OPEN

Did you get your invitation? You say, “What invitation?” The invitation to the banquet, [the marvelous, marvelous, lavish banquet where there’s the richness of marrow in the meat and where there is fine, aged wine.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 25:6) Where you’re sitting with the King of kings, [where God reaches up and touches your face and wipes away all your tears, where death is swallowed up]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 25:8) And there’s no more pain or sorrow or tears. (See Revelation 21:4) O Beloved, did you get your invitation?

PART ONE

As we move from Isaiah 24 into 25, you’ve got to remember that when the Bible was written, Beloved, there were no chapter divisions, there were no verse divisions. It was one long vision that Isaiah recorded concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And yet he takes us beyond Judah and beyond Jerusalem to the whole world. And now we read about a day that is coming, a day when
[the sun and moon will be abashed and ashamed, because the Lord will reign in Jerusalem on Mount Zion.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 24:23) Yes, the Lord is going to bring the world’s party to an end. Yes, the party is going to be over. [Yes, the Lord is going to take the earth and He is going to shake it and He is going to distort its surface. He is going to absolutely devastate it. He’s going to burn it with fire.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 24:1, 6) And yet it doesn’t mean that there is that great cataclysmic end and and everything disintegrates in ashes. Oh no, oh no. There is a new heaven and there is a new earth. Let’s look at it in our final study this week. We are going to look at Isaiah chapter 25. By the way, I love you and I appreciate you so much. And I thank you for the emails that you send me. I thank you for going online to Precepts for Life and downloading the study guide. So go to <preceptsforlife.com>; and there, Precious One, you can download the study guide. There you can communicate with me. There you can tell me what you’re learning, what God’s doing, and what you wish that I would do, because I want to be a good teacher for you. I want to fulfill my calling on your behalf. Well he says in Isaiah chapter 24, he’s talking about, in verse 21, “So it will happen in that day, that the LORD [of host] will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together...and will be confined in prison; and after many days they will be punished.” (Isaiah 24:21-22) Now remember, I had you draw a timeline. Remember I told you that there was going to be a time when they were confined in prison, and then there was going to be a time when they would be punished. And that ultimate judgment happens at what we call the GWT, the Great White Throne judgment. And so we have that judgment and then what happens? It is not over, I mean, the heavens and the earth are going to pass away. (See 2 Peter 3:10) But it is not over. Listen to what he says. “Then the moon will be [ashamed and the sun will be] abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders.” (Isaiah
24:23) Now the last verses that I read to you in yesterday’s study was Revelation chapter 20, and we looked right to the very end of the chapter, and I want you to see what comes after Revelation 20 where he talks about the Great White Throne judgment. So go to Revelation chapter 20; going to read you the last verse—verse 15. And it says, “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15) “Then...,” and you would put a clock there. A green circle to indicate that there is a time phrase to tell you “when” or to give you a sequence of events. It says, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there [was] no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, [the] new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven...as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God [the dwelling of God] is among men, and He will dwell among them...,” and it says, “...and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; [and] there will longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4) The world’s party is over. The first things have passed away. But there is Eternity to come, the glorious Eternity with no more pain, and no more sorrow, and no more tears, and no more death, because the Lord will reign in Jerusalem; the Lord will reign on Mount Zion. (See Isaiah 24:23) And it says this, “And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new....”’ (Revelation 21:5) Now you know that’s what happened to me when I received Jesus Christ as my Savior at the age of 29. I was a mess. I had shaken my fist at God. I had corrupted the earth with my immorality, and yet God had mercy on me and God saved me when I was a divorcee. And and He brought me to Himself along with my two precious sons, and I came to know the Lord and all things were new. But I wanna tell you something. They’re gonna get newer, they’re gonna get
