

I EXALT THEE

(3 Divine Resources That Lift Us In The Journey)
Isaiah 25:1-12



“THY COUNSELS ARE FAITHFUL” (V.1)

- ◆ We Have God’s Promise
- ◆ We Have God’s Power
- ◆ We Have God’s Provision

“O Lord, thou art my God, I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name” (Isaiah 25:1)

Bill Kirk

“I EXALT THEE”

Text: Isaiah 25:1-2; 26:1-4

Subject: “Three Divine Resources That Lift Us In the Journey:

Introduction

(The Backdrop Of Isaiah 25 Is Important)

- ◆ In chapters 1-6, Isaiah denounces personal sin in the lives of the people.
- ◆ In chapters 7-12, Isaiah deals with the national sins of the leadership.
- ◆ In chapters 13-23, Isaiah addresses the sin of the Gentiles surrounding Judah and Israel.
- ◆ In chapters 24-27, Isaiah pens a song of hope and praise.

(4 Chapters Of Great Rejoicing)

- #1. Chapter 24, is a description of pain and affliction.
- #2. Chapter 25, is a song of deliverance in the midst of whatever.
- #3. Chapter 26, is a celebration of God’s triumph.
- #4. Chapter 27, records how God stays the rough wind in the day of the east wind.

Question: Why is Isaiah chapter 25 in your Bible?

Answer: Because God has a specific word for your life today.

- ◆ It is a word that gives great assurance.
- ◆ It is a word that confirms the truth to us.
- ◆ It is a word that reveals God’s purpose for you.

Understand This:

(That Isaiah 24 and 25 is where we all live)

- ◆ Isaiah describes the process of feelings when you encounter certain difficulties.
- ◆ 16 times in chapter 24, Isaiah uses the words land, earth and world. (How pain touches everybody in the world).
- ◆ And, how the Lord directs His attention towards His people.

(Notice Isaiah 24:15)

“Wherefore glorify ye the Lord in the fires”
The word for “fires” (means) valleys

Question: Pastor, how can I glorify God in the valley?

Question: Pastor, what strengthens me in the “night season”.

Question: Pastor, what protects me from a “bad attitude”?

Question: Pastor, what keeps me from getting sour and self-destructing?

- ◆ In (chapter 25:8), the emphasis is on the tears on our faces.
- ◆ In (chapter 25:9), the emphasis is on the gladness on our faces.

(Lets Ask Ourselves)

- ◆ “How does a person go from tears to gladness in the economy of God?
- ◆ “How does it happen internally for each one of us?

(3 Diving Resources)

I. We Have The Promises Of God To Trust In

(V.1) "O Lord, thou art my God, I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name, for thou hast done wonderful things, thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth"

- ◆ Notice the difference between the saved person and the unsaved person.
- ◆ Anybody can say "O Lord Thou Art God"

(But Only The Believer Can Say)

"O Lord, Thou Art My God"

Question: Why is it so important to know, that you know, that you are saved?

Answer: ◆ Because there has to be relationship, before there can be fellowship.
◆ And only if we are in fellowship, can we have faith in God's promises.

Question: What is the Promise of God, that God wants us to trust in?

(V.1) "Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth"

- ◆ Isaiah is speaking about God delivering His people from the 70 year Babylonian captivity.
- ◆ Isaiah prophesies the event before it occurs.
- ◆ Isaiah has the faith (or trust) that God's plan will be fulfilled.

Question: How can Isaiah (and you and I) be so sure that God's plan will be completed in our lives? (right on time?)

Answer: (V. 1) "God's counsels are" (what?)

"Faithfulness And Truth" (which means:)

- #1. What God has promised to you, will be fulfilled.
- #2. What God has planned for you, will be done.
- #3. What God has purposed for you, will be realized.
- #4. What God has proposed for you, He will do.

Question: why is (V.1) so meaningful and applicable to you and Israel?

- ◆ Because Israel would experience a detour in Babylon.
- ◆ Because Israel would be put "on hold" for a season
- ◆ Because Israel seemed forgotten by God for a period of testing.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ What Israel thought was a bump in the road (God was using to accomplish His long range plan).
- ◆ Captivity in Babylon was bumpy (but Babylon would be used by God).
- ◆ King Cyrus in doing his own thing was bumpy (but ungodly Cyrus would be used by the Lord).

Fact: Everybody (at some time) will face a detour.

Fact: Everybody (at some time) will have a Cyrus.

Fact: Everybody (at some time) will be surprised.

Fact: Everybody (at some time) will face a bump in the road.

Illustration

A brother and sister were hiking up hill on a bumpy road. The brother was lagging behind and complaining about all the bumps he had to walk around. Finally the brother yelled out, "Why do all these bumps have to be in the road"? The sister turned and said, "Hey, shut up Johnny, the bumps are what you climb on".

Question: Pastor, what do you remember when there is a bump in the road?

