

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 26 — A Song of Trust in the Lord

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 26 is a song of:

Trust.

Peace.

Righteousness.

Waiting.

Resurrection.

Protection.

Judgment.

It continues the great section of Isaiah that looks beyond immediate national crises toward the larger purposes of God.

Isaiah 24 showed:

The earth shaken.

Isaiah 25 showed:

Death swallowed up forever.

Isaiah 26 now shows:

The people of God singing.

They rejoice because salvation itself has become their defense.

The chapter begins:

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

This is significant.

The city is secure not merely because of:

Stone.

Weapons.

Military strength.

But because:

God saves.

The song then gives one of the best-known promises in Isaiah:

“You will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is fixed on You, because he trusts in You.”

Peace is connected to:

A steadfast mind.

A trusting heart.

A fixed focus on God.

The chapter then declares:

“Trust in the Lord forever.”

Why?

Because:

“The Lord Himself is the Rock eternal.”

Human cities rise and fall.

Human rulers come and go.

Human security weakens.

But God remains:

The eternal Rock.

Isaiah then contrasts:

The proud.

And:

The righteous.

The proud city is brought:

Down.

The oppressed eventually walk:

Over its ruins.

The righteous, by contrast, walk a path God makes:

Level.

Smooth.

Secure.

The faithful wait for God.

They desire:

His name.

His remembrance.

His presence.

They seek Him:

At night.

In the morning.

The chapter also makes an important distinction between:

Grace.

And:

Repentance.

Grace can be shown to the wicked, yet they may still refuse:

Righteousness.

God's kindness does not automatically transform someone who refuses to turn.

Later, Isaiah looks back at Israel's failures and admits:

Other lords have ruled us.

Yet now:

God alone is honored.

Then comes a painful confession.

Israel labored.

Struggled.

Suffered.

But produced:

Wind.

They could not bring salvation to the earth through their own strength.

Then the chapter suddenly rises to magnificent hope:

“But Your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise.”

Those dwelling in the dust are told:

Awake.

Shout for joy.

This is one of the clearest Old Testament expressions of resurrection hope.

Finally, God tells His people:

Enter your rooms.

Shut the doors.

Hide for a little while.

Judgment is coming upon the earth.

But God distinguishes:

His people.

From:

The wicked.

The chapter ends with the Lord coming to punish sin and expose innocent blood that had been hidden.

The central truth of Isaiah 26 is:

Those who trust in the Lord find perfect peace in the eternal Rock, walk the path of righteousness, wait for Him with longing, acknowledge that salvation cannot be produced by human strength, rest in the promise of resurrection, and find refuge in God while His righteous judgment exposes and punishes sin.

I. SALVATION BECOMES THE WALL OF GOD’S CITY

Isaiah 26:1 — A Strong City

“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.’”

The people sing about:

Security.

But the source of that security is:

God's salvation.

The imagery of:

Walls.

Ramparts.

Defenses.

All points toward one truth:

God Himself protects His people through His saving power.

Cross References

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a dependable and present source of help when trouble comes.

Psalm 48:12

God's people are encouraged to walk around Zion, observe its defenses, and remember the security associated with God's presence.

Revelation 21:2

John sees the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God, prepared beautifully like a bride for her husband.

Spiritual Principle

The strongest defense is not what surrounds us.

It is:

Who saves us.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A city is truly secure when salvation, not human strength, is its wall.

II. THE GATES OPEN FOR THE FAITHFUL

Isaiah 26:2 — The Righteous Nation Enters

“Open the gates, so that the righteous nation, the one that remains faithful, may enter in.”

The gates are not opened randomly.

Those entering are described as:

Righteous.

Faithful.

The emphasis is not on sinless perfection but on covenant faithfulness and belonging to God.

Cross References

Psalms 118:19

The worshiper asks for the gates of righteousness to be opened so he may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

Psalms 24:7

The gates are called to lift themselves so the glorious King may enter.

Revelation 21:27

Nothing unclean or false will enter the holy city; only those whose names belong to the Lamb are admitted.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom is characterized by:

Truth.

Faithfulness.

Holiness.

III. GOD KEEPS THE TRUSTING MIND IN PERFECT PEACE

Isaiah 26:3 — Peace Through Trust

“You will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is fixed on You, because he trusts in You.”

This verse links:

Mind.

Trust.

Peace.

The mind is:

Fixed.

Steady.

Anchored.

On:

God.

And the result is:

Peace.

