

April 15th, 2018
"Plans Formed of Old, Faithful
and Sure"

Focal Passage: Isaiah 25 (ESV)

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

April 15 1 Kings 8-9 April 19 1 Kings 18-20
April 16 1 Kings 10-11 April 20 1 Kings 21-22
April 17 1 Kings 12-14 April 21 2 Kings 1-3
April 18 1 Kings 15-17 April 22 2 Kings 4-5

Cross References: Acts 4:23-28, Acts 17:26, Ephesians 1:4-6, 2 Timothy 1:8-9, Revelation 13:8, 1 Peter 1:19-20, Philippians 2:10-11, Revelation 7:9, Ephesians 2:1-3, Luke 23:39-43, Acts 9:1-19, John 11:25, Psalm 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:2, John 11:25

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- The plans of God were established before the world existed (V. 1).
- The Lord converts wicked people into worshippers of Him (V. 2-5).
- Death has been defeated by Christ (V. 6-9).
- The Lord will lay low all who oppose Him (V. 10-12).

Lesson Idea: *God's plans to save sinners, defeat death, and judge the wicked are faithful and sure.*

Isaiah 25

1 O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the foreigners' palace is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

4 For you have been a stronghold to the poor,
a stronghold to the needy in his distress,

a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,

5 like heat in a dry place.
You subdue the noise of the foreigners;
as heat by the shade of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is put down.

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

7 And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

8 He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from
all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that
he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

10 For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain,
and Moab shall be trampled down in his place,
as straw is trampled down in a dunghill.

11 And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it
as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim,
but the Lord will lay low his pompous pride together
with the skill of his hands.

12 And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring
down,
lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.

DISCUSSION:

- **V. 1**
-What is the reason for the praise and exaltation of The Lord in this verse?

-What are the "plans formed of old" referred to here? (V. 2-12)

-What are some of the plans of God we see in Scripture that were set in place long before they came about? (**Acts 4:23-28, Acts 17:26, Ephesians 1:4-6, 2 Timothy 1:8-9**)

-How does knowledge of God's infinite wisdom bring you comfort and peace?

Note: *Often times we think of God as a reactionary being. We believe that our problems are something that He needs to react to, and we hope that He will be able to figure out a way to fix them. However, the Scriptures give a much different view of God. Simply put, He is never surprised or confounded. The death of Christ was planned out before the world existed (**Acts 4:27-28, Revelation 13:8, 1 Peter 1:19-20**). His grace and our salvation were planned before the ages (**2 Timothy 1:8-9, Ephesians 1:8-9**). Even the places we will live on this earth (and the amounts of time we will be there) have already been determined by His hand (**Acts 17:26**). In our chapter today, we see Isaiah praising the Lord, because he recognizes the beauty of His sovereignty. God has planned to cause wicked nations to glorify Him (**V.3**)! He has planned to swallow up death through Jesus (**V. 8**)! He has planned to judge the wicked justly (**V. 10-12**)! These things **will** come about by the work of His hand. What incredible freedom and comfort truths such as this offer.*

- **V. 2-5**

-What do these verses tell us about the makeup of the kingdom of God?

Note: *As we consider **V. 3** it should be pointed out that not all who praise and glorify God at the end of time will be a part of His kingdom. There is coming a day when "every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (**Philippians 2:10-11**). That will include everyone who has ever rejected Christ, and their acknowledgement of Him as Lord will come too late. However, it will also clearly include His children. Those children will be made up of people from "every nation, tribe and tongue" (**Revelation 7:9**). Thus, **V. 3** reminds us of the universal acknowledgement of Christ as Lord that is one day coming, while also reminding us that God has been gracious in saving even the most wicked of sinners, from the most wicked of places (**Ephesians 2:1-3**).*

-What are some examples in Scripture of Christ saving the most lowly of sinners? (**Luke 23:39-43, Acts 9:1-19**) Consider **Ephesians 2:1-3**, lest we think we are not included in this group of lowly sinners in need of grace.

- **V. 6-9**

-What is the "covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations"? (**Psalms 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23**)

Note: *The Scripture references listed above make it plain that man is sinful. Sin has been a dark cloud, or a veil, that has been over man since **Genesis 3**. Our hearts are wicked from birth. Because this is true, we have only death and separation from God to look forward to if we are living by our own power. Our passage today highlights the incredible work of God through Christ to bring about salvation to people who are incapable of bringing it about ourselves.*

-What is the location of the "mountain" referred to in these verses?

-What happened in Jerusalem that swallowed up death forever? How is it that we can have the hope of eternal life? (**Acts 4:27-28, John 11:25**)

-How does knowing that death has been swallowed up, and that one day every tear will be wiped away by our Lord change the way you live right now?

- **V. 10-12**

-What do these verses tell us about the future kingdom of God? How should these verses act as a warning to us?

Note: *There is coming a day when the proud and arrogant will be **trampled down (V. 10)**. In that day, Christ will reign and peace will abound. There will be no threats to be feared. Consider your life today. Are you confident that you are a child of God, saved by grace, and living in freedom from sin and death? If you have been living in pride, hoping in yourself to fix your problems, thinking that you can free yourself from sin, I pray that our passage this week will speak deeply into your heart. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you, and trust in nothing but Christ for your salvation.*