

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 25 — A Song of Praise for God's Salvation

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

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 25 changes the sound of the prophecy.

Isaiah 24 ended with:

The earth shaken.

Cities ruined.

Earthly kings judged.

Heavenly powers punished.

The Lord reigning gloriously in Zion.

Isaiah 25 responds with:

Praise.

Worship.

Thanksgiving.

Hope.

Salvation.

The chapter begins personally:

“O Lord, You are my God.”

Isaiah does not merely speak about:

A God.

The God.

Israel's God.

He says:

“You are my God.”

Doctrine becomes:

Devotion.

Prophecy becomes:

Praise.

Isaiah praises God because His plans are:

Ancient.

Faithful.

True.

God is not improvising history.

What He accomplishes has been within His sovereign purpose:

Long ago.

The chapter then contrasts two realities.

God brings down:

The proud city.

The ruthless nations.

Human strongholds.

But He becomes a refuge for:

The poor.

The needy.

The distressed.

To the ruthless:

God is judgment.

To the helpless who trust Him:

God is shelter.

Then Isaiah’s vision rises to one of the most magnificent promises in the Old Testament.

On God’s mountain:

A feast is prepared.

Not merely for:

Israel.

But:

“For all peoples.”

The Lord removes the covering spread over the nations.

Then comes the great promise:

“He will swallow up death forever.”

Death itself will be defeated.

Tears will be wiped away.

Disgrace will be removed.

God’s people will say:

“Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us.”

This is not merely temporary deliverance from one enemy.

The chapter points toward:

Ultimate salvation.

Final victory.

The defeat of death.

The removal of sorrow.

The fulfillment of hope.

The New Testament directly takes up Isaiah 25:8 when Paul describes the resurrection victory accomplished through Christ.

The chapter ends, however, with another contrast.

The Lord’s hand rests in blessing upon:

His mountain.

But Moab represents:

Pride.

Self-exaltation.

Human cleverness.

And pride is brought:

Down.

To the dust.

Therefore Isaiah 25 presents two final destinations:

Those who trust the Lord rejoice in His salvation.

Those who persist in pride are humbled.

The central truth of Isaiah 25 is:

The Lord faithfully accomplishes His eternal purposes, shelters the weak, humbles ruthless pride, prepares salvation for all peoples, defeats death forever, wipes away the tears of His redeemed, and brings everyone who trusted in Him into everlasting joy.

I. ISAIAH PERSONALLY PRAISES THE LORD

Isaiah 25:1 — “You Are My God”

“O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You and praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things, plans formed long ago, faithful and true.”

Isaiah begins:

Personally.

“You are my God.”

This is:

Faith.

Relationship.

Worship.

Isaiah praises God because His works correspond to:

His ancient plans.

Nothing takes God by surprise.

His purposes are:

Faithful.

True.

Dependable.

Cross References

Psalms 145:1

David declares that he will exalt his God and King and bless the Lord's name continually.

Exodus 15:2

After deliverance from Egypt, Israel declares that the Lord is their strength and song, that He has become their salvation, and that they will praise and exalt Him.

Revelation 15:3

The redeemed sing that the works of the Lord God Almighty are great and wonderful and that His ways are righteous and true.

Spiritual Principle

Praise becomes deeper when God is not merely:

The God we study.

But:

“My God.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Theology reaches its proper destination when truth about God becomes worship of God.

II. GOD BRINGS THE PROUD CITY TO RUIN

Isaiah 25:2 — Human Strongholds Fall

“You have made the city a heap of ruins, the fortified city a ruin. The foreigners’ stronghold is no more; it will never be rebuilt.”

The specific city is not named.

The image represents:

Proud human power.

Fortified opposition.

A stronghold set against God.

What looked:

Permanent.

Secure.

Untouchable.

Becomes:

Ruins.

Cross References

Isaiah 13:19

Babylon, once the glory of kingdoms and an object of human pride, is destined for overthrow under divine judgment.

Jeremiah 51:37

Babylon is foretold to become a heap of ruins and a desolate place rather than continuing indefinitely in imperial greatness.

Revelation 18:2

The final corrupt city-system opposed to God is declared fallen and reduced to desolation.

Spiritual Principle

No fortress built against God can remain forever.

III. STRONG NATIONS WILL HONOR GOD

Isaiah 25:3 — Ruthless Cities Learn Fear

“Therefore strong nations will honor You; cities of ruthless nations will fear You.”