Cross References

Philippians 4:7

God's peace surpasses ordinary human understanding and guards the hearts and minds of believers in Christ Jesus.

John 14:27

Jesus gives His followers a peace unlike the peace the world gives and tells them not to let their hearts remain troubled or afraid.

Psalms 112:7

The righteous person does not live in terror of bad news because the heart is steadfast and trusts in the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Peace grows where trust stabilizes the mind.

Key Truth

The mind fixed on circumstances will rise and fall with circumstances.

The mind fixed on God has a deeper anchor.

IV. THE LORD IS THE ETERNAL ROCK

Isaiah 26:4 — Trust Forever

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal.”

The command is:

Trust.

The duration is:

Forever.

The reason is:

God's character.

He is:

The Rock eternal.

Not temporary.

Not unstable.

Not changing.

Cross References

Psalm 62:8

God's people are told to trust Him at all times, pour out their hearts before Him, and recognize Him as their refuge.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart rather than depending entirely upon your own understanding.

Isaiah 40:31

Those who wait for the Lord receive renewed strength and endurance beyond their own natural ability.

Spiritual Principle

Eternal trust requires an eternal foundation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can trust forever only if the One you trust lasts forever.

V. GOD BRINGS DOWN THE LOFTY CITY

Isaiah 26:5 — Pride Reduced to Dust

“He brings down those who live on high; the lofty city He lays low. He levels it to the ground and casts it to the dust.”

The movement is:

High.

Down.

Ground.

Dust.

God confronts:

Pride.

Arrogance.

Self-exaltation.

Cross References

Isaiah 2:12

The day of the Lord comes against everything proud and exalted so that human arrogance is brought low.

Luke 1:52

God brings powerful rulers down from their thrones and lifts up the humble.

Obadiah 1:3

Pride deceives those who live securely in high places and assume no one can bring them down.

Spiritual Principle

Pride builds upward.

God can bring it to dust.

VI. THE OPPRESSED WALK OVER THE RUINS

Isaiah 26:6 — The Poor Are Lifted

“The feet of the oppressed will trample it down, the footsteps of the poor.”

This is reversal.

Those once:

Oppressed.

Ignored.

Weak.

Now walk over the ruins of proud power.

Cross References

Isaiah 66:5

Those rejected and mocked for faithfulness to God are promised that the Lord will appear for their joy while putting their enemies to shame.

Psalms 147:6

The Lord lifts up the humble and brings the wicked down.

Luke 14:11

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, while the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Spiritual Principle

God sees the poor whom proud systems overlook.

VII. GOD MAKES THE PATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS LEVEL

Isaiah 26:7 — The Upright One Leads

**“The path of the righteous is level; You, O Upright One, make the way of the
righteous smooth.”**

God is called:

The Upright One.

He makes the path:

Level.

This does not mean:

Easy.

Pain-free.

Obstacle-free.

It means:

Directed.

Made right.

Guided.

Cross References

Proverbs 4:18

The path of the righteous grows brighter and clearer like morning light moving toward full day.

Psalms 37:23

The Lord establishes the steps of a person whose way pleases Him and directs the path.

Proverbs 15:19

The way of the lazy is obstructed like a thorn hedge, while the path of the upright is made clear.

Spiritual Principle

God does not promise a life without difficulty.

He promises direction for the righteous.

VIII. THE RIGHTEOUS WAIT FOR GOD

Isaiah 26:8 — God’s Name Is Their Desire

“Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your judgments, we wait for You; Your name and Your remembrance are the desire of our soul.”

The righteous do more than:

Obey.

They:

Wait.

Desire.

Remember.

Long for:

God.

Cross References

Psalms 130:5

The psalmist waits for the Lord with deep expectation and places hope in His Word.

Lamentations 3:25

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him and to the person who sincerely seeks Him.

Psalms 27:14

God’s people are told to wait for the Lord, remain strong, take courage, and continue waiting on Him.

Spiritual Principle

True faith does not merely want:

God’s gifts.

It wants:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mature soul does not only say:

“Give me.”

It also says:

“I wait for You.”

IX. THE SOUL SEEKS GOD DAY AND NIGHT

Isaiah 26:9 — Longing for the Lord

“My soul yearns for You in the night; in the morning my spirit seeks You. For when Your judgments come to the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.”

Isaiah seeks God:

At night.

In the morning.

The longing is:

Continuous.

Then Isaiah connects God’s judgments with:

Instruction.

The world learns:

Righteousness.

