



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

# Short Study 082: The Great Invitation (Isaiah 55)

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**Read:** Isaiah 55.

**Introduction:** Isaiah Chapter 55 is like the appeal following the preaching of the Gospel. It follows on the great Suffering Servant passage of Chapters 52-53 and the good news of what He will do for His people to restore them to the blessings they once knew and the future blessings of Chapter 54. Now He invites them to come and receive His gracious offers.

**1. The Invitation** (vs 1-5). Salvation can be bought neither by money nor by doing good works, for it has already been *bought* for us (53:5-6). All are invited to *come*, and receive what is necessary for eternal life - food for the soul (see John 6:35). To what do each of the following refer? (Consult commentaries if you are unsure.)

- (i) *Waters* for the *thirsty*. (Psalm 42:1-2; John 4:14).
- (ii) *Wine* (Ps 104:15).
- (iii) *Milk* (1 Pet 2:2).
- (iv) *An everlasting\* covenant - the sure mercies of David*. (2 Sam 7:16); Acts 13:34).

Christ's call, "*Come to Me*" (Matt 11:28) would go out, not just to Israel, but to people of all races who did not as yet know of His existence. As it transpired, those from other nations came to Him more readily than did the Jews. As Isaiah prophesied in verse 5, they would *run* to Him. Has this been fulfilled since the coming of Christ?

**2. The exhortation** (vs 6-9). Those who hear God's invitation must take the opportunity to come when He is near. What does this imply? (Gen 6:3) When is the right time to come? (2 Cor 6:2)

**4. The effect of God's Word** (vs 11-13). What does rain teach us about the effect of God's word?

Two changes will take place in the one who receives God's Word:

- (i) A change of disposition (v12). When one is filled with joy, the world seems to be a better and happier place, as though nature itself is sharing one's joy. As the hymn writer G. Wade Robinson put it: "*Heaven above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green; Something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen: Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, Flowers with deeper beauties shine, Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.*" (Verse 2 of 'Loved with Everlasting Love.')
- (ii) A change of moral condition (v13). Unproductive and unpleasant lives (*thorns and briers*) will become fruitful and beautiful (*cypress and myrtle*). Such changed people will be *an everlasting sign* of God's grace and mercy.

**To think about:** Am I thirsty for more of God? Is my life an *everlasting sign* of God's grace and mercy?

**To dig deeper:** Read Isaiah 52:13 – 56:8 in its entirety noting the wider blessings on offer.