God’s judgment produces:

Recognition.

The nations that once seemed:

Strong.

Ruthless.

Independent.

Must acknowledge:

God.

Cross References

Psalms 22:27

People from the ends of the earth will remember the Lord, turn toward Him, and worship before Him.

Isaiah 60:3

Nations will come toward the light God gives, and kings will be drawn to the brightness of His glory.

Revelation 15:4

All nations will ultimately recognize the Lord's holiness and come before Him because His righteous acts have been revealed.

Spiritual Principle

God can make even powerful nations recognize an authority greater than themselves.

IV. GOD IS A REFUGE FOR THE POOR

Isaiah 25:4 — Shelter from the Storm

“For You have been a refuge for the poor, a stronghold for the needy in 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,”

God's greatness is revealed not merely by:

Defeating empires.

But by:

Protecting vulnerable people.

He becomes:

Refuge.

Stronghold.

Shelter.

Shade.

The ruthless are compared to:

A storm.

But God stands between:

The storm.

And:

The needy.

Cross References

Psalms 9:9

The Lord is a secure refuge for oppressed people and a strong place of protection during times of trouble.

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, always available and dependable when trouble comes.

Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who seek refuge in Him.

Spiritual Principle

The God powerful enough to judge nations is compassionate enough to shelter the needy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God is not only the King above the storm.

He is the shelter inside it.

V. GOD SILENCES THE RUTHLESS

Isaiah 25:5 — The Song of Oppression Ends

“Like heat in a dry land. But You silence the uproar of foreigners; as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled.”

The ruthless appear:

Overwhelming.

Like desert heat.

Then:

A cloud comes.

Shade falls.

The oppressive heat loses its force.

So God quiets:

The ruthless.

Cross References

Isaiah 13:11

God declares that He will punish the world for evil, bring an end to arrogant pride, and humble the haughtiness of the ruthless.

Job 5:11

God raises those who are lowly and gives security to those who mourn and suffer.

Psalms 147:6

The Lord lifts up the humble but brings the wicked down to the ground.

Spiritual Principle

Oppression may be loud.

God can silence it.

VI. GOD PREPARES A FEAST FOR ALL PEOPLES

Isaiah 25:6 — The Banquet on God’s Mountain

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast for all peoples, a banquet of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine—the best meats and the finest wines.”

The imagery changes beautifully.

From:

Judgment.

To:

Feasting.

From:

Desolation.

To:

Abundance.

The host is:

The Lord Almighty.

The guests are:

“All peoples.”

This is a picture of:

Salvation.

Fellowship.

Abundance.

Celebration.

Kingdom blessing.

Cross References

Isaiah 55:1

God invites everyone who is thirsty to come freely to the waters and calls those without money to receive food and drink without purchasing salvation through their own resources.

Matthew 22:2

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a king preparing a wedding banquet for his son and inviting guests to share in the celebration.

Revelation 19:9

Those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are declared blessed because they participate in God's final celebration of redemption.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation is not pictured as spiritual starvation.

It is pictured as:

A feast.

Key Truth

The God who judges sin invites the redeemed to His table.

VII. GOD REMOVES THE COVERING OVER THE NATIONS

Isaiah 25:7 — The Shroud Is Destroyed

“On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations.”

A covering lies over humanity.

The language flows directly toward verse 8 and the defeat of:

Death.

It also carries the idea of the darkness and sorrow covering the nations.

God removes:

The veil.

The shroud.

The covering.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 3:14

Paul describes a spiritual veil remaining over minds that do not perceive God's truth, a veil removed through Christ.

Ephesians 4:18

Those alienated from God are described as darkened in their understanding because of spiritual ignorance and hardness.

Luke 2:32

Jesus is described as light bringing revelation to the Gentiles and glory to God's people Israel.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation removes what sin and death have spread over humanity.

VIII. GOD SWALLOWS UP DEATH FOREVER

Isaiah 25:8 — Tears Wiped Away

“He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

This is one of the greatest promises in Isaiah.

Not:

Delay death.

Reduce death.

Ignore death.

But:

“Swallow up death forever.”

Death—the great enemy of humanity—will itself be defeated.

Then:

Tears disappear.

Disgrace disappears.

Death disappears.

The guarantee is:

“The Lord has spoken.”