Cross References

Psalm 63:1

The psalmist earnestly seeks God with a thirsty soul and longing heart in a dry and weary land.

Psalm 119:62

At midnight the psalmist rises to thank God because of His righteous judgments.

Psalm 119:71

The psalmist recognizes that affliction became useful because through it he learned God’s statutes.

Spiritual Principle

Some lessons are learned most clearly through discipline.

X. THE WICKED CAN RECEIVE GRACE AND STILL REFUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 26:10 — Mercy Rejected

“Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness. Even in a land of uprightness, they act wickedly and do not see the majesty of the Lord.”

This verse is sobering.

Grace is:

Shown.

But:

Not received rightly.

Kindness alone does not force:

Repentance.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 8:11

When judgment against wrongdoing seems delayed, people may become more determined to continue in evil.

Psalms 106:43

God repeatedly delivered His people, yet they continued in rebellious plans and sank lower through their own sin.

Romans 2:4

God’s kindness, patience, and restraint are intended to lead people toward repentance rather than become excuses for continued sin.

Spiritual Principle

Grace is not permission to remain unchanged.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mercy becomes spiritually dangerous when it is interpreted as approval of rebellion.

XI. SOME REFUSE TO SEE GOD’S HAND

Isaiah 26:11 — Blindness Before Judgment

“O Lord, Your hand is lifted high, yet they do not see it. But they will see and be put to shame—their envy toward Your people consumed; yes, the fire reserved for Your enemies will devour them.”

God’s hand is:

Visible.

Active.

Yet some:

Refuse to see.

This is not merely lack of information.

It is:

Spiritual resistance.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:12

People feast and celebrate while failing to pay attention to the Lord’s works or recognize what His hands are doing.

Psalms 28:5

Because people refuse to consider the works of the Lord and what His hands have done, judgment comes upon them.

John 12:37

Although Jesus performed many signs before people, many still refused to believe in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Evidence does not automatically overcome a resistant heart.

XII. GOD ESTABLISHES PEACE FOR HIS PEOPLE

Isaiah 26:12 — God Is Behind Every True Accomplishment

“Lord, You establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished, You have done for us.”

This verse combines:

Peace.

Humility.

Gratitude.

Whatever good has been accomplished:

God ultimately enabled it.

Cross References

Numbers 6:26

The priestly blessing asks the Lord to look graciously upon His people and give them peace.

Psalms 29:11

The Lord gives strength to His people and blesses them with peace.

Philippians 2:13

God is at work within believers, producing both the desire and the ability to carry out what pleases Him.

Spiritual Principle

Grace destroys boasting because even our faithful work depends upon God's enabling.

Key Truth

We work.

But God deserves the glory for what is truly accomplished.

XIII. OTHER LORDS ONCE RULED THEM

Isaiah 26:13 — God Alone Receives Honor

“Lord our God, other lords besides You have ruled over us, but Your name alone we honor.”

Israel had experienced:

Foreign domination.

Idolatrous influence.

Political oppression.

Yet now:

God's name alone.

Cross References

Judges 10:6

Israel repeatedly abandoned the Lord and served foreign gods, bringing oppression upon themselves.

1 Samuel 12:10

Israel confessed that they had sinned by abandoning the Lord and serving false gods, then cried out for deliverance.

Hosea 13:4

God reminds Israel that He alone is their God and Savior and that they should recognize no other true deliverer.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance should restore exclusive allegiance to God.

XIV. THE TYRANTS WHO RULED THEM ARE GONE

Isaiah 26:14 — Their Memory Wiped Away

**“The dead are now dead; they will not live. Their spirits are gone; they will not rise.
You punished them and wiped out their memory.”**

In context, this contrasts:

Defeated oppressive rulers.

With:

God's people.

Verse 19 will speak of:

God's dead rising.

So verse 14 should not be treated as a denial of all resurrection.

It describes the end of those rulers' earthly dominion and memorial power.

Cross References

Psalm 88:10

The psalmist asks whether ordinary human death allows the dead to rise in order to continue praising God within present earthly life.

Psalm 115:17

Those who descend into the silence of death no longer participate in ordinary earthly praise as living people do.

Job 7:9

Job compares death to a cloud disappearing and speaks from the perspective of ordinary earthly life, where the dead do not return to their former homes.

Spiritual Principle

Human rulers can appear permanent while living and quickly disappear from history.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Verse 14 describes the removal of oppressive powers; verse 19 reveals that God's resurrection power has the final word over His own people.