Answer: You remember (V.1) and you remember this:

“The Bumps Are What You Climb On”
(To go higher and higher and higher and higher with God)

#1 – We have the promise of God to trust in

II. We Have The Power Of God to Overcome (Vs. 2 & 3)

(V.2) “For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin; a palace of strangers to be no city”)

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ Isaiah is speaking of the Jews who would return from Babylon.
- ◆ The Jews were in captivity in Babylon.
- ◆ King Cyrus would invade Babylon and take it over.
- ◆ When Cyrus took over Babylon, the people of God were set free from captivity.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ As great as Babylon was, God made the city a heap.
- ◆ As great as Babylon’s power was, God made the city a ruin.
- ◆ As great as Babylon’s history of holding God’s people was, Babylon became “no city” (v.2) when God came on the scene.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God’s power was displayed, to break the evil power that held Israel in bondage.
- ◆ God’s power was displayed, to free those confined behind walls.
- ◆ God’s power was displayed, to reveal God’s power over evil’s power to raise up a chosen generation.

Fact: Some of the Jews couldn’t believe that God could break a 70 year stronghold.

(But Hebrews 2:14, 15 Says)

“Jesus through His death destroyed him that had power even over death, (that is the devil). And delivers all, who were during their lifetime, subject to bondage”.

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ It means you don’t have to lie, or cheat or steal.
- ◆ It means you don’t have to smoke, or cuss or chew.
- ◆ It means you don’t have to gossip, whisper or slander.
- ◆ It means you don’t have to allow the carnal nature to be addicted to anything that Jesus is not addicted to.
- ◆ It means you don’t have to yield to temptation any longer. **(Why not?)**

(The Secret Of Luke 10:17-20)

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”. (v. 17)

“And Jesus said unto them, (Take it easy) I beheld satan as lightening fall from heaven”.

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ It is the first assault of the gospel on the kingdom of darkness.
- ◆ The power of God had put the demons of hell on the run.

(Pg. 3 of 5)

- ◆ When the 70 believers returned with rave reports of devils being subject to Jesus.

(Jesus Replies)

“I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven” (v. 18)

(In Other Words Beloved 70)

“What is new to you is not new to me, I watched satan when he was cast out of heaven; I know the power that is in My Name.

- ◆ I saw satan fall as lightning when God (by his power) removed him from heaven.

(And Just Like Satan Fell)

- ◆ “Anything from satan that touches your life (My bride) will fall as well.
In (v.2) at My name! It becomes a heap, a ruin, an empty city!

(Isaiah 25:3 Is Awesome)

“Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee”

- ◆ The “strong people” refers to the surrounding nations.
- ◆ The “city of the terrible nations” refers to the cities opposed to God.
- ◆ “Shall fear thee” means “fear the Lord”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God humbled every nation to dust.
- ◆ The unbelievers supporting Babylon saw God’s power free the Jewish people, (and)
- ◆ It so alarmed the onlookers that the result was “the fear of the Lord”.

(It is the devil and evil’s power that is to fear, not you)

#1 – We have a **promise** to trust in.

#2 – We have a **power** to overcome

III. We Have The Provision Of God To Rejoice In (V. 4)

(V. 4) “For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat”.

Question: Does God tell us we’ll escape the distress, storm and heat?

Answer: No – God tells us the truth!

(John 16:33)

“In the world you will have tribulation”

(Job 5:7)

“Yet man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward”

(I Peter 4:12)

“Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you”

(James 1:2)

“Count it all joy when you fall into various testings”

Question: How can you count it all joy?

Answer: Because of what God will be to you:

(V. 4)

#1. **“God will be a strength to the poor”**

- ◆ This means that God will sustain you in every season of distress.
- ◆ It means, in our weakness we will discover the strength of the Lord.

#2. **“God will be a refuge from the storm”**

- ◆ The word “refuge” means: “A place of safety and retreat”.
- ◆ The word “storm” means: “Tempest of wind” or “test of affliction”
- ◆ “A refuge from the storm” means: The presence of Jesus will be your security when you should be anxious.

#3. **“God will be a shadow from the heat”**

- ◆ In Judea, the heat would get so intense that it could kill.
- ◆ The sun would get so oppressive that it could sap all strength out of you.
- ◆ Relief was found at times in the shadow of a cloud.
- ◆ The cloud would come between the sun and the Jew (and save the day).
- ◆ For you and me, Jesus is the “Shadow from the heat”. **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ Jesus comes between, intervenes, and stands in the middle,
- ◆ And keeps you from withering up.

Question: How do we respond to a Jesus like this?

(V. 6) “And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast”.

- ◆ The feast was observed following a great victory.
- ◆ It is our response of joy and praise and confidence and celebration of Jesus.

Question: Pastor, why are we called to rejoice (as at a feast or festival)?

#1. (V. 7) **The removal of your veil:**

- ◆ The “veil” represents anything that is hindering you from enjoying the presence of God.

#2. (V. 8) **The reversing of your tears:**

“The Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces” (means:)

- ◆ Jesus will provide such joy after your battles (that it will be greater than your tears in the battle).

#3. (V. 9) **The reward of your praying**

“We have waited for Him and we will be glad” (means)

- ◆ Those who wait upon the Lord with patient endurance will be rewarded by God Himself with answered prayer.

Conclusion

Question: But pastor, can God overcome the obstacles in my personal life, my prayer life, my devotions, my marriage, my home, my thought life, my attitude, my anxiousness?

(V. 10) “Moab shall be trodden down”

(V. 11) “Moab shall be brought down”

(V. 12) “Moab shall God bring down to the ground as dust”

(In Plain Vanilla)

- ◆ The Lord can get through every hang-up, excuse, reasoning, doubt, and objection you present to Him.
- ◆ Everything can be subdued under His hand!

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

(Pg. 5 of 5)