

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

National

Praise

Isaiah 26-27:1

Lesson Twenty-Eight

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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In the twenty-sixth chapter of Isaiah we see praise and prayer. The prophet continues to praise God for what He is going to do. Read Isaiah 26:1-6.

The word city in these verses really means nation. The strong city in verse one represents Judah. The lofty city in verse five represents the enemies of God. This song begins with praise to God for protecting the city. God saves the people and His salvation is complete and permanent. God's protection is likened to a city which cannot be invaded because of high walls and strong defenses. In that day cities built high walls that were wide enough for chariots to ride around the top.

The city is empty until the gates are opened and the "righteous nation is invited in." Israel saw itself as a righteous nation. But, when time ends, all Christians, will be the righteous nation.

Verses three and four are often read in churches today as a promise to all Christians. God is the One who provides perfect peace to those who trust Him. And, He provides strength for those who believe Him.

Some have tried to identify cities in Isaiah's day that were built on hills..."lofty city." However, it is probably better to see this as a picture of humans who see themselves as safe from punishment. God said that they would be like a "safe" city that is leveled and you can't tell the remains of the city, "safe" humans, from the dust of the ground.

Verse seven introduces a personal prayer. God is asked to make the path of the righteous person smooth. Those who love God are patient as they wait for God to reveal Himself and His will to His people. Read Isaiah 26:7-13.

When God makes His judgments (His teachings) known on earth, those who are seeking Him, who yearn for Him, will learn from the teachings. But, those who are unbelievers will not understand, and they will not see the splendor of God.

Though other powers have taken God's place with the people, or ruled over them, only God is the true God and only He deserves to be remembered. God is the one who is responsible for conquering other nations, only God has led the people to victory. Read Isaiah 26:8-19.

Next Isaiah draws a very clear picture of people seeking God. Verse sixteen begins, "O Lord, in distress they sought thee, they poured out a prayer..." This is about people who are desperate. They need God's presence. They have awakened to the fact that they have no where else to turn. All their other gods have let them down. They finally looked to the true God, hoping He would relieve them from the bad things that were happening to them. The phrase "poured out a prayer" is a great word picture. We are familiar with the phrase, "pour out your heart." This is the same idea. A lot of pain is pictured here.

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Verse nineteen gives us God's response. The dead, in verse fourteen, are eternally dead. They will not rise. However, God promises His people that they will live. They will rise out of the dust and sing. Their song will be a song of happiness and joy. The dead are resurrected.

Prior to this, the people of Judah saw "coming back to life" as a national thing. Nations would rise again. But here he says that individuals will rise. This is the final resurrection of the dead who believe in God, at the end of time. It will be a day for joyful singing. And, God will do the raising. People can't do it for themselves. The "dew of light" means that something will come down from Heaven and wake up the dead. Read Isaiah 26:20—27:1.

This must refer to the end of time when God gives final judgment. People are warned to go into their houses and lock the doors. God is coming personally to do away with sin. He is cleaning up the mess that humans have made of things. His actions are called wrath, punishment and bloodshed. Sin cannot hide anymore.

Then in chapter twenty-seven, verse one, we are told that God would draw His sword. It is described as a hard (cruel), great (mighty) and strong (powerful) sword. It will be a special sword with a one-time task. With that sword, God will kill Leviathan. Who or what is Leviathan? Well, this serpent, or snake, or dragon-like creature is known far and wide, even beyond the Bible. He is referred to in the writings of many peoples of that day. In the Canaanite writings, this monster was killed by Baal when the earth was created. We know better.

The Bible says that he will be slain by Jehovah God, not only here, but in Isaiah 51:9; Job 26:12; Psalm 74:13 and 89:10. Most identify this creature as Satan. We know from studying the Bible elsewhere that a time will come when God will send Satan to Hell forever...forever.

What can we learn for today from this Scripture.

1. God will smooth out our path when we trust Him.
2. God hears our prayer
3. God answers our prayer
4. God will win.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." Isaiah 26:3

Lesson Goal: To share with students some of Isaiah's prophesy about the end of time.

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Student Worksheet

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As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. When time ends, all _____, will be the righteous _____.
2. Those who love God are _____ as they wait for God to _____ Himself and His _____ to His people.
3. When God makes His judgments (His teachings) known on earth, there are two ways people respond. What are they?
4. What kind of sword will God use to kill Leviathan?
5. What four things can we learn for today from this Scripture?

Scripture Memory: “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.” Isaiah 26:3

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.