XV. GOD ENLARGES THE NATION

Isaiah 26:15 — God Receives Glory

“You have enlarged the nation, O Lord; You have enlarged the nation. You are glorified; You have extended all its borders.”

The repetition emphasizes:

God's work.

God enlarges.

God receives:

Glory.

Cross References

Genesis 12:2

God promised Abraham that He would make him into a great nation, bless him, make his name significant, and make him a blessing.

Isaiah 54:2

God's restored people are told to enlarge their tent, stretch out its curtains, and prepare for expansion.

Deuteronomy 26:5

Israel remembers beginning as a small wandering family before God multiplied them into a large and powerful people.

Spiritual Principle

True growth should increase:

God's glory.

Not:

Human pride.

XVI. DISTRESS DRIVES THE PEOPLE TO PRAYER

Isaiah 26:16 — Discipline Awakens Prayer

“Lord, in distress they sought You; they poured out a prayer when You disciplined them.”

Trouble accomplishes what ease often does not.

The people:

Seek God.

Pray.

Cry out.

Cross References

Psalms 50:15

God invites His people to call upon Him in the day of trouble, promising deliverance that should result in His glory.

Hosea 5:15

God withdraws until His people acknowledge their guilt and seek Him earnestly in their distress.

Jonah 2:2

Jonah says that in deep distress he called to the Lord and God heard his cry.

Spiritual Principle

Pain can awaken prayer.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If trouble drives you toward God, do not waste the trouble.

XVII. ISRAEL SUFFERS LIKE A WOMAN IN LABOR

Isaiah 26:17 — Pain Before Deliverance

**“As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in pain, so were we in
Your presence, O Lord.”**

The nation experienced:

Pressure.

Pain.

Expectation.

They hoped suffering would produce:

Deliverance.

Cross References

John 16:21

Jesus compares sorrow to a woman in labor whose pain gives way to joy when the child is born.

Micah 4:10

Zion is told to writhe in labor because suffering will come before eventual deliverance and restoration.

Romans 8:22

Paul says all creation groans and suffers together like a woman in labor while waiting for redemption.

Spiritual Principle

Pain can be real even when hope remains.

XVIII. HUMAN EFFORT PRODUCED ONLY WIND

Isaiah 26:18 — Israel Could Not Save the World

“We were with child, we writhed in pain, but we gave birth only to wind. We have not brought deliverance to the earth, and the people of the world have not fallen.”

This is a confession of:

Failure.

Helplessness.

Israel could not produce:

World salvation.

Final victory.

Through human effort.

Their labor resulted in:

Wind.

Cross References

Psalm 74:9

In a season of crisis, God’s people lament that visible signs and prophetic guidance seem absent and they do not know how long suffering will continue.

Jeremiah 51:9

Those attempting to heal Babylon finally admit that it cannot be healed and must be abandoned to judgment.

Job 15:35

Job’s friend uses the image of conceiving trouble and giving birth to emptiness or deceit.

Spiritual Principle

Human effort cannot accomplish the salvation only God can provide.

Key Truth

We can labor intensely and still fail when attempting to perform God’s role.

XIX. GOD PROMISES RESURRECTION

Isaiah 26:19 — The Dead Will Rise

“But Your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise. Let those who dwell in the dust awake and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.”

This is the great hope of the chapter.

Notice the contrast:

Verse 18:

Human effort produces:

Wind.

Verse 19:

God produces:

Life from death.

Those in:

Dust.

Will:

Awake.

Those silent in death will:

Shout for joy.

Cross References

Daniel 12:2

Daniel says that multitudes sleeping in the dust of the earth will awaken, some to everlasting life and others to judgment.

1 Corinthians 15:52

At the final trumpet, the dead will be raised imperishable and believers will be transformed.

John 5:28

Jesus says a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out.

Spiritual Principle

Resurrection is not human achievement.

It is:

Divine power.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who made man from dust can call man out of dust.

XX. GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO SHELTER

Isaiah 26:20 — Hide for a Little While

“Go, My people, enter your rooms and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by.”

The language recalls:

Protection during judgment.

God distinguishes:

His people.

He tells them:

Enter.

Shut.

Hide.

Wait.

Notice:

“For a little while.”

Wrath is:

Limited in duration.

Cross References

Exodus 12:22

During the Passover judgment, Israelite families were told to remain inside their houses under the protection God had provided until morning.

