



# God Saves

God's sovereign plan includes providing a way of salvation for those who believe in Him.

## ISAIAH 25:1-10a

People who have a plan and implement that plan to success are admirable. The Bible teaches that God has a plan. His plan includes redeeming creation and assembling a people out of every nation. Every nation will be represented when God prepares His inaugural feast, and everyone in attendance will be there because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Isaiah emphasized this truth as he anticipated the destruction of death and the celebration of the Lord's salvation before His throne.

**What is the importance of having a plan to address a need?**

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# UNDERSTAND **THE CONTEXT**

## **ISAIAH 24:1–27:13**

Isaiah 24:1–27:13 serves as the climax to the previous chapters describing God’s judgment of individual nations. Once Isaiah finished addressing the nations, his focus moved from regional judgment to universal reckoning, from the immediate time frame to a distant future, and from what is temporal to what is eternal. The section is distinctly eschatological, speaking of end times. After describing what God would do to the entire earth, Isaiah’s main emphasis was on how it would affect the people of God. His message serves as a word of comfort to people as they face turbulent times.

In chapter 24 the prophet declared that no one will escape the Lord’s judgment. It is an apocalyptic picture of total destruction with the earth utterly laid waste and every inhabitant completely plundered. Isaiah indicates the reason for this cataclysmic judgment is that all the people have broken God’s laws, overstepping God’s decrees by making their own laws, and by disregarding every gracious act of God to make Himself known to humanity (24:5). Since humanity’s sin cursed the earth, the earth will become a curse to humanity and everyone but a small remnant will perish as the earth shakes and fails to provide for people’s needs. In that day, the Lord will destroy all earthly and heavenly opposition.

The people of God, however, will celebrate the Lord’s judgment on the nations and declare Him their faithful stronghold. God will prepare a victory feast celebrating His rule and will include His faithful people from every nation. The victory the people celebrate will be the victory they anticipated for ages as they see God’s intervention against the wicked and His vindication of those who trusted in Him. The bodies of the faithful who were dead will rise (26:19), and God’s people will come and “worship the LORD at Jerusalem on the holy mountain” (27:13).

**As you read Isaiah 25:1-10a, notice the truths revealed about what God has in store for His people. How does the promise of a future serve as motivation to remain faithful to God?**

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# EXPLORE **THE TEXT**

## **SINGING PRAISE** (ISA. 25:1-5)

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you. I will praise your name, for you have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. <sup>2</sup> For you have turned the city into a pile of rocks, a fortified city, into ruins; the fortress of barbarians is no longer a city; it will never be rebuilt. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, a strong people will honor you. The cities of violent nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup> For you have been a stronghold for the poor person, a stronghold for the needy in his distress, a refuge from storms and a shade from heat. When the breath of the violent is like a storm against a wall, <sup>5</sup> like heat in a dry land, you will subdue the uproar of barbarians. As the shade of a cloud cools the heat of the day, so he will silence the song of the violent.

### **VERSE 1**

Isaiah 25:1-5 presents a hymn of thanksgiving that celebrates God and His salvation. Isaiah began his hymn with a short but very profound declaration: **LORD, you are my God**. In chapter 27, the prophet clearly indicated the nations of the earth would undergo terrible judgment because they had rejected the Lord as their God. However, the Lord will save those who can truthfully proclaim, “Yahweh is my God.” Personal knowledge of the Lord is the characteristic of those who will be saved.

***God is in perfect control;  
He methodically and faithfully  
carries out His purposes.***

Next, Isaiah declared he would exalt the Lord and praise His name because of what He has done. What has the Lord done? He has **accomplished wonders**. *Wonders* speaks of things only God can do. From a human perspective, many of the nations God would lay low appeared invincible. But God is in perfect control; He methodically and faithfully carries out His purposes. The word translated **plans** is associated with the Hebrew root for the word “Counselor” in Isaiah 9:6, speaking of the Messiah. Therefore, the

*plans formed long ago* that Isaiah sang about refer to the coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His accomplishing the salvation of His people.

