

BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION



STUDY ON ISAIAH 55

In last week's study based on chapter 40, we posed the question: *"Have you not heard"* and read about the greatness of our God and the wonders he can do. Not only is he the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth who neither grows faint nor weary but he gives power to the weak and strength to those who have none. He renews the strength of those who wait on him enabling them to rise up with wings like eagles, to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. This is our God!

Read Isaiah 55

In looking at this chapter, I want us to concentrate on the powerful message of God's grace and peace toward repentant sinners, be they exiled Jews, or we who live in the 21st century.

God is sending out an invitation to be restored and receive his blessings. The summons to the Jews was to separate themselves from Babylon's influences and choose instead to eat and drink that which God provides. In spiritual terms coming out of Babylon is akin to coming out of the sinful world and into God's kingdom.

In verse 2, he invites anyone who is thirsty to come to the waters. Jesus may well have had this scripture in mind when he cried out *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."* ([John 7:37](#))

- What did Jesus mean by these words?

Read Isaiah 55:1-2

- How do we "buy wine and milk without money and without price"?
- What is meant by the question in verse 2? And what does it mean by eating what is good?
- How often, when we are reading the scriptures, do we stop and think about the last sentence or verse we've read. It is so easy to gallop through and think, *"I've done my bit for the day"*, but forget to meditate on what it means?

It's often good to pick out a verse from what we've read and try and think about it during the day, when we are able. Not only will that help us remember it, but God may want to use it to say something important to us.

Verse 3 "Give (or incline your) ear and come to me; listen, that you may live."

- How does listening to God enable us to live? Do the following verses help our understanding?

Romans 10:17 "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

It's hard sometimes, to believe that God has mercy on us and forgives us. Remember what we read last week: *Isaiah 40:28* "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

It truly is beyond our imagination that this God, all powerful, all knowing, all seeing, loves us and is prepared to speak to us. How can we NOT listen to him?

- Have you experienced God speaking to you? It makes sense that if we are told to listen, then God has something to say to us.
- In what ways might God speak to us?

Verses 8 and 9

These verses should be engraved on our hearts. If only we could grasp them, we would know the peace of God.

The following two verses from Nehemiah speak of God's greatness:

Nehemiah 1:5 "And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,"

Nehemiah 9:6 "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

The sense of awe in the voice of Nehemiah reflects his understanding of God.

Read Psalm 139:1-18

- Here, David the Psalmist, is speaking in a similar vein to Nehemiah.
- What do we know of David's life that would bring him to this understanding? In the NKJV the heading for this Psalm is: "God's perfect knowledge of man".

Read verses 10-11 of Isaiah 55

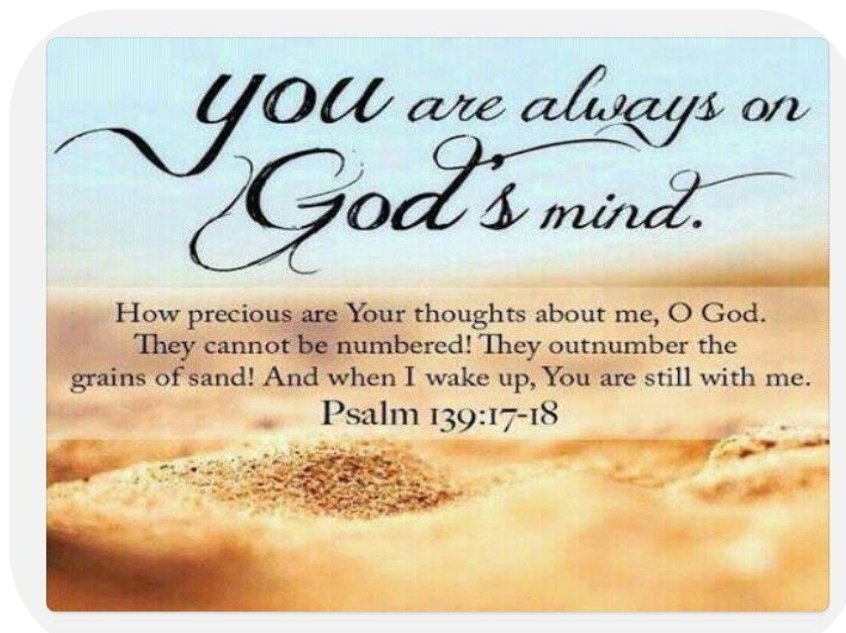
- What are these verses telling us?

Read verses 12-13

- Does this engender a feeling of praise in your heart?
- I would suggest you read Psalm 96. In the NLT verse 3 says: *"Tell everyone about the amazing things he does."*

On a personal level, when I start to think about all that God has done in my life, I can honestly say that it has been BEYOND MY IMAGINATION. Can you say that too?

***AND THIS GOD IS OUR GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER
WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE***



Prayer:

Father God, thank you for who you are, the creator of all things, God of wonders, a God of faithfulness and love. We can never praise and thank you enough for what you have done for us. Amen