

September 11, 2016

Adult Bible Study Online

A current connection to each week's session

2. The Mountain of God

Isaiah 25:6-10a

The Sovereignty of God: A Call to Partner with God in the Work of Restoration, Recreation, and Resurrection”

The song of Isaiah 25 presents two major realities of the world at that time. On one hand, this prophetic poetry describes the ruthlessness of powerful nations—like powerful and devastating hurricanes that crush against anything that stands before them. The powerful nations were like a scorching sun in the desert that burns everything into dryness and agonizing thirst. On the other hand, the song describes the humble, the poor, the needy, and the God-fearing community as the ones for whom the LORD cares. In Yahweh, these people found shelter and refuge from the raging destruction of the proud, arrogant, and inhumane superpowers (vv. 4-5).

I am awestruck by the prophet's submission to the spirit of God and his ability to see beyond his distressful situation. He was imaginatively transported into a distant future reality. He praised God for a future certainty of God's victorious triumph and just judgment over the oppressive powers. He opened his imaginative eyes and saw people of all nations partying on the top of Yahweh's mountain. He foresaw the multinational gathering eating and drinking from the bountiful foods and drinks prepared by the LORD of hosts.

In his vivid vision of the future, the inspired poet also came to terms with what the suffering nations will do under Yahweh's absolute rule. He penned an imaginative song that depicted the faith community boasting in the LORD. He imagined them enthusiastically proclaiming, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation” (v. 9). I truly think that the first readers of this song could not help but do everything in their power to be part of the faith community that waits for Yahweh's salvation.

Finally, I think the song's announcement of the ultimate annihilation of death (the worst enemy of humankind) and the final humiliation of pride and arrogance of systems and powers (like Moab) would have kindled an unceasing fire of hope in the hearts of believers. This song would have been a source of an empowering energy for Isaiah and his people to mentally travel into the future and forget their present misery for a while.

The most frequent question I hear when it comes to current and global realities is, “Where is the good God while evil triumphs over good?” I think Isaiah 25 answers this question by calling us to partner with Yahweh in the work of restoration, re-creation, and resurrection. This song is extremely relevant to the current church now more than ever. After all, we have the privilege of

reading this song in light of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also know that we are to experience the same resurrection in due time.

Isaiah 25 unwaveringly underlines the message that Yahweh is a sovereign God who is at work in restoring, recreating, and resurrecting people of all nations. The best way to apply this song in our daily lives with enthusiasm and passion is to imitate the life and ministry of Jesus and his faithful servants after him. Yes, this song empowers us to march through the dark tunnel of current depressive realities, arming us with the hope of the certainty of the light, restoration, and resurrection at the end of the tunnel.

—Fanosie Legesse

fanosielegesse@yahoo.ca