Cross References

1 Corinthians 15:54

Paul applies Isaiah’s promise to the resurrection, declaring that when mortality is clothed with immortality, the saying is fulfilled that death has been swallowed up in victory.

Revelation 21:4

God will wipe every tear from His people’s eyes; death will no longer exist, and mourning, crying, and pain will pass away.

Hosea 13:14

God speaks of redeeming His people from the power of the grave and overcoming the destructive power of death.

Spiritual Principle

Christian hope does not merely promise coping with death.

It promises:

The defeat of death.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Death gets a chapter in human history.

It does not get the final chapter.

IX. THE REDEEMED REJOICE IN THEIR GOD

Isaiah 25:9 — “We Trusted in Him”

“In that day they will say, ‘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.’”

This is the testimony of:

Vindicated faith.

They waited.

They trusted.

They may have endured:

Trials.

Opposition.

Waiting.

Death.

But finally:

Salvation is openly revealed.

They say:

“This is our God.”

Cross References

Psalm 40:3

God puts a new song of praise in the mouth of the delivered person so that others see what He has done and learn to trust Him.

John 20:28

Thomas encounters the risen Christ and responds personally, confessing Him as:

“My Lord and my God.”

Revelation 7:10

The great multitude cries out that salvation belongs to God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb.

Spiritual Principle

Faith waits now because it knows salvation will eventually be seen.

Key Truth

Those who trust God will never discover that their faith was placed in the wrong Savior.

X. THE LORD’S HAND RESTS ON HIS MOUNTAIN

Isaiah 25:10 — Moab Is Brought Low

“The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain, but Moab will be trampled down in their land, as straw is trampled in a manure pile.”

There is a dramatic contrast.

On the mountain:

God's hand rests.

In Moab:

Pride is crushed.

Moab has already represented:

Arrogance.

Boasting.

Self-confidence.

God's presence means:

Blessing for the trusting.

Judgment for persistent pride.

Cross References

Isaiah 11:14

Isaiah anticipates a future in which Israel's historic enemies, including Moab, are brought under the authority of God's restored rule.

Jeremiah 48:42

Moab is brought down as a national power because the nation exalted itself against the Lord.

Zephaniah 2:9

Moab is warned of severe judgment because of pride and hostility, while God preserves a remnant of His people.

Spiritual Principle

The same sovereign hand that protects the humble brings down the proud.

XI. HUMAN CLEVERNESS CANNOT RESCUE PRIDE

Isaiah 25:11 — Moab's Pride Brought Down

**“They will spread out their hands in it, as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim.
But the Lord will bring down their pride despite the cleverness of their hands.”**

The imagery is humiliating.

Moab struggles like:

A swimmer.

Hands spread.

Trying to save itself.

But human cleverness cannot rescue:

Pride.

Cross References

Isaiah 16:6

Moab is described as extremely proud, arrogant, conceited, and boastful, though its boasting proves empty.

Psalms 138:6

Though the Lord is exalted, He pays attention to the humble while recognizing the proud from afar.

Obadiah 1:3

Pride deceives those who feel secure in elevated strongholds and assume no one can bring them down.

Spiritual Principle

Human ingenuity cannot outswim divine judgment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Skill can solve many problems.

It cannot save pride from God.

XII. THE HIGH FORTIFIED WALLS COME DOWN

Isaiah 25:12 — Pride Reduced to Dust

“He will bring down your high fortified walls and lay them low. He will throw them down to the ground, to the dust.”

Moab trusts:

High walls.

Fortifications.

Defense.

But the movement is:

High.

To:

Low.

Then:

Ground.

Then:

Dust.

This is what God does to pride.

Cross References

Isaiah 26:5

God brings down those dwelling in lofty places, lowering the exalted city until it reaches the dust.

Isaiah 2:12

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

Revelation 18:21

A mighty angel portrays the irreversible fall of Babylon by casting a great stone into the sea, declaring that the proud city will be thrown down.

Spiritual Principle

Every wall pride builds has a height God can reach.

XIII. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH

25

1. God's Plans Are Faithful and True

God formed His purposes:

Long ago.

Principle:

History is not escaping God's plan.

2. Praise Should Be Personal

Isaiah says:

“You are my God.”

Principle:

True worship moves from information about God to personal trust in God.

3. Human Strongholds Are Temporary

Fortified cities become:

Ruins.

