out in 52:13-53:12 applies to the whole world. The Servant of the Lord would bring 'justice' (42:4) and 'salvation' on earth (49:6).

Vv. 1-2. 'Free provision for every need'

The setting is an invitation to a banquet '*come*' – invitation to enjoy the essential needs of life - drink and food. Abundant free food – a provision of God's grace. The '*price*' has been paid by the Servant as our Saviour.

3-5. All welcomed into fellowship with God.

To participate in the banquet, family fellowship, with God people are only required to '**come and listen**'.

The promise for those who '*come and listen*' to God, through His Servant is true 'life', through an everlasting covenant. The everlasting covenant with David is now extended to all who '*come and listen*', through the person and work of the Servant. (see Ps. 89:1-4; 42:1-4; 49:1-3; 52"13ff). All the blessings of 55:1-3 are to be found in the rule of David now taken up by the Servant.

Vv. 6-9. The time to seek God is now

The call to '*come and listen*'

1. has an urgency – '*seek the Lord while He may be found*'
2. Requires an acknowledgement of sin – '*let the wicked forsake their ways*'
3. And requires a return to the God of mercy – '*let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them...and will pardon*'.

People/we do not deserve God's mercy and pardon, but in His love and wisdom He acts to bring salvation. Repentance is the response to God's undeserved love; He will respond with mercy and freely pardon (Rm.5:8).

Vv. 8-9 The Lord is the Creator we are His creation

God and His ways will always remain beyond human comprehension.

Vv. 10-11. God stands by His word

V. 10. begins with the word '*For*' indicating that what follows is an explanation of how repentance can achieve peace with God. The answer is God's word of promise.

- i. God's word originates from Him ('*out of my mouth*')
- ii. So achieves its mission ('*will not return...empty*')
- iii. Which is the will of God ('*accomplish what I desire*')

Vv. 12-13. The promise of a new world

V. 2 begins with another '*For*' - What God promises in His word He will inaugurate. Those who respond by '*coming*', '*listening*' and '*repenting*' will experience the '*joy*' of this new life/world. The old world will be transformed into a new world where all of creation will glorify God and this will '*endure forever*'.

Reflection/Response. How do we practice *coming* and *listening* to God? How does regular *repentance* help us *enjoy* fellowship with God?
How do we look forward to a new world that God promises to create?