

April 22, 2018

“Song of God's Protection and Perfect Peace”

Isaiah 26

Lesson Passage: verses 1-15 (NIV)

Cross References: Psalm 63; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 40:31

Lesson Idea: Peace comes as we keep our minds steadfast on the Lord.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Feb 15 Numbers 8-10	Feb 16 Numbers 11-13
Feb 17 Numbers 14-15	Feb 18 Numbers 16-17
Feb 19 Numbers 18-20	Feb 20 Numbers 21-22
Feb 21 Numbers 23-25	Feb 22 Numbers 26-27

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

Key verse to memorize: Isaiah 26:3: *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.*

- We need to trust in the Lord, because He is our eternal Rock.
- God makes the paths of the righteous smooth.
- We need to yearn for the Lord and seek Him morning and night.
- We learn righteousness by observing the Lord's judgment and reading His Word.
- The Lord is the only one who can establish peace in our lives, and all the good in our lives has been accomplished by Him.

Isaiah 26

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

*We have a strong city;
God makes salvation
its walls and ramparts.*

*2 Open the gates
that the righteous nation may enter,
the nation that keeps faith.*

*3 You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.*

*4 Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.*

*5 He humbles those who dwell on high,
he lays the lofty city low;*

*he levels it to the ground
and casts it down to the dust.*

*6 Feet trample it down—
the feet of the oppressed,
the footsteps of the poor.*

*7 The path of the righteous is level;
you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth.*

*8 Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws,
we wait for you;*

*your name and renown
are the desire of our hearts.*

*9 My soul yearns for you in the night;
in the morning my spirit longs for you.*

*When your judgments come upon the earth,
the people of the world learn righteousness.*

*10 But when grace is shown to the wicked,
they do not learn righteousness;
even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil
and do not regard the majesty of the Lord.*

*11 Lord, your hand is lifted high,
but they do not see it.*

Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame;

let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them.

*12 Lord, you establish peace for us;
all that we have accomplished you have done for us.*

*13 Lord our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us,
but your name alone do we honor.*

*14 They are now dead, they live no more;
their spirits do not rise.*

*You punished them and brought them to ruin;
you wiped out all memory of them.*

*15 You have enlarged the nation, Lord;
you have enlarged the nation.*

*You have gained glory for yourself;
you have extended all the borders of the land.*

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. To what day is Isaiah referring? Why is it hard for God's people to wait on God's timing? Why is it important to learn to wait on the Lord? (see Isaiah 40:31)
- v 1-2. What makes a city strong? What does God desire to see in a city and a nation? How are you praying for your city and nation?
- V 3. How does God keep people in *perfect peace*? What is perfect peace? How do we keep our minds steadfast?

- V 4. What does it mean to *trust* in God? Why can we trust in Him?
- V 5-6. Why does God humble people? Why does he *lay the lofty city low*?
- V 7. What does it mean that the *path of the righteous is level*? How does God make *the way of the righteous smooth*? (see Proverbs 3:5-6)
- V 8. What do righteous people do? How does your desire for the Lord's name reflect the condition of your heart?
- V 9. What does your soul *yearn* for in the night? How do your mornings reflect what you long for? How do you learn righteousness from God's judgments? (see Psalm 63)
- V 10-11. Why do the wicked not learn righteousness and go on doing evil even when they are shown grace?
- V 12. What should our attitude be towards the Lord and all that we have? (see James 1:16-18)
- V 13-15. What will happen to all other rulers? Why?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How do you keep your mind steadfast on the Lord?
- ✓ How does your life reflect your desire for the Lord?
- ✓ How are you growing in righteousness?

Lesson by Bro Stan

NOTES from David Guzik, *Enduring Word Commentary*

V 1. **In that day:** The context from Isaiah 24 and 25 points to the day of the Messiah's ultimate triumph, the day when the Messiah reigns over Israel, and over all the world. **In that day**, there will be a lot of joyful singing, such as this **song that will be sung in the land of Judah**.

V 3-4. In Hebrew, the term **perfect peace** is actually *shalom shalom*. This shows how in Hebrew, repetition communicates intensity. It isn't just *shalom*; it is *shalom shalom*, **perfect peace**. . . .

Whose mind is stayed on You: This is the place of **perfect peace**, and the source of it. When we keep our minds **stayed** – settled upon, established upon – the Lord Himself, then we can be kept in this **perfect peace**.

To be kept in this **perfect peace**, it is a matter of our **mind**. This isn't so much a matter of our *spirit* or of our *soul* or of our *heart*. It is a matter of our **mind**. We are to love the Lord our God with all of our *mind* ([Matthew 22:37](#)). We are transformed by the *renewing of your mind* ([Romans 12:2](#)). We can have the *mind of Christ* ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#), [Philippians 2:5](#)). We are not to set our *mind on earthly things* ([Philippians 3:19](#)), but to *set our mind on things above* ([Colossians 3:2](#)). The Christian life is not an unthinking life of just *doing*, or *experiencing*, but it is also about *thinking*, and where we set our **mind** is essential in our walk before the Lord.

To be kept in this **perfect peace**, our mind must be **stayed**. The Hebrew word *sawmak* comes from the root "to prop," and has the idea "to lean upon or take hold of . . . bear up, establish, uphold, lay, lean, lie hard, put, rest self, set self, stand fast, stay (self), sustain." (Strong's Dictionary) In other places the same word is translated *sustained* ([Genesis 27:37](#), [Psalm 3:5](#)), or when the priest would put their hands on the head of a sacrificial animal ([Exodus 29:10, 15, 19](#)), or of the laying on of hands in other circumstances ([Numbers 27:18](#)), of being *upheld* ([Psalm 71:6](#)), to *stand fast* upon ([Psalm 111:8](#)), of being *established* ([Psalm 112:8](#)), of leaning upon ([Isaiah 36:6, 48:2](#)). So, what *sustains* your mind? What do you *lay your mind* upon? What *upholds* your mind? What does your mind *stand fast* upon? What is your mind *established* upon? What does your mind *lean* upon? To have this **perfect peace**, your mind cannot occasionally come to the Lord; it has to be **stayed on Him**.

To be kept in this **perfect peace**, our **mind** must be **stayed on the Lord**. If our mind is **stayed** on ourselves, or our problems, or the problem people in our lives, or on anything else, we can't have this **perfect peace**. This is the heart that says with the Apostle Paul, *that I may know Him* ([Philippians 3:10](#)). Satan loves to get our minds on *anything* except the Lord!

Because He trusts in You: This is another way of expressing the idea of keeping our minds **stayed on Him**. Almost always, you keep your mind **stayed on** whatever you are trusting. When we trust the Lord, we keep our mind **stayed on Him**.

[Proverbs 3:5](#) expresses this same idea: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding*. The word for *lean* in [Proverbs 3:5](#) comes from the same root as the word **stayed** in [Isaiah 26:3](#). When we *trust in the Lord*, we do not *lean on our own understanding*. To *lean on* the Lord is to trust Him. To be *sustained* by the Lord is to trust Him. To be *established* by the Lord is to trust Him. To *upheld* by the Lord is to trust Him. The battle for trust in our lives *begins* in our minds. If we trust the Lord, it will show in our *actions*, but it will *begin* in our mind.

Trust in the Lord forever: Because of the promise of [Isaiah 26:3](#), we are exhorted to **trust in the Lord forever** – and

therefore to receive the blessing of the promise, **perfect peace!**