Principle:

Nothing built against God possesses permanent strength.

4. God Is Refuge for the Weak

He shelters:

Poor.

Needy.

Distressed.

Principle:

God’s greatness includes His tenderness toward vulnerable people.

5. God Will Silence the Ruthless

Oppressors do not remain loud forever.

Principle:

God places limits upon ruthless power.

6. Salvation Is a Feast

The Lord prepares a banquet:

For all peoples.

Principle:

God’s kingdom offers abundant fellowship and joy.

7. Death Will Be Defeated

God swallows up:

Death.

Forever.

Principle:

The resurrection is not an afterthought; victory over death is central to God's redemptive purpose.

8. Tears Will Not Last Forever

God wipes them away.

Principle:

Sorrow has an expiration date in God's completed salvation.

9. Trust Will Be Vindicated

The redeemed say:

“We trusted in Him, and He saved us.”

Principle:

Faith may wait, but it does not wait in vain.

10. Pride Will Be Humbled

Moab is brought:

To the dust.

Principle:

The proud are ultimately lowered before the Lord.

XIV. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God's plans are described as:

Ancient.

Faithful.

True.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God never wakes up needing a new strategy.

What He purposed will stand.

XV. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT PRAISE

Isaiah praises God because of:

Who He is.

What He has done.

What He has planned.

Spiritual Principle

Praise remembers both:

God's character.

And:

God's works.

XVI. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT THE POOR

God does not overlook:

The poor.

The needy.

The distressed.

He becomes:

Their refuge.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God measures greatness partly by how power is used toward those who possess little of it.

XVII. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is pictured as:

Refuge.

Feast.

Light.

Victory.

Tears removed.

Death defeated.

Joy.

Key Truth

Biblical salvation is far larger than escape from temporary trouble.

XVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT THE NATIONS

The feast is:

“For all peoples.”

Strong nations eventually:

Honor God.

Spiritual Principle

God’s saving purpose extends beyond one ethnic or geographical people.

XIX. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT DEATH

Death appears to humanity as:

Final.

Isaiah says:

God will swallow it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The grave looks permanent only until the God of resurrection speaks.

XX. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT TEARS

God does not merely observe tears.

He:

Wipes them away.

Spiritual Principle

God's final salvation includes the healing of sorrow.

XXI. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT DISGRACE

God removes His people's:

Reproach.

Shame.

Disgrace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's final redemption restores what sin and suffering tried to strip away.

XXII. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT TRUST

The redeemed say twice:

"We trusted in Him."

Trust includes:

Waiting.

Faith.

Confidence.

Dependence.

Spiritual Principle

Trust is faith that remains during the distance between promise and fulfillment.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 25 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

Moab represents persistent:

Pride.

God brings it:

Low.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not negotiate with pride as though pride were His equal.

He brings it down.

XXIV. “O LORD, YOU ARE MY GOD”

These words deserve personal reflection.

Isaiah does not hide behind:

National faith.

Family faith.

Religious heritage.

He personally confesses:

“You are my God.”

Spiritual Principle

No one can live forever on borrowed faith.

XXV. “PLANS FORMED LONG AGO”

God is not reacting to history.

He is accomplishing:

Purpose.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What surprises us has never surprised God.

XXVI. THE RUINED CITY

Isaiah 24 described:

Worldwide shaking.

Isaiah 25 praises God because:

Proud strongholds fall.

Spiritual Principle

God's judgment upon evil is part of the believer's hope because injustice will not reign forever.

XXVII. THE SHELTER IN THE STORM

The ruthless are:

Storm.

God is:

Shelter.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You do not need to be stronger than the storm when you know where the shelter is.

XXVIII. THE SHADE IN THE HEAT

In a dry land:

Shade can mean:

Relief.

Protection.

Survival.

So God protects:

The needy.

Spiritual Principle

God does not always remove the heat immediately.

Sometimes He provides shade within it.

XXIX. THE FEAST

The Lord Himself prepares:

The banquet.

Salvation is therefore:

His provision.

Not:

Human achievement.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You do not earn a seat at God's table by bringing a better meal.

You receive what He provides.

XXX. ALL PEOPLES

This language matters.

The nations are not merely:

Judged.

They are also:

Invited into blessing.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom purpose has always been larger than human tribal boundaries.

