

## An Invitation to the Lord's Banquet Isaiah 25:1-12

Chapter 25 of the book of Isaiah is part of the prophecy of God's judgement on the World. It begins in chapter 24-27 and it has to be understood in that context. However, it is a chapter is the part of the prophecy that explains God's ultimate plan for humanity and shows God's faithfulness. From verses 1-5, Isaiah talks of the things that God will do in the **here and now**; and this is the work of salvation. From verse 6-12, he explains God's plan for the **here but not yet**. It is a story of the end times. He explains that two events will commence the end times;

1. **The Lords banquet, where people from all nations are invited** *(but it is in Revelation 19:7-9 where this banquet is explicitly explained as the wedding supper of the Lamb; meaning the wedding supper of our Lord Christ Jesus).*
2. **The final judgement of all people and nations who remain hostile to God and where death will be swallowed up, death will finally be dealt with.**

### Verse 1-5

Although this prophecy is the prophecy of Judgement its purpose is to give hope and redemption to all nations *(not just the covenant people of Judah and Israel)*. The message of God to all nations in chapter 25 is;

1. God's plan of salvation for humanity is for the whole earth, and therefore salvation is available to everyone, both Jews and Gentiles
2. God's judgement **(in the here and now)** is not intended to destroy but to lead one to repentance so that he/she can turn back to the Lord and be saved.
3. People who remain unrepentant will be condemned to judgement and will be alienated from God forever **(on the final judgement day)**.

For us today, the message is the same and the three points above applies to us as well. However, because of the completed work of salvation at the cross in Christ Jesus; we are in the new covenant and so for us, our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

***“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him (Col. 1:21-22).”***

### Application

1. **As Christians, we need to join in God's mission of saving lives.** The way we can be of help and participate in God's mission is by;
  - Sharing the good news of salvation with non-believers
  - Praying for the salvation of the lost **(both those who know about Him and those who have not heard the good news)**
  - We need to use our resources to help Christian organisations, missionaries and evangelist who have also joined in God's mission to spreading the good news of salvation to the world.
2. As Christians, we need to live our lives as Christ witnesses. This means that the way in which we live our lives **(our conducts, life-style and the way we relate to people)** must point and lead people to Christ.

## Verse 6-12

This passage explains what God's plan for the here but not yet. For us Christians, all the promises and blessings in this passage have been fulfilled in Christ through His work on the Cross, but will be experienced in the future. Isaiah explains that all peoples and all nations that have turned to God will participate in the celebration of the banquet, which is the wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:9). Everyone will experience perfect joy and God's richest blessings and God is inviting everyone to the banquet. ***"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God (2 Cor. 1:20)."***

The message conveyed here is that:

- 1. God wants all people to spend eternity with Him and so the invitation is for everyone.**  
***"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)."***
- 2. God will finally judge all people and nations who remain hostile to Him to eternal condemnation** (because of their pride, self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-confident,) **and will destroy death forever.**

## Application

The knowledge of God's plan for the future which has already been fulfilled in Christ must challenge the way we relate to Him and to other people.

### **1. My relationship with God**

- The manner and attitude in which I give my time, resources, money and service to God must be in response to what He has prepared for us. Knowing that what we have now is nothing compared to what He has prepared for me for eternity in Christ Jesus.
- The knowledge that I will live with God forever must give me the desire to know Him more now. Therefore, the mind-set in which I approach the Bible should change. The primary purpose of reading God's Word should therefore be to know Him. The more I know who He is, what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do, the more I desire to see Him one day and my view of eternity becomes exciting.

### **2. My relationship with people**

- I must start treating people as if they have eternal value, as God sees them and not as the world sees them (by categories and status).
- I must be able to help people in need with the resources I have because I am helping a brother or sister who will spend eternity with me. When you help someone, they see part of heaven on earth and their faith in God and in His future promises is strengthened.

When my relationship with God is right, then it will be evidenced in the way we relate to people

## Challenge

The challenge now is for us to narrow down our focus of interest. We need to invest our lives in things that have eternal value, God and people.

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