

The Saviour's Great Invitation to the World

Isaiah 55: 01–56:26

1. *The invitation*

to come to the LORD

- a. The people invited:
The thirsty and poor
- b. The offer: Salvation
 - 1) Water: Spiritual fullness
 - 2) Wine and milk: All needs met
- c. The price: Free
- d. The urgent plea
 - 1) Do not waste money and labour on things that do not satisfy
 - 2) Listen to the LORD:
Be filled with His nourishment
- e. The promise:
If you come to the LORD...
 - 1) You will live
 - 2) You will receive all the mercies and love promised to David,
2 Sam 7:11-17
- f. The agent of salvation:
The Saviour
 - 1) He is God's Witness,
Leader and Commander
 - 2) He is God's Witness who issues the call for the people (Gentile nations) to come
 - They will rush to Him
 - They will see Him glorified

- 1 "Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money
and without cost.
- 2 Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me,
and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
- 3 Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
- 4 See, I have made him
a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
- 5 Surely you will summon nations
you know not, and nations you do not know
will come running to you,
because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour."

2. *The invitation to seek the LORD*

- a. The danger: Waiting too late
- b. The person invited:
The wicked, evil person
 - 1) He must repent
 - Forsake his evil way
 - Turn to the LORD
 - 2) He will receive mercy
and forgiveness — freely
- c. The urgent need to seek
 - 1) God's thoughts and ways
are perfect, far beyond
our understanding
 - 2) God's thoughts and ways are
righteous, far higher than ours:
Ours are imperfect and wicked
- d. The way God calls the wicked:
By His Word Mt. 13:1-9, 18-33
 - 1) His Word is as powerful as rain
and snow that water the earth
and cause the grain to grow
 - 2) His Word will not return
empty: It will bear fruit,
accomplish God's purpose
- e. The results of seeking
the LORD
 - 1) The repentant sinner
will live in joy and peace
 - 2) The earth will be transformed
 - All nature will rejoice

- 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
- 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD,
and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
- 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.
- 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- 10 As the rain and the snow come down
from heaven, and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower
and bread for the eater,
- 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
- 12 You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song
before you, and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

- All thorns will be removed and all vegetation will become fruitful
- 3) The transformation will be for the purpose of honouring the LORD: Be a sign of His love and power

3. *The invitation to live righteously and to worship the LORD*

- a. The urgent plea of the LORD
- 1) Be just and righteous:
God's salvation and righteousness are both near
- 2) Keep the Sabbath:
Do not defile God's day by working or neglecting worship
- b. The persons invited — the foreigners and the eunuchs:
All who feel excluded from God's salvation and promises
- c. The assurance to eunuchs:
They will not be excluded
- 1) The conditions:
Must keep the Sabbath and live righteously
- 2) The promises
- Will be given a place before God and a name better than children
 - Will be given an everlasting name

- 13 Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

CHAPTER 56

- 1 This is what the LORD says:
"Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.
- 2 Blessed is the one who does this — the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil."
- 3 Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely exclude me from his people." And let no eunuch complain, "I am only a dry tree."
- 4 For this is what the LORD says:
"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant —
- 5 to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.

<p>d. The promises to foreigners (Gentiles): All unbelievers</p> <p>1) The condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be committed to the LORD, love and serve Him • Must worship the LORD and keep the Sabbath <p>2) The promises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be accepted in God's holy mountain (temple) • Will be given joy in worship • Will have their worship accepted • Will be accepted by God just as the Jews are accepted: A sworn oath by God 	<p>6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant —</p> <p>7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”</p> <p>8 The Sovereign LORD declares — he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”</p>
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