## VERSE 2

Isaiah elaborated on the wonders God accomplished. The *city* to which he referred is “the city of chaos” in Isaiah 24:10. It is not a specific city but a metaphor to represent human strongholds of wickedness. The *city* represents the arrogant notion that humans can save themselves in their own self-sufficiency. They have concluded they do not need God. The fact that this city is fortified and called a fortress shows their resolve to defend their way of life. However, every attempt at salvation apart from the mercy and saving grace of God is doomed to fail. Just as the Lord came down and rendered impotent the people at the Tower of Babel as they attempted to elevate themselves to be equal with God, He will bring down this arrogant city. As invulnerable as the wicked city of human self-sufficiency and self-will may appear, God Almighty easily lays it to waste.

**What is the importance of knowing that powerful cities come and go?  
What is the benefit of believers being mindful of their inadequacies?**

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## VERSE 3

Because God is working out His plan of salvation for His people, *a strong people will honor* the Lord and *the cities of violent nations will fear* the Lord. Isaiah described the salvation of the *nations*, known as the Gentiles in the New Testament. He mentioned this in Isaiah 24:16 when he stated: “from the ends of the earth we hear songs: The Splendor of the Righteous One.” Part of the Lord’s “plans formed long ago” (v. 1) was to save for Himself a people from every nation. God revealed this plan to Abraham when He chose Abraham and his descendants for the purpose of blessing all the peoples on earth (Gen. 12:2-3; 18:18-19). Paul made this clear when he wrote, “Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed through you’” (Gal. 3:8). Isaiah was

declaring that people who were once adamant enemies of God will become part of the saved people of God.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The word *honor* in Isaiah 25:3 comes from a Hebrew word (*kaved*) that means “heavy” or “weighty.” It carries the sense of “assign weightiness or importance,” thus “to honor” or “to glorify.”

### VERSES 4-5

The *poor* and the *needy* are the opposites of the strong and self-sufficient citizens of the city of chaos and meaninglessness which the Lord has destroyed. Yet, the poor and needy are better off because the Lord is *a stronghold* for the poor and needy and *a refuge* from the storms and heat of the violently wicked who seek to harm the weak. Those who thought they were strong have become weak, but those who are weak are secure because the Lord is their refuge and strength. Isaiah pits the hollow, counterfeit strength of the wicked against the strong wall of protection afforded the poor and needy by the Lord. The Lord is opposed to the proud but a champion of the weak.

Thus, Isaiah shows how the Lord receives glory in two ways. First, He receives glory by showing Himself strong for the weak. Second, the Lord receives glory by silencing *the song of the violent*, that is, by opposing those who are arrogantly self-willed and self-assured of their own power with no need for God. This is a motif throughout the Scriptures. For instance, Joseph had ten older brothers who hated him, threatened to kill him, sold him into slavery, then covered it up with a lie about his death. Taken to Egypt, Joseph ended up in prison for at least two years. Nevertheless, God was directing his ways and eventually raised him to an unimaginable place of power to bring about salvation for his family and for many nations. One witnesses this motif in the lives of people like the Israelites whom God saved from one of the greatest and most powerful nations ever known in Egypt and at the Red Sea. The Book of Judges demonstrates it in the life of Gideon who was the least in his tribe and yet led 300 men to victory over 135,000 Midianites. David was but a boy and yet defeated the

mighty Goliath. The apostle Paul wrote, “God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence” (1 Cor. 1:27-29). It was because of this truth that Isaiah sang his praise to the Lord.

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### **KEY DOCTRINE:** *Last Things*

The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in heaven with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:14-18).