Zephaniah 2:3

The humble are called to seek the Lord, righteousness, and humility in the hope of finding shelter in the day of His anger.

Psalms 57:1

The psalmist asks God for mercy and takes refuge beneath the shadow of His wings until destructive danger passes.

Spiritual Principle

God knows how to preserve His people through periods of judgment.

Key Truth

God's wrath is not uncontrolled chaos.

He knows:

His people.

Their refuge.

The duration.

XXI. THE LORD COMES TO JUDGE THE EARTH

Isaiah 26:21 — Hidden Blood Will Be Revealed

“See, the Lord is coming out of His dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will reveal the blood shed on it; it will no longer cover up its slain.”

The final verse is about:

Justice.

Bloodshed had been:

Hidden.

Covered.

Ignored.

But not:

Forgotten.

God comes to:

Expose.

Judge.

Vindicate.

Cross References

Micah 1:3

The Lord is pictured coming out from His holy dwelling and descending in judgment upon the earth.

Genesis 4:10

God tells Cain that Abel's blood cries out from the ground, showing that concealed murder remains fully known to God.

Jude 1:14

Jude recalls the prophecy that the Lord comes with His holy ones to execute judgment upon ungodliness.

Spiritual Principle

Hidden injustice is not hidden from God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The ground may cover blood for a season.

God does not forget whose blood it is.

XXII. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 26

1. Salvation Is the Strongest Wall

Principle:

God's protection is greater than human fortification.

2. Perfect Peace Comes Through Trust

Principle:

A steadfast mind rests because it is anchored in a trustworthy God.

3. God Is the Eternal Rock

Principle:

Everything temporary should rest upon the One who is eternal.

4. Pride Is Brought Low

Principle:

No lofty city can remain above God forever.

5. The Righteous Desire God Himself

Principle:

Mature faith wants more than blessings; it wants the Lord.

6. Grace Must Lead to Repentance

Principle:

Mercy rejected does not become righteousness.

7. Every Good Accomplishment Ultimately Comes Through God

Principle:

Grace leaves no room for self-glory.

8. Human Strength Cannot Produce Final Salvation

Principle:

We cannot give birth to redemption through human effort.

9. Resurrection Hope Is Certain

Principle:

God's people will rise from the dust.

10. God Protects His Own During Judgment

Principle:

Divine judgment never means divine confusion about who belongs to Him.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Peace is connected to:

Focus.

Trust.

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Peace does not begin with control of circumstances.

It begins with confidence in God.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT THE MIND

The mind can be:

Scattered.

Fearful.

Obsessed.

Or:

Fixed.

Spiritual Principle

What continually occupies the mind eventually shapes the emotional life.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT TRUST

Trust is not:

A moment.

The command is:

“Trust in the Lord forever.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith is not only trusting God for this crisis.

It is choosing Him as the permanent foundation of life.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS ROCK

Rock communicates:

Strength.

Stability.

Permanence.

Spiritual Principle

God does not shift beneath those who stand on Him.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT WAITING

The faithful say:

“We wait for You.”

Waiting is active:

Trust.

Expectation.

Longing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting on God is not inactivity.

It is loyalty during delay.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT SPIRITUAL DESIRE

The soul wants:

God's name.

God's remembrance.

God's presence.

Spiritual Principle

Your deepest desire reveals your deepest worship.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT GRACE

Grace is shown to:

The wicked.

Yet some remain:

Wicked.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace offered does not eliminate the responsibility to repent.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S WORK IN US

Isaiah says:

“All that we have accomplished, You have done for us.”

This is not passivity.

It is:

Humility.

Spiritual Principle

The believer works while acknowledging that God is the ultimate source of strength and fruitfulness.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT OTHER LORDS

Other rulers can:

Dominate.

Oppress.

Control temporarily.

But only God deserves:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Temporary authority must never receive eternal allegiance.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT FAILURE

Israel admits:

We labored.

But produced:

Wind.

This is important.

Faith includes honest confession of:

Failure.

Spiritual Principle

You are not spiritually mature because you never fail.

You are mature when failure drives you back to God.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT RESURRECTION

Verse 19 is unmistakably hopeful.

The dead:

Live.

Bodies:

Rise.

Dust-dwellers:

Awake.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christian hope is not merely immortality of the soul.

It includes resurrection.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 26 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

God comes to:

Punish sin.

Expose bloodshed.

Reveal hidden evil.

Spiritual Principle

Justice delayed is not justice forgotten.