completely new, absolutely new, because the former things will have passed away and all things become new. Listen to what he says in verse 6. It says, “[And] then He said to me...,” Revelation 21:6, “‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I...give to the one who thirsts from the spring of water...without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But...,” “but”—contrast—“...for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.’” (Revelation 21:6-8) Go back again to our drawing and here at the bottom of that “Great White Throne,” we have the lake of fire where they are cast forever and ever, “Where [the] worm [dies not], and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:46) Now in the light of knowing all of that let’s go to Isaiah, and watch how Isaiah is previous. The Bible is a progressive revelation. And even in Isaiah there is a progressive revelation. The end of Isaiah tells us what it’s going to be like, and it’s going to show us, again, the lake of fire. It’s amazing. And you can cheat if you want to, and you can go and you can read it. And then we’ll get there, and then we’ll study it. But Isaiah chapter 25, now, he says, “O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; for You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.” (Isaiah 25:1) In other words, what you read in this Book, and what God tells you is going to come to pass, will surely come to pass. “...Plans formed long ago, [You have worked] with [great] faithfulness.” (Isaiah 25:1) Now what is happening in chapter 25 in verses 1to5, it’s all of a sudden like I can’t contain myself. I’ve got to sing! I’ve got to praise Him! I’ve got to give a hymn of praise, a hymn of worship. And so it says, “For You have made a city into a heap, a fortified city into a ruin; a palace of strangers is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.” (Isaiah 25:2) You have devastated the earth. You, in your righteousness and holiness, have brought
the world’s party to an end. And he says, “Therefore a strong people will glorify You; cities of ruthless nations will revere You. For You have been a defense for the helpless....” He says, “...a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm....” He says, “...a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless....” breaks against You, “...like a rain storm against a wall.” (Isaiah 25:3-4) “But You are my wall. You are my Protector.” So the world and its partying, so to speak, and its rebellion and its violence and its pollution come against You, God, You are my defense, You are my shade, You are my wall when the rain storm hits the wall, but it doesn’t hit me. Isn’t that awesome? Isn’t that incredible? It says, “Like heat in drought, You subdue the uproar of aliens....” (Isaiah 25:5) In other words, there’s a drought, there’s heat, you’re parched, you’re dehydrated, and you can’t do a thing. And he says, “That’s what you do to the ruthless.” It says, “...like heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced.” (Isaiah 25:5) Remember our theme this week. Remember how I opened up telling you about a girl that went to the rescue of another girl at a party and was drugged and found herself lying naked in bed next to a man she didn’t know, and having lost her virginity; this righteous young girl. The party’s over and God will deal with them. But then, did you get your invitation? An invitation, listen, “The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet...,” now catch this, “...for all peoples on this mountain....” (Isaiah 25:6) It’s not just for Judah, not just for Jerusalem, but it is for “all peoples” and He’s preparing a lavish banquet. He tells about the demise of the earth, he tells about the destruction of the earth by fire, and then he tells about an invitation. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

The world’s party is over. Now it’s time for God’s party, for a lavish banquet, “...a lavish banquet [that God has prepared] for all peoples on [His holy] mountain....” (Isaiah 25:6) On this mountain; what mountain?
Jerusalem—the Zion, the earthly Zion where the heavenly God will come:
“...A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces [of] marrow, and refined, aged wine.” (Isaiah 25:6) He says, “...On this mountain He [God] will swallow up the covering which is over all [people]....” (Isaiah 25:7) You say, “What is that covering? Is that the veil that is over people’s eyes when they don’t see the glorious light of Almighty God? And instead, they’re enamored by “...the god of this world [who] has blinded [their eyes] that they might not see...the gospel....”? (2 Corinthians 4:4) You think that, but you need to read, you need to study, you need to look at it in context, you need to discover truth for yourself and that’s what this is all about. It says, “...on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil [that] is stretched over all [the] nations. He will swallow up death for all time....” (Isaiah 25:7-8) In other words we are born, and we are born in sin and because we’re born in sin, “[And] the wages of sin is death....,” we’re going to die. (Romans 6:23) We’re going to die physically. But now God is going to bring physical death to an end. Remember what we read in Revelation chapter 21. There will be no more death; no more death. (See Revelation 21:4) And it says, “He will swallow up death for all time....” Put a circle around it. Mark it as a time phrase. “...And the Lord GOD will wipe [away tears] from all faces....” All faces. He’s going to go through that lavish banquet and He is going to touch every precious face. He’s gonna touch your face. He’s gonna touch your face and He’s going to wipe away tears for all time. Listen, “...from all faces...He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth....” (Isaiah 25:8) The reproach of Israel, the reproach, and if this refers to those who believe as a result of it, it’s all the reproaches that have come upon you because you have identified yourself with Jesus Christ. As He said, He tells us in John chapter 15, that He says, “You are My [friend] if you do what I [tell] you [to do].” (John 15:14) And then He tells you, [“Don’t be dismayed, the world is going to hate you even as it hated Me.”]
