

**Salvation Explained (Isaiah 55:6, 7)**  
**By Pastor Jeff Alexander (3/17/2019)**

**Background**

1. The general call to salvation (v. 1) is followed by a call to renounce all wrong ways of salvation (v. 2).
  - a. The prophet urges those called to *listen diligently* (v. 2b). Salvation requires a hearing ear to receive the right message: “*Hear, that your soul may live.*”
  - b. Sadly, many preach a message of salvation that can at best be called “easy believe-ism,” a gospel that teaches sinners merely to ask Jesus into their hearts without properly informing them what constitutes real saving faith.
  - c. Not only is faith inadequately set forth, but also its twin component, *repentance*, is either ignorantly neglected or deliberately rejected. True saving faith requires both true faith and genuine repentance.
2. Eternal salvation is rooted in the everlasting covenant that the Lord made with David (vv. 3b–5; 2 Samuel 7:1–29).
  - a. In this covenant the Lord promised to build a “house” for David—a permanent dynasty, an eternal kingdom, and a sure throne (2 Samuel 7:4–17).
  - b. David would have a son that would be the Lord’s representative on the earth (v. 13). The problem was that most, indeed all but one, of David’s descendants would fail the Mosaic covenant.
  - c. Thus, if any of his sons sinned, the Lord would discipline them, but His covenant with them would never be annulled because one of them would succeed (vv. 15, 16; Psalm 89:33–35).
  - d. This covenant with David gave rise to the Messianic hopes in the OT, which hopes terminated in Jesus Christ (Luke 1:31–33). It is a new covenant of peace (54:10; Jeremiah 31:31).
3. This covenant would fulfill the promise made to Abraham that “*in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Genesis 22:3). Isaiah explains how this blessing of the nations will occur.
  - a. He identifies this son of David as “*a leader and commander for the peoples.*” This son is the Lord Jesus Christ, exalted as King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15, 16; Revelation 19:16).
  - b. He would “*call a nation*”—bring forth a new nation into existence, one that “*shall run to you,*” because the Lord “*glorified*” Him (1 Peter 2:9, 10).
4. The call or invitation in verse 1 is amplified in verses 6 and 7, being directed to the nation of Israel for *any* to come to the salvation God was preparing for His people.
  - a. In the verses before us, the qualifications for the invitation are clarified and insisted on, and those qualifications are genuine faith (v. 6) and repentance (v. 7).
  - b. The call to repentance is enlarged in verses 8–13, involving a change of thinking and behavior toward the Lord and His Word.

**I. A Call for Faith**

1. The Lord is full of compassion, extending mercies and great grace for pardon and peace; however, the Lord requires that sinners *come* to Him by *seeking* and *forsaking*.
  - a. This call is first to a rebellious and estranged people, the nation of Judah, who is called to “*return to the LORD . . . and to our God*” (v. 7b).

- b. By extension, the call goes to those who would be saved through their testimony (John 17:20, 21).
2. Seeking the Lord is an act of faith.
  - a. *Seeking* is to inquire of the Lord as to what He requires for a former rebel to be reconciled to God. Sadly, many so-called gospel invitations make faith a passive permission for an over-anxious God to shower the sinner with love and goodness if only he will let Him. God is God, and sinners stand as offenders who deserve God's full retribution.
  - b. *Calling* upon Him recognizes that He is near and ready to receive and pardon the seeker; however, the time is coming when the day of salvation is over. Thus, there is a gospel urgency that must be observed (Romans 10:8–13).
3. What is involved here is the means God uses to bring His chosen ones to salvation. Through Christ and by the guidance of the Spirit, His elect come seeking Him and calling on His name. It is also very true that no one can argue that God has not given them opportunity to be saved. All who come by this means will be saved. And it is just as true that no one heeds this gospel call but those whose ears the Spirit has opened.

## II. A Call to Repentance

1. The sinner must seek the Lord and call upon Him for mercy; he must also forsake his sinful *ways* and *thoughts*. This is repentance. Repentance is the other side of the coin of believing; one side is faith, and the other is repentance. These must go together (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 20:21).
2. Repentance is defined in Scripture as a change of mind. However, when one changes his mind, his behavior patterns the change. Isaiah describes both a change of thought and a change of ways; a change of thought leads to a change of ways. Indeed, repentance is to leave off sin with loathing and abhorrence, never to return to it again (Matthew 3:7–9).

“You and your sins must separate, or you and your God will never come together. Not one sin may you keep; they must all be given up, they must be brought out like Canaanite Kings from the cave and be hung up in the sun” (Charles Spurgeon).
3. The call goes out to the *wicked* (those whose deeds are vile and gross) and to the *unrighteous* (those who neglect the plain duties laid upon them). To those who repent, the Lord promises in plain and unmistakable terms that they shall find Him compassionate because He will abundantly pardon.

## What Can We Take Away?

1. Isaiah puts great emphasis on taking the Lord's offer seriously because one must come to understand the awfulness of his transgressions and the terrible situation in which his sins have placed him. There is little earnest preaching that points to the urgency and danger facing this lost and dying world. May God grant a revival of serious and earnest seeking after the Lord.
2. Do you understand the terms of salvation as set forth in Scripture? How often do sinners argue with God that their condition is not that bad? The Lord responds that His ways and thoughts are not the same as ours, being much higher. His is the authority here, not ours. How many have sought salvation on their own terms and felt comfortable in their lifestyle, believing that God loves them so much that He will accept them on their terms? I trust that the Spirit will use this message to awaken some hearts whose wrong thinking has led them to this deadly condition.