XXXV. PERFECT PEACE

The phrase expresses:

Complete.

Deep.

Steady peace.

Not necessarily:

A painless life.

But:

A heart held by God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Perfect peace does not mean perfect circumstances.

It means a perfect object of trust.

XXXVI. FIXED ON YOU

The mind has a target.

Isaiah says:

Fix it on:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Peace weakens when the mind continually circles around fear instead of God.

XXXVII. TRUST FOREVER

Forever means:

Good days.

Bad days.

Youth.

Age.

Health.

Illness.

Life.

Death.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The eternal Rock deserves lifelong trust.

XXXVIII. THE PATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The path is:

Made smooth.

God directs.

Spiritual Principle

God may not show every mile in advance.

He directs the next faithful step.

XXXIX. NIGHT AND MORNING SEEKING

Isaiah seeks God:

At night.

At dawn.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The soul that seeks God only during convenient hours has not yet learned deep dependence.

XL. GRACE WITHOUT REPENTANCE

God's grace is not:

Endorsement.

Tolerance of evil forever.

Spiritual Principle

Kindness should soften the heart, not harden it.

XLI. ALL WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

This statement destroys:

Pride.

Boasting.

Self-sufficiency.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do your best work.

Then give God the glory.

XLII. OTHER LORDS

Israel remembered:

Oppressors.

Foreign rulers.

False gods.

But now:

God alone.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance should produce purified allegiance.

XLIII. LABOR PAINS WITHOUT BIRTH

This is a tragic picture.

Pain.

Effort.

No result.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Intensity does not guarantee spiritual effectiveness.

XLIV. THE EARTH GIVES BIRTH TO THE DEAD

The image reverses:

Verse 18.

Israel could not give birth to:

Deliverance.

But God causes the earth to give birth to:

The dead.

Spiritual Principle

What humanity cannot produce, God can create by His power.

XLV. RESURRECTION JOY

The dead do not merely:

Rise.

They are told:

Shout for joy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Resurrection is not merely survival.

It is victory worth celebrating.

XLVI. ENTER YOUR ROOMS

God's people are told:

Take shelter.

This does not teach cowardice.

It teaches:

Trusting obedience.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes faith stands.

Sometimes faith waits behind a closed door.

Both can be obedience.

XLVII. “FOR A LITTLE WHILE”

Judgment has:

A limit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse a temporary season of wrath with the eternal destiny of God's redeemed people.

XLVIII. THE BLOOD WILL BE REVEALED

Violence may be:

Hidden.

Denied.

Covered up.

God knows.

Spiritual Principle

There are no permanently cold cases in God's courtroom.

XLIX. SIX GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 26

1. Strong City → Salvation as Its Wall

2. Lofty City → Dust

3. Wicked Grace-Resisters → Faithful Waiters

4. Other Lords → The Lord Alone

5. Human Labor → Wind

6. Dust → Resurrection

Key Truth

Human pride, power, and effort fail, but trust in the eternal Rock leads to peace, salvation, resurrection, and lasting hope.

L. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What makes the city strong in verse 1?

God's salvation.

Question 2

Who enters through the gates?

The righteous nation that remains faithful.

Question 3

Who receives perfect peace?

The one whose mind is fixed on God because that person trusts Him.

Question 4

Why should we trust God forever?

Because He is the eternal Rock.

Question 5

What happens to the lofty city?

God brings it down to the dust.

Question 6

Who eventually walks over its ruins?

The oppressed and poor.

Question 7

What do the righteous desire?

God's name and remembrance.

Question 8

When does Isaiah seek God?

At night and in the morning.

Question 9

Does grace automatically change the wicked?

No.

Some receive grace yet still refuse righteousness.

Question 10

Who establishes peace for God's people?

The Lord.

Question 11

Who deserves glory for righteous accomplishments?

God, because He works through His people.

Question 12

What does Israel confess about other rulers?

Other lords ruled over them, but God alone deserves honor.

Question 13

What happened to Israel's human attempts to bring deliverance?

They produced only wind.

Question 14

What hope does verse 19 give?

God's dead will live and their bodies will rise.

Question 15

What are those in the dust told to do?

Awake and shout for joy.

Question 16

What does God tell His people to do during judgment?

Enter their rooms, shut the doors, and wait until wrath passes.

Question 17

What will happen to hidden bloodshed?

The earth will reveal it.

Question 18

What is the major message of the chapter?

Trust the eternal Rock, wait for Him, depend upon His salvation, and hope in resurrection.