## **FEASTING TOGETHER** (ISA. 25:6-8)

**<sup>6</sup> On this mountain, the LORD of Armies will prepare for all the peoples a feast of choice meat, a feast with aged wine, prime cuts of choice meat, fine vintage wine. <sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy the burial shroud, the shroud over all the peoples, the sheet covering all the nations; <sup>8</sup> he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face and remove his people’s disgrace from the whole earth, for the LORD has spoken.**

### **VERSES 6-8**

As Isaiah spoke of how “the LORD of Armies will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem,” (24:23), he could not help but sing a hymn of praise to Yahweh his God in 25:1-5. In verse 6, the prophet continued declaring what the **LORD of Armies** would do. The Lord’s reign would begin with a coronation feast. Coronation feasts were customary in the ancient Near East when a king took his throne. Referring back to Isaiah 24:23, the feast would take place **on this mountain**, Mount Zion.

The Lord would prepare a feast for His people from every nation. This is reminiscent of David’s telling the Lord, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies” (Ps. 23:5) because God silenced the song of the enemy and replaced it with a celebratory feast of victory. What the Lord prepares for His

people will enrich and satisfy them. It is a picture of nourishment, strength, and joy.

In addition to preparing a feast for His people from every nation, God would do something even more spectacular: He would destroy death. *The burial shroud* covers every person of every nation. We have a 100 percent death rate. However, the Lord *will destroy death forever*—not just death per se but the cause of death. Adam and Eve incurred the curse of death on themselves and their descendants as consequences for their sin. Nevertheless, the apostle Paul revealed that just as death came to all through Adam, the resurrection of the dead comes through faith in Christ. What's more, the last enemy Christ will abolish is death (1 Cor. 15:23-26). Jesus bore the curse and conquered the grave by His death and resurrection. As Paul wrote, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54). Such a statement is fitting for Isaiah's message as he anticipated the celebration feast of this victory over death.

The *tears* of the bereavement of death will be gone because death will be gone. Isaiah declared the Lord will *wipe away* the tears because the sin-induced shame of all of humanity will be removed from the entire earth. The Lord personally will do for His people what they cannot do for themselves. The new nature of God's people will be given full expression in Christlikeness and holiness. The apostle John saw a vision pertaining to this and recorded it in Revelation 21:3-4: "Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away." Isaiah declared it will not be a time of sorrow but a time of rejoicing, *for the LORD has spoken*. Isaiah comforted God's people with the assurance that God will defeat all of their enemies when He begins His reign in Zion, and that they will then experience blessings like those that the world has never known.

**How does the defeat of death point to the peace God offers to His people?**

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## TRUSTING GOD (ISA. 25:9-10a)

<sup>9</sup> On that day it will be said, “Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him. Let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” <sup>10</sup> For the LORD’s power will rest on this mountain.

### VERSES 9-10a

Not only does Isaiah depict the Lord’s dwelling with His people, but we also get a glimpse of what it will be like for the people of God to dwell in the presence of God. What a glorious day it will be when the people of God see Him face to face and exclaim, “*Look, this is our God.*” God will reward those who trust in Him and patiently wait on Him. Those who trust in the Lord will be saved, and the natural response of people who have been saved is to rejoice and sing the praises of the One who has saved them. On Mount Zion, the place where the Lord resides, rests the power of God unto salvation because He alone is the Savior. Salvation comes from God alone through faith alone.

**How is the hope of salvation realized in the phrases used by Isaiah? What role does faith play in waiting for God?**

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### **BIBLE SKILL:** *Use a Bible concordance.*

Use a Bible concordance to identify instances in Isaiah where he referred to a vineyard. How does the metaphor of a vineyard develop in the book? What are the elements in the imagery and how do they connect with God and His people?

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## APPLY THE TEXT

- God’s salvation leads to praise of Him.
- God’s peace will be enjoyed by all who trust in Him.
- God’s salvation comes through faith in Him.

**Reflect on the salvation God provides through faith in His Son. Write a prayer thanking God for His salvation.**

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**Discuss as a group ways of enjoying God’s peace today. How does the promise of a future complete with peace impact how your Bible study group functions? What changes need to be made to make your group a more peaceful place?**

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**How would you rate your ability to whole-heartedly proclaim “look this is our God”? What needs to change in your life to more confidently make this declaration?**

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## PRAYER NEEDS

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