XXXI. THE SHROUD OVER THE NATIONS

The covering is:

Removed.

Darkness gives way to:

Revelation.

Death gives way to:

Life.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely improve the darkness.

He removes the covering.

XXXII. “HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH FOREVER”

Death has swallowed:

Generations.

Families.

Kings.

Prophets.

Nations.

But finally:

God swallows death.

Spiritual Principle

The final victory belongs not to the grave but to God.

XXXIII. THE NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 25:8

Paul uses Isaiah’s language in:

1 Corinthians 15.

The context is:

Resurrection.

Mortality becoming:

Immortality.

Corruption becoming:

Incorruption.

Then:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

This means Isaiah 25 ultimately points toward the resurrection victory made certain through:

Jesus Christ.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ did not merely teach us how to face death.

Through His resurrection, He guarantees death's eventual defeat.

XXXIV. EVERY TEAR WIPED AWAY

Some tears come from:

Grief.

Loss.

Pain.

Rejection.

Death.

Disappointment.

Persecution.

God's final kingdom removes:

The causes of redeemed sorrow.

Spiritual Principle

The hands that rule the universe are also pictured wiping tears.

XXXV. "THIS IS OUR GOD"

There will be no uncertainty.

The redeemed recognize:

The One they trusted.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

One day faith will give way to sight, and believers will know that every moment of trusting God was worth it.

XXXVI. “WE TRUSTED IN HIM”

Waiting is part of:

Faith.

Israel waited.

Believers wait.

Creation waits.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting is not wasted time when the object of hope is faithful.

XXXVII. “HE SAVED US”

The testimony centers on:

God.

Not:

We saved ourselves.

We found a strategy.

We were strong enough.

But:

“He saved us.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Salvation leaves no room for boasting in ourselves.

XXXVIII. “LET US REJOICE”

Salvation produces:

Joy.

The proper response to grace is not:

Pride.

But:

Rejoicing.

Spiritual Principle

Joy is the song of people who know who rescued them.

XXXIX. THE HAND OF THE LORD RESTS ON THE MOUNTAIN

The image is:

Presence.

Protection.

Authority.

Blessing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place in existence is beneath the hand of God.

XL. MOAB'S PRIDE

Isaiah already described Moab's arrogance in:

Isaiah 16.

Now the theme returns.

Pride survives warnings only to meet:

Humiliation.

Spiritual Principle

What pride refuses to surrender willingly, judgment eventually brings down forcefully.

XLI. THE SWIMMER WHO CANNOT ESCAPE

Moab spreads its hands.

Struggles.

Attempts escape.

But:

Human effort is insufficient.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot swim out of a judgment that requires repentance.

XLII. THE WALLS COME DOWN

High walls represent:

Self-confidence.

Human security.

Pride.

They end:

In dust.

Spiritual Principle

God can reduce the highest thing humanity builds to the lowest place imaginable.

XLIII. REFUGE AND RUIN

Isaiah 25 presents two responses to God.

For those who trust Him:

Refuge.

Feast.

Salvation.

Joy.

For persistent pride:

Humiliation.

Ruin.

Dust.

Key Truth

Our relationship to God determines whether His sovereign power is experienced as refuge or judgment.

XLIV. FROM ISAIAH 24 TO ISAIAH 25

Isaiah 24 ends with:

The Lord reigning.

Isaiah 25 begins with:

The redeemed praising.

That order matters.

God reigns.

His people worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The more clearly we see God's sovereignty, the more naturally worship should rise.

XLV. SEVEN GREAT REVERSALS IN ISAIAH 25

1. Proud City → Heap of Ruins

2. Ruthless Storm → God-Given Shelter

3. Dry Heat → Cooling Shade

4. Hunger → Feast

5. Shroud → Removal

6. Death → Victory

7. Tears → Rejoicing

Key Truth

God's salvation reverses everything sin, oppression, sorrow, and death have done.

XLVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

How does Isaiah begin the chapter?

With personal praise:

“O Lord, You are my God.”

Question 2

Why does Isaiah praise God?

Because God has done wonderful things according to plans formed long ago that are faithful and true.

Question 3

What happens to the fortified city?

It becomes ruins.

Question 4

How do strong nations respond to God?

They honor Him, and ruthless cities fear Him.

Question 5

What is God to the poor and needy?

A refuge.

A stronghold.

A shelter.