LI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 26 asks several searching questions.

Where Is My Mind Fixed?

On:

Fear?

News?

Money?

Health?

People?

Or:

God?

Do I Have Peace Because I Trust God?

Or do I require circumstances to cooperate before I can rest?

What Am I Treating as My Rock?

Career?

Savings?

Family?

Government?

My own ability?

Do I Wait for God?

Or do I become impatient and force my own solutions?

Is God Himself the Desire of My Soul?

Or do I mainly want:

What He can give me?

Have I Mistaken Grace for Approval?

Is there an area where God's patience should be leading me to repentance?

Do I Give God Credit for What Has Been Accomplished?

Or do I secretly believe:

I did this?

What Other Lord Has Ruled Me?

Fear?

Money?

Approval?

Addiction?

Ambition?

Am I Trying to Produce Through Human effort What Only God Can Do?

Where am I giving birth to:

Wind?

Do I Really Believe in Resurrection?

Does the grave shape my thinking more than God's promise?

Can I Wait Behind the Door When God Says:

Hide for a little while?

Do I Believe God Will Expose Hidden Injustice?

Can I leave final justice in His hands?

LII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Perfect Peace Comes from a Fixed Mind Resting on an Eternal Rock”

Peace does not come because:

Nothing is wrong.

It comes because:

God is still God.

Principle:

The more firmly the mind rests upon God's unchanging character, the less power changing circumstances have to control the heart.

LIII. THE STRONG CITY

Human cities build:

Walls.

God's city is defended by:

Salvation.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest wall is what God has done to save.

LIV. THE OPEN GATES

Gates once used for:

Defense.

Now open for:

The faithful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's salvation creates both security and welcome.

LV. THE ETERNAL ROCK

Everything else ages.

God does not.

Spiritual Principle

Build eternity on eternity.

LVI. THE PROUD CITY IN THE DUST

Pride begins:

High.

Ends:

Low.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Humility bows voluntarily.

Pride eventually bows through judgment.

LVII. THE DESIRE OF THE SOUL

What do you want:

Most?

Isaiah says:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual health can often be measured by what the soul longs for when no one is watching.

LVIII. SEEKING GOD IN THE NIGHT

Night can mean:

Literal night.

Fear.

Grief.

Uncertainty.

Isaiah says:

Seek Him there.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If you learn to seek God in the night, darkness loses some of its power.

LIX. JUDGMENT TEACHES RIGHTEOUSNESS

Some lessons are ignored during:

Comfort.

But learned during:

Consequences.

Spiritual Principle

God can use judgment as moral instruction.

LX. THE WICKED WHO WILL NOT LEARN

Grace appears.

They still refuse.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not waste the kindness of God by using it to postpone repentance.

LXI. PEACE ESTABLISHED BY GOD

Peace is not ultimately:

Manufactured.

It is:

Established.

Spiritual Principle

God is the source of the deepest peace He commands us to enjoy.

LXII. THE GOD WHO WORKS THROUGH US

Isaiah gives God credit for:

Accomplishment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace does not make work unnecessary.

It makes boasting unnecessary.

LXIII. THE FAILURE OF HUMAN SALVATION

Israel admits:

We could not deliver the world.

This prepares for:

God's salvation.

Spiritual Principle

Admitting inability is often the doorway to trusting divine sufficiency.

LXIV. THE RESURRECTION PROMISE

The dust is not:

Final.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God knows every person sleeping in the dust, and death cannot hide them from His voice.

LXV. PROTECTED DURING WRATH

The people are told:

Hide.

For:

A little while.

Spiritual Principle

God's people are never forgotten inside His judgments.

LXVI. JUSTICE FOR SHED BLOOD

God does not ignore:

Victims.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Blood buried by men remains evidence before God.

LXVII. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 26

1. Salvation

God becomes the wall.

2. Peace

The trusting mind rests.

3. Humbling

The proud city falls.

4. Waiting

The righteous seek God.

5. Confession

Human effort cannot save.

6. Resurrection

The dead rise.

7. Protection and Judgment

God shelters His people and exposes sin.

Key Truth

The eternal Rock gives peace to the trusting, direction to the righteous, resurrection to the dead, refuge to His people, and justice against sin.

LXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 26 is a chapter for:

Anxious minds.

Waiting hearts.

Tired believers.

Grieving families.

People wondering whether:

God still sees.

God still acts.

God still saves.

The chapter begins with:

A strong city.

But the strength is not:

Concrete.

Weapons.

Money.

Military power.

The wall is:

Salvation.

Then comes the promise:

“You will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is fixed on You, because he trusts in You.”

That verse does not say:

God will give perfect circumstances.

It says:

Perfect peace.

There is a difference.

You may have:

Trouble.

And:

Peace.

Questions.

And:

Peace.

Grief.

And:

Peace.

Uncertainty.

And:

Peace.

How?

The mind is fixed on:

God.

Then Isaiah says:

“Trust in the Lord forever.”

Not:

Until the crisis ends.

Not:

Until the diagnosis changes.

Not:

Until the money runs out.

Not:

Until people disappoint you.

Forever.

Why?

Because God is:

The eternal Rock.

Then the chapter becomes deeply personal.

The righteous say:

“We wait for You.”

Waiting is hard.

But waiting becomes bearable when we know:

Who we are waiting for.

Then Isaiah confesses something important.

Israel had:

Worked.

Struggled.

Suffered.

But could not produce:

Salvation.

They gave birth to:

Wind.

That is what happens whenever human beings try to do what only God can do.

But then:

Verse 19.

“Your dead will live.”

That changes everything.

Humanity cannot defeat:

Death.

God can.

The grave says:

Finished.

God says:

Rise.

The dust says:

Gone.

God says:

Awake.

The mourner says:

Death won.

God says:

Not forever.

That is resurrection hope.

Finally, God tells His people:

Hide for a little while.

There are times when faith means:

Advancing.

There are times when faith means:

Waiting.

There are times when faith means:

Closing the door.

Trusting God.

Letting the storm pass.

And the chapter ends with justice.

The earth reveals:

Bloodshed.

No murder is:

Forgotten.

No injustice is:

Permanently buried.

God sees.

God knows.

God judges.

Therefore:

Fix your mind on God.

Trust the Rock.

Wait for Him.

Seek Him at night.

Seek Him in the morning.

Do not waste His grace.

Give Him glory for your accomplishments.

Do not try to save the world through human strength.

Believe His resurrection promise.

And when He says:

Hide for a little while—

Trust Him behind the closed door.

Because:

The Rock remains.

The dead will rise.

Justice will come.

And those who trust the Lord will not have trusted Him in vain.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are our eternal Rock.

Thank You that You are:

Steady.

Faithful.

Unchanging.

Strong.

Father, fix our minds upon You.

When fear rises:

Give us peace.

When circumstances change:

Keep our hearts anchored.

When the future is uncertain:

Teach us to trust.

Help us believe Your promise of:

Perfect peace.

Father, we confess that we often trust:

Our own wisdom.

Money.

People.

Plans.

Strength.

Forgive us.

Teach us to say:

“Trust in the Lord forever.”

Father, make Your name the desire of our souls.

Teach us to seek You:

At night.

In the morning.

In distress.

In peace.

Thank You for every good thing accomplished in our lives.

Keep us humble enough to say:

“You have done it for us.”

Father, forgive us when we attempt to produce through human strength what only You can accomplish.

When our labor produces wind:

Lead us back to dependence upon You.

Thank You for resurrection hope.

Thank You that:

The dead will live.

Bodies will rise.

Those dwelling in dust will awake.

Thank You for Jesus Christ, who rose from the grave and guarantees resurrection life to His people.

Comfort everyone grieving a loved one in Christ.

Remind them:

Dust is not the final destination.

Father, when judgment and trouble come:

Be our refuge.

Teach us when to:

Stand.

Move.

Wait.

Hide.

Obey.

And trust.

Finally, thank You that hidden injustice will not remain hidden forever.

Bring truth to light.

Vindicate the innocent.

Judge evil righteously.

And help us live with confidence that:

You see.

You remember.

You reign.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“You will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is fixed on You, because he trusts in You.” — Isaiah 26:3

Central Truth

Those who trust in the Lord find perfect peace in the eternal Rock, walk the path of righteousness, wait for Him with longing, acknowledge that human effort cannot produce final salvation, rest in the sure promise of resurrection, and find refuge in God while He exposes and judges sin.

Isaiah 26 in One Sentence

Isaiah celebrates the strong city defended by God's salvation, promises perfect peace to the mind fixed on the eternal Rock, contrasts the humble righteous with the proud and unrepentant, confesses the failure of human effort, proclaims that God's dead will rise from the dust, and calls God's people to trust His protection while He judges hidden sin.