(PARAPHRASE, John 15:18) But someday that reproach is going to be taken away. “...He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth...,” why? “...For the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 25:8) I want us to look at 1 Corinthians chapter 15, and I want us to look at death being swallowed up in victory; 1 Corinthians chapter 15. And you’re going to see why I want you to see that; 1 Corinthians 15, and you come, this is the resurrection chapter, and it tells you how this mortal’s going to put on immortality. And this corruptible is going to become incorruptible. (See 1 Corinthians 15:42, KJV) And this is what it goes on to say, it says, “Behold....,” in verse 51: “...I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we [shall]...be changed, in [the] moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last [Trump]; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we [shall] be changed. [And] this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. [For] when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that...‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (1 Corinthians 15:51-54) He’s quoting Isaiah chapter 25, verse 8. We have moved from the song to the banquet. The banquet and the end of death, and the end you and I being separated from God and having our tears wiped away. And let me read on to verse 56. “The sting of death is sin...the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15: 56-57) And then there’s a word of exhortation and you’ve got to have it. It says: “Therefore, my beloved brethren....” (1 Corinthians 15:58) My hand on your face, saying, “My beloved brethren,” even as Paul was reaching out to those at Corinth, I reach out to you, and this is what I say: “...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your [labor] is not in vain in the Lord,” be steadfast, immovable. Well, we come back to Isaiah chapter 25. It says, the Lord “...will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth....”
why? “...For the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 25:8) When God speaks it comes to pass. Now remember what he said in chapter 25 in verse 1, it says, in speaking of God, “...You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.” Remember what we saw in Isaiah 14, verse 26 and 27: What God has purposed will surely come to pass, and what God has planned no one can thwart. And so this is what we see here. And then in verse 9 it says, “And it will be said in that day, ‘Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us....’” (Isaiah 25:9) The world’s party has gone on and on and on, but finally we are delivered and we look and we say, “...This is our God for whom we have waited....” And it goes on to say, “...Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.’ For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain....” (Isaiah 25:9-10) Where is he taking us? I believe he’s taking us in this chapter to the new heaven and to the new earth, and to the new Jerusalem where the sun is ashamed and the moon is abashed. (See Isaiah 24:23) And I want to show you that in Revelation chapter 21. I want to show you what happens in that beautiful, new Jerusalem; that holy city come down out of God. (PARAPHRASE, Revelation 21:2) And it says in verse 22, “I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God...Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city [will have] no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of [the Lord] has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:22-23) No need for sun. No need for moon, why? Because Jesus is the Light of Life. Now He takes that and he contrasts it at the end with Moab. And he shows what happens to those that reject. He says, “...and Moab will be trodden down in his place as straw is down in the water of a manure pile. And he will spread out his hands...,” Moab, “...in the middle of it as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim, but the Lord will lay low his pride together with the trickery of his hands. The unassailable fortifications of your walls He will bring down, lay low and cast to the ground, even to the dust.” (Isaiah 25:10-12) He wants you to
see the contrast between the righteous and the unrighteous. And the unrighteous, it is like swimming in a pile, in a sea, in a lake of manure. There is no way you can stand against God. So what is God’s word to us as we bring this week to a close? It is this: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you’ve been partying with the world, remember, their party is going to be over. So come out from among them, My people, touch not the unclean thing. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and know there’s a day coming, a banquet coming; the invitation’s out. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. You’ll be at the banquet.