A shade.

Question 6

What does God prepare on His mountain?

A great feast for all peoples.

Question 7

Who is invited into the picture of the feast?

All peoples.

Question 8

What does God destroy on the mountain?

The shroud or covering spread over the nations.

Question 9

What great enemy will God swallow up forever?

Death.

Question 10

What will God do with tears?

He will wipe them away.

Question 11

What will He remove from His people?

Their disgrace.

Question 12

What do the redeemed say?

“This is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us.”

Question 13

What does Paul connect Isaiah 25:8 with?

The resurrection and final victory over death.

Question 14

What happens to Moab?

Its pride and fortified strength are brought down.

Question 15

What is one central contrast in the chapter?

The humble find refuge in God while the proud are brought low.

XLVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 25 asks several searching questions.

Can I Say, “You Are My God”?

Is my relationship with God:

Personal?

Or merely:

Religious?

Do I Trust God’s Plans?

When I cannot understand:

The timing.

The circumstances.

The delay.

Can I still say:

Your plans are faithful and true?

Where Do I Run During the Storm?

To:

God?

Or merely:

People?

Money?

Distraction?

Do I Believe God Is a Refuge for the Weak?

Can I trust Him when I feel:

Poor?

Needy?

Overwhelmed?

Am I Living Like I Have Been Invited to God’s Feast?

Or spiritually surviving on substitutes?

How Do I Think About Death?

As:

The final victor?

Or:

An enemy Christ has guaranteed will be defeated?

What Tears Am I Carrying?

Can I believe there is a future in which God Himself wipes them away?

Am I Waiting on God?

Can I say:

“We trusted in Him”?

Is Pride Keeping Me from God?

What fortress of self-sufficiency needs to come down?

XLVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Death May Swallow Generations, but One Day God Will Swallow Death”

Human beings have watched death take:

Parents.

Children.

Spouses.

Friends.

Kings.

Prophets.

Generations.

Yet Isaiah says:

“He will swallow up death forever.”

Principle:

Death appears powerful because we see what it does now; faith sees what God will ultimately do to death.

XLIX. GOD'S ANCIENT PLAN

Isaiah looks backward and forward simultaneously.

Backward:

Plans formed long ago.

Forward:

Death defeated forever.

Spiritual Principle

God's plan is older than our trouble and reaches farther than our lifetime.

L. GOD'S REFUGE

Some people seek:

A stronger storm.

God offers:

A shelter.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You do not defeat every storm by becoming stronger than it.

Sometimes victory is knowing where to hide.

LI. GOD'S TABLE

The chapter does not merely say:

You survived judgment.

It says:

Come eat.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation moves beyond survival into fellowship and celebration.

LII. GOD'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

Death is not described as:

Managed.

Negotiated with.

Accepted as ultimate.

It is:

Swallowed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Christian funeral looks at a real enemy but refuses to call that enemy eternal.

LIII. GOD'S HAND AND GOD'S HEART

The chapter reveals both:

Power.

Compassion.

The hand that crushes pride is also the hand that:

Protects the needy.

Provides a feast.

Wipes away tears.

Spiritual Principle

God's strength and tenderness are perfectly united.

LIV. THE FEAST AND THE GRAVE

Humanity's story seems dominated by:

The grave.

God's final picture for His people is:

A feast.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God intends the final fellowship of the redeemed to be defined by life, not death.

LV. THE GOSPEL HOPE IN ISAIAH 25

Isaiah 25 points forward powerfully toward:

Christ.

Through His death and resurrection:

Death's defeat is secured.

Through Him:

The nations receive salvation.

Through Him:

The redeemed wait for resurrection.

Through Him:

Tears will finally give way to joy.

Spiritual Principle

The victory Isaiah foresaw becomes certain in the risen Christ.

LVI. THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO SALVATION

Isaiah says:

Exalt.

Praise.

Trust.

Rejoice.

Be glad.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Salvation should never produce cold religion.

It should produce grateful worship.

LVII. THE END OF HUMAN PRIDE

The final image of Moab prevents anyone from misunderstanding grace.

God saves:

The trusting.

He humbles:

The proud.

Spiritual Principle

Grace invites humility; pride refuses the posture necessary to receive it.

LVIII. EIGHT GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 25

1. Human Pride → Divine Humbling

2. Ruthless Oppression → Divine Refuge

3. Storm → Shelter

4. Heat → Shade

5. Hunger → Feast

6. Shroud → Revelation

7. Death → Eternal Victory

8. Tears → Everlasting Joy

Key Truth

God's salvation ultimately reverses every effect of sin and death that oppresses His redeemed people.

LIX. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 25 is one of the great songs of hope in Scripture.

Isaiah has seen:

Judgment.

Cities fall.

Nations collapse.

The earth shake.

Yet his response is:

“O Lord, You are my God.”

That teaches us something important.

Faith does not require:

Easy circumstances.

Faith says:

You are still my God.

Isaiah praises God because His plans are:

Faithful.

True.

Formed long ago.

That means your life is not taking place in a universe where God is:

Surprised.

Confused.

Trying to catch up.

God knows:

The beginning.

The middle.

The end.

Then Isaiah speaks to those who feel:

Weak.

Poor.

Needy.

Overwhelmed.

He says:

God is:

Refuge.

Shelter.

Shade.

If you cannot stop the storm:

Run to the shelter.

Then Isaiah lifts our eyes toward:

God's mountain.

A table is prepared.

The invitation extends to:

All peoples.

God's salvation is:

Abundant.

Generous.

Joyful.

Then comes the greatest promise:

"He will swallow up death forever."

Think about that.

Death has swallowed:

Generation after generation.

But death itself has:

An ending.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Because He lives:

The grave does not receive the final word over His people.

One day:

Every redeemed grave will lose.

Every tear will be wiped away.

Every sorrow will end.

Every disgrace will be removed.

And God's people will say:

"Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us."

Maybe right now you are in the:

Waiting.

You trusted.

But have not yet seen the answer.

Isaiah says:

Keep trusting.

There is coming a day when faith will become:

Sight.

Waiting will become:

Rejoicing.

Tears will become:

Joy.

Death will become:

Victory.

But the chapter also gives one final warning.

Do not choose:

Moab's pride.

Pride says:

I can save myself.

I can build walls high enough.

I can use my own cleverness.

Isaiah says:

God brings those walls:

To the dust.

There are only two places to stand:

In pride against God.

Or:

In trust beneath His shelter.

Choose the refuge.

Trust the Savior.

Wait for the feast.

Look beyond the grave.

Because:

Death is not eternal.

God is.

And the God who promises to swallow death forever is:

Faithful.

And:

True.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are our God.

We exalt You.

We praise Your holy name.

Thank You that Your plans are:

Faithful.

True.

Perfect.

Ancient.

Unchanging.

When we cannot understand what You are doing:

Help us trust Your wisdom.

Father, thank You for being a refuge for:

The poor.

The needy.

The distressed.

The overwhelmed.

When storms rise:

Be our shelter.

When the heat becomes unbearable:

Be our shade.

When ruthless people threaten:

Be our stronghold.

Father, thank You for the salvation You have prepared.

Thank You that Your grace reaches:

All peoples.

All nations.

All who come to You in faith.

Thank You for Jesus Christ.

Thank You for His death.

Thank You for His resurrection.

Thank You that because He lives:

Death will not win.

Thank You for the promise:

“He will swallow up death forever.”

Father, comfort those who grieve.

Comfort those who have lost:

Parents.

Children.

Spouses.

Friends.

Loved ones.

Remind them that for those who belong to Christ:

The grave is not the end.

Thank You that one day:

You will wipe every tear away.

No more:

Death.

Mourning.

Crying.

Pain.

Father, teach us to wait.

Let us someday say:

“We trusted in Him, and He saved us.”

Protect us from pride.

Bring down every false fortress in our hearts.

Teach us humility.

Teach us dependence.

Teach us faith.

And until the day when death is swallowed forever:

Help us live.

Hope.

Serve.

Worship.

And trust.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.” — Isaiah 25:8

Central Truth

The Lord faithfully accomplishes His eternal purposes, shelters the poor and needy, humbles ruthless pride, prepares salvation for all peoples, defeats death forever through His redemptive plan, wipes away the tears of His people, and brings everyone who trusted in Him into everlasting joy.

Isaiah 25 in One Sentence

Isaiah praises the faithful God who brings proud strongholds down, shelters the weak, prepares a great salvation feast for all peoples, promises to swallow death forever and wipe away every tear, vindicates those who trusted in Him, and brings persistent